



This Ordinary Life

Jennifer Walkup

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Sometimes hope is the most extraordinary gift of all.

High-school radio host Jasmine Torres's life is full of family dysfunction, but if she can score the internship of her dreams with a New York City radio station, she knows she can turn things around.

That is, until her brother Danny's latest seizure forces her to miss the interview, and she's back to the endless loop of missing school for his doctor appointments, picking up the pieces of her mother's booze-soaked life, and stressing about Danny's future.

Then she meets Wes. He's the perfect combination of smart, cute, and funny. He also happens to have epilepsy like her brother. Wes is living a normal life despite his medical issues, which gives Jasmine hope for Danny. But memories of her cheating ex-boyfriend keep her from going on a real date with Wes, no matter how many times he asks her.

Jasmine can't control everything. Not who wins the internship, not her mother's addiction, not her brother's health—not even where her heart will lead her. She wishes she could just have an ordinary life, but maybe what she already has is pretty extraordinary after all.

This Ordinary Life Details

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Author : Jennifer Walkup

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From Reader Review *This Ordinary Life* for online ebook

Kels says

Did I just uncover a new favorite book of 2016?? Yep!! :D

So for a short read, this book packs a big, powerful punch. Meet Jasmine Torres, professional juggler of hosting her high school's radio show, and also being the primary care giver of her brother, Danny, who was diagnosed with epilepsy. And get this: she does a heck of a job at it, too. She's not your average teenage Mary Sue, that's for sure. Now, meet Wes. All you need to know about him is this: swoon (#bookboyfriend).

Jasmine's life is far from ordinary. Dealing with a mother who is a certified alcoholic, and a brother whose life often understandably gets in the way of her own, her home life is far from being ideal, and that often spells trouble for her while she strives to follow her own pursuit of happiness. And wow, I just felt so much of what Jasmine was going through as her life was constantly interrupted and made worse by her own problems and also the problems of her family and relationships. Usually I hate reading books with sucky parents, but I commend the author for allowing Jasmine's situation to be less than perfect and doing it in such a way that felt genuine, heartfelt, and emotionally engaging.

Jennifer Walkup created dimension in Jasmine's character by allowing her to have ambitions, friendships, good and bad relationships, and a family that is at times dysfunctional yet still somehow easy to embrace. I truly was amazed at how the author included so many of these aspects that were all so well developed and executed without at all subtracting from the story itself. That's a feat that I don't think exists in many books. Usually either the character developments are strong, but the relationships are lacking, or the family becomes out of focus, or friendships aren't believable, or maybe the protagonist has a lack of identity, etc. But *This Ordinary Life* was so well balanced, and on top of that, the writing was fluid, and effortlessly beautiful.

There's just not much I can criticize about this book. There's great character development, well built relationships, a resilient protagonist who will win your heart, a cute romance, wonderful pacing, amazing friendships, and a solid plot that will also serve to enlighten readers about a seizure disorder known as epilepsy. Friends, this book has it all, and trust me, there is nothing ordinary about *This Ordinary Life*. Definitely recommending this to friends who want a taste of all of the above.

nick says

I was interested in picking up *This Ordinary Life* because of that **adorable and striking cover** and the promise of **the main character being a radio host**. Not to mention, it sounded like it had **a sweet romance** and you know how I can never pass up a sweet romance. *This Ordinary Life* was everything that I expected it to be. By the end, it left me filled with hope and a goofy smile on my face.

The protagonist, Jasmine, lived in a very dark home at the beginning of the book. Her mother was an alcoholic who was selfish and didn't see beyond on her own need to get drunk and she had a brother, who was sick and frequently suffered from seizures. Throughout this all, **Jasmine was the person who shouldered every burden and responsibility of the family**, everything that her mother should have had to

take care of. I felt for Jasmine, but I simultaneously thought she was incredibly **brave and selfless** to pick up the pieces of her home. I loved that she did it all without ever making her brother feel like he was an obstacle to her dreams of obtaining an internship at a radio show in New York. She **showered him with love** and was always there when he needed her. Their bond was really sweet and made me love Jasmine even more.

She was also **very passionate about radio** and she worked incredibly hard to try to achieve her dreams. She faced other obstacles besides her sick brother such as being cheated on by a boyfriend because she wasn't ready to sleep with yet. I had lots of colorful words for that guy, but I thought Jasmine handled the situation in a classy way with her head held up high. Good thing she had the **support of an amazing best friend** who was as supportive and awesome Jasmine herself.

Then there was Wes, **the sweetheart of a boy** that Jasmine meets at the hospital while her brother was there. **Wes gave Jasmine hope** that her brother too could live a happy life even with him being sick. I adored Wes with every fiber of my being. Their romance was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the story for me and I couldn't get over **how cute it was**. Jasmine was a little bit reluctant to get into a relationship with him at first, rightfully so, but **he pursues her and chases after her** and that made my heart so happy. Despite being ill, he was nothing but constantly joyful.

If I had one complaint, it would be that I wanted to **feel a stronger emotional connection** the story and the writing. Don't get me wrong, **I enjoyed the book**, but I felt like there was a missing spark somewhere and I can't exactly pinpoint what. That being said, I did end up consuming this book because of the characters and the romance and I'll be picking up more books from this author in the future.

This Ordinary Life is for all of you YA contemporary lovers who not only crave strong and resilient characters, but also romances that leave your heart fluttering all over the place. Definitely check this book out!

Tracy Banghart says

Amazing! Review to come.

Jess at Such a Novel Idea says

This originally appears on Such a Novel Idea.

I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

There are a lot of books similar to this one I'm willing to pick up. Someone dealing with something, finding love despite said dealings. The reason (or one of the reasons) I pick up this trope over and over is that I love seeing people overcome and in that process find a person worth holding on to.

This book was the right amount of tough issues and light romance. It was really well balanced, in that I never fell too far on one side or the other. This isn't a light-hearted romance. Jasmine is dealing with some serious shit, especially considering she is in high school. And yet, the romance part of the book left me smiling.

Jasmine is a girl with a dream of DJing. She is passionate, but she also was able to maturely take care of her brother. And sure, her mom's issues kind of force her hand, but I feel like Jasmine was the kind of character who was going to take care of Danny regardless. I think I loved that about Jasmine because I saw my daughter in her. At seven, my daughter is already taking care of her older brother like that is her purpose in life. It both brings me joy and breaks my heart that she has to take care of him, but to her it just comes naturally. My husband and I know one day this will be something she may have to contend with and it is something we often grapple with on her behalf. And so, in this regard, I really connected with that part of Jasmine. I also connected with Jasmine's issues with her mother. As someone who has her own myriad of family dysfunction, I really understood what it is like to feel like the parent instead of the child.

Beyond her own family issues, Jasmine is dating a boy who turns out to be the opposite of who she thought he was — cheating on her and breaking her trust with guys. Enter Wes. Wes is a really amazing friend who you just KNOW Jasmine likes, but it takes a lot for her to overcome all the other stuff in her life and give him (and love) a chance.

The thing I liked most about this book is Jasmine's attitude. She doesn't take crap from people and she holds her own. She knows what she wants from life and she isn't afraid to go out there and get it. All in all, Jasmine is a great role model.

Thanks to the light side of this, the book goes by very quickly. In fact, I read it in just one night (I don't even think I got up from it one time). I know I already said it, but the balance of heavy and light really just made this a great read. Even through the rough times, I found myself smiling like an idiot at the romantic parts. And that was rather extraordinary.

Paula M. of Her Book Thoughts! says

I'm not gonna lie. The cover is what caught my attention. Because of the headphones, I instantly thought that This Ordinary Life has something to do with music and therefore... off to my TBR you go. But it turns out that TOL isn't about music at all and I wasn't actually bothered by it.

Jasmine is their schools RJ. Her father left them when she was still a kid and her brother has epilepsy. Her mother was stuck in the past and still trying to get up from her husbands absence. **I guess you can say that Jazz doesn't have the easiest life. But you know why I love this book so much? Its because our main protagonist is a fighter!** Life keep hitting her, throwing different kind of obstacles in her way but still.. she remains standing and hopeful. **Jasmine is really one of the most admirable heroine that I've ever read. She's a flawed character, yes, but that just made her even more wonderful.**

The romance was great! Wes is just.. incredible. I wished that his character was explored more though because when I was reading TOL, I only see/read him when he's with Jazz. I just would've love it even more if he was more fleshed out. But other than that, Wes is nothing more than fantastic. **I couldn't think of anyone that is more perfect for our heroine. It was impressive how these two made their relationship happen. It was sweet, slow and so swoony. Who needs those instalove anyway?**

Despite its swoony romance, TOL tackled serious issues too like epilepsy and alcoholism. I wasn't

completely sold by her mothers changes but I'm happy about her character development. I was heartbroken by Danny's illness but I learned a lot too along the way. **I'm not an expert but while I was reading, I can't help but think that the book was well researched.**

This Ordinary Life is such a delight! I'm gonna confess right now and say that I will be stalking Jennifer Walkup from now on. I'm pretty certain that she has a lot of wonderful novels waiting to be read. **I can't help but be charmed and fascinated by This Ordinary Life. I can confidently say that there's nothing ordinary about this book. I highly recommend it!**

Ms. Warchol says

Jasmine Torres is the kind of heroine every teenage girl can find strength in. She is fiercely independent, knows her self-worth, and is devoted to her younger brother. Jasmine has intense aspirations to be a radio DJ but her family life tends to complicate this pursuit of her passion. Can she balance both taking care of her family and achieving her own dreams? This Ordinary Life is the ideal book for middle school readers.

A story with a lot of heart, charming characters, humor, and a Jersey girl. What more could you need?

Jaime Arkin says

3.5 stars!

Jasmine has more on her plate than the normal high school senior. With a mom who's barely functioning, she's tasked with making sure her brother, who suffers from epilepsy, is safe and cared for. Taking on the day to day care for a young boy with medical issues is hard enough for an adult, but Jasmine is also working her way through high school, dealing with a crappy ex-boyfriend and trying to get the internship of her dreams.

While I found myself sympathizing with Jasmine, I don't think I really connected with her the way I would have liked with a story like this. There is a lot of emotional stuff going on... of course it seems to start with a cheating boyfriend. I thought that was a bit cliché especially because the entire time she's on her way over to his house we hear how amazing and wonderful he is and then bam. He's this dick who she never really knew. But that allows for the new love interest to have more of an impact on her life. What I did love about the situation with the ex is that she doesn't take his shit and she doesn't fall back on the 'what could I have done different' theme that we see so many times, so kudos to Walkup for that.

I mentioned the new love interest above, but he actually starts out as just a friend ... or that's what Jasmine is trying to convince herself of anyway. I thought Wes was sweet and patient with Jasmine. I really liked how he was supportive of her throughout, but I just felt like something was missing. I didn't love them as much as I would have liked, and I think that I just wanted more about the characters on a deeper level.

That said, this was still an enjoyable read for me. I love that Jasmine isn't a stereotypical girl... she's seriously into radio and DJ'ing and it shows and I love that she has a passion and knows what she wants to do with her life and isn't afraid to pursue it. The cover is what sold me on this book for sure and it captures the book perfectly. Overall, this is a quick read, at only 240 pages, you'll breeze through it despite the heavy

and serious issues at hand.

Thank you to the publisher for providing me with a copy in exchange for my honest thoughts.

Rachel says

So, so cute! Real rating might be somewhere between 4.25-4.5 stars.

Brian Yahn says

For fans of YA, especially romance, I can't recommend this book highly enough. Literally everything about it is good.

1) The characters--especially the protagonist, Jasmine, and her love interest, Wes. While they follow all the typical tropes of YA romance, the slight subversions keep things interesting. Instead of being wicked popular or the star jock or the genius, Wes is just a pretty typical dude with a great personality... who also suffers from epilepsy. While Jasmine has a rough life at home and a no-good boyfriend to start things off, she's got a good social life and isn't *constantly* complaining and she's got this pretty unique goal of being a radio personality.

2) The romance, holy crap. Gentleman, if you need pointers on how to treat a lady, follow Wes's advice. Sure, a lot of the "nice" things he does just involve having oodles of money his rich parents conveniently give him. But the way he wins Jasmine over, with the best non-date ever is cute as hell. And once he takes her on a real date, he **SHOWS** how great of a guy he is by thinking out something truly memorable and uniquely suited for Jasmine.

3) The story has all the right ups and downs in all the right places. The plot is paced to the T. Probably the only bad thing about the entire book is that it's pretty predictable given how trope-y everything else is.

4) Jennifer Walkup's prose is spot on. Nothing mind-blowing like Jandy Nelson, but definitely not a pain to read like most stories in the genre.

As good as all these things are, I was hoping for something great, and beside romance (which I'm just not a fan of), I didn't find it. For fans of the genre, I can't imagine this not being a classic. *This Ordinary Life* seems light-years better than best sellers like *Anna and the French Kiss*, and given how similar they are, more people need to know about this one!

Ricah (vamptimesurfer) says

*I received a free copy from Story Cartel in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my reviews.
*

Book review also posted on the blog

FIRST, let's appreciate that cover. CAN YOU SEE? **It's so pretty** *insert heart emoji's* Who can deny that cover? I won't deny that the cover is the reason why I requested this book, which always happens to me.

Jasmine Torres is a radio host at Easton High. Going to the WYN60 radio station in New York, is a dream come true for her. So she joins their field trip and tries her luck to get an internship for "The Get Up and Go Show" but her plans vanished when her brother Danny got a seizure attack. Danny her seven year old brother has a epilepsy. The hospital is like Danny's second home because of the check-ups and seizure attacks. At a young age Jasmine has to do all the things a "mother" must do, like taking care of her brother. Jasmine's father left them since she was a child and that changed her mother, she always ends up getting drunk and sleeping on their couch. Of course, Jasmine loves Danny so much that she chooses him over her field trip. But when she went to see Sebastian (her boyfriend) to ask for a ride, she saw him cheating. That makes it worse. As Danny was admitted on the hospital he meets Wes.

Jasmine is a **strong and brave protagonist**. I don't have any friend or family members who suffers with epilepsy but I do connect with her. Wes is a **charming, kind and cute guy**. He's also added to my fictional boyfriends now *winks*. Wes also suffers with epilepsy but he didn't have any attacks for years. Which gives Jasmine a hope for her brother. He's always there when Jasmine need someone. You're going to love Wes' characteristics in the story. The relationship with Jasmine and Wes is so cute that I end up giggling and laughing. Include, their exchange with text messages and date which I love. The characters in the story are really great and likeable, especially the bestfriend of Jasmine. I rated this 4 over 5 stars because for me Wes' life is not fully explained which I love to read more and I was looking for more lines of her bestfriend. Overall, the story is easy to read (I end up sleeping late just for this) and a page turner. I'd definitely recommend this.

Bee says

Istyria book blog ~ B's world of enchanted books

4.5 stars

Oh gosh this was so very cute, guys! I got all the fluffy feels and I giggled and swooned and everything. This was exactly what I needed and I'm so very happy that this book exceeded my expectations! Oh and I called it while I was reading and I'm calling it again... DIBS ON WES! He's mine!

This Ordinary Life is about Jasmine, who dreams of working for a New York City radio station. And when she has a chance to get an internship there, it seems like her dreams getting closer to coming true. But life at home gets in the way when her younger brother's latest seizure forces her to miss the interview and school. Her mother is not much of a help since she's lying drunk on the couch when she's home. Then she meets Wes at the hospital. He has epilepsy like her brother and he's there for one of his regular check-ups. Wes is living a normal life and hasn't had a seizure in years, which gives Jasmine hope for Danny. But not too long

ago, Jasmine caught her ex-boyfriend cheating on her and now she's too scared to go on a date again, no matter how many times he asks her.

When I found this book, I hoped it would be a good, heartfelt read and what I got was so much more! This *Ordinary Life* is fun, sweet, heartfelt, swoony and so very, very adorable & cute. I'll be looking forward to more from this author, I can tell you that already. The story was very lighthearted with a few tougher moments and I liked that. It didn't get overly dramatic and it didn't add any unnecessary drama either. I liked how Jasmine and her mom worked things out on their own and didn't need help from someone else to do so. I started out really disliking the mom but she really did redeem herself by the end, like I hoped she would.

The characters were all so perfect! I adored Danny, he was so cute and I felt so bad for what he has to go through. I loved Frankie, Jasmine best friend. Sebastian, her ex, on the other hand... He was kind of pathetic. Seriously. Jasmine is a very sweet, loyal, hardworking person and I loved her bond with her brother Danny and how she stood up for herself. I loved it when she finally confronted her mom. And Wes, oh my god, Wes. I love him so much! He's so cute and sweet and caring and I want him. I called dibs, remember. Wes is mine. I shipped these two so hard, you guys. From the moment they met to the moment they finally got together. The romance was a slow one, perfectly paced and so very sweet.

This *Ordinary Life* is yet another YA Contemporary to add to your 2015 reading list. It's sweet, cute, adorable, touching,... everything you want without the unnecessary drama, perfect to read on a lazy afternoon. But, and I can't stress this enough, Wes is mine. I'm serious.

This review is also (or -soon- will be) posted on Istyria book blog.

Kaitlin says

What an irresistibly cute book!! This was a perfect quick read when I wanted something light and romantic.

It did tackle epilepsy and alcoholism, which added a slight serious element to the story. I could relate to the main character because both of those things have been in my life (through friends and family, like with Jasmine), though not quite as much as in hers. I don't think I've read any books with epilepsy included, which made this one kinda refreshing.

The characters were nice! Wes was incredibly goofy, considerate, persistent, and supportive. His plans and non-dates for Jasmine had so much thought behind them and sooo sweet to read! He was an amazing guy. The brother was really cute. He had a heartwarming relationship with his sister. He was so lucky to have her in his life.

As for Jasmine, I liked her. She had a bit of a forceful attitude and wouldn't put up with BS, even when she was hurting. Her voice didn't feel quite genuine, though. It was like there was a thin plastic veil between her feelings/thoughts that were there and the ones conveyed to me. They felt . . . muted, in a way. It made her a little tough to connect to. I would've loved it if her voice felt more *real*.

Overall, *This Ordinary Life* was a very fun read! The radio aspect put a cool twist to the story and Wes and Jasmine's interactions (emails, texts, conversations) gave a romantic feel to the book. If you want a light,

quick read that isn't quite fluffy, then I suggest giving this one a try.

Dianne says

Also posted at Oops! I Read A Book Again

Thank you to Luminis Books and The Fantastic Flying Book Club for the review copy. Receiving one did not affect my views of the novel.

Admittedly, the first thing that caught my attention about this book was its gorgeous cover. JUST LOOK AT IT. It's glorious and there's no way I wouldn't be reading it. It screams cute and fun. Then when I read the blurb and found out that the heroine's younger brother has epilepsy, I AM SO IN. I NEED THIS BOOK NOW. So I immediately signed up for the tour given the chance. And boy, I'm glad I did!

This Ordinary Life has Jasmine at its center, a radio DJ at her high school. We open with her hustling to get to school, as they have a field trip at the WYN60 radio station in New York. She's a filial and responsible teen and here's where we see that she basically raises her epileptic seven year-old brother Danny while her mom drowns herself in vodka. Elena, her mom, started drinking when her husband left them, and is now a functioning alcoholic. We immediately see how much Jasmine loves Danny but how tired she is of dealing with her mom. Her ride to school, her boyfriend Sebastian, is late so she hoofs it up to his house, only to find him with another girl. She promptly breaks up with him only to get a call that Danny had a seizure and that her mom didn't see it right away because she slept again. She ditches her field trip altogether and stays with Danny in the hospital. And here is where she meets Wes, who's also a patient.

The story behind that cute and fun cover is indeed cute and fun. We have Jasmine and Wes who are so adorable together. I love their flirty banter and how he earnestly and doggedly pursues Jasmine. Wes is sweet and THE NON-DATES HE PLANNED, can I go with him as well??? After being heartbroken, Jasmine isn't too keen on trusting guys and being in a relationship right away, so while he did find Wes cute right away (WHO WOULDN'T?), I'm glad to appease you that their romance had a build-up with LOTS OF TEXTING. Ah, so cute.

But if you think this is all cutesy fun, you're wrong. It's not particularly heavy but if you have a loved one who has epilepsy or any disease actually, you'll definitely relate and feel for Jasmine. I've went to EEGs with my sister, to MRIs, and to lots of doctor appointments. Jasmine's experiences mirror so much of my own that I'm so grateful to Jennifer Walkup for writing this book. When Jasmine mentioned how the smell of the glue they use for all the wires during EEG, I literally smelled it. Reading this book made me remember my sister's first few attacks and how we didn't know what to do. How after each episode, she actually doesn't know what happened and that all she remembers is being sleepy. Danny's like that too and when I asked the author how she did her research, she's actually caring for loved ones with epilepsy. So she was speaking from her own experience, that's why it felt so authentic. I'm still hyper alert when it comes to my sister. I worry about her all the time. Sometimes she snorts from laughing and I'll worry and check on her because she might be having an episode. I remember that time she just fell off her bed and had an episode and I jumped from the bunk bed and tended to her. Then when she woke up, she was wondering why she was sleeping on the floor. Then she cried because she realized she had an attack. I'm a bit teary eyed as I type this because living with epilepsy dampened my sister's life. She couldn't enjoy some things people take for granted for fear of having an attack. The trial period for the meds, the allergies, the steroids. It was hard on us but definitely harder on her. And she only has mild epilepsy and very rare attacks now (only when triggered by stress or lack of sleep

so we avoid those) so I can only imagine how it is for those with the intense ones. My heart goes to everyone suffering from epilepsy and their families.

Anyway, I very much appreciated how Jennifer Walkup treated alcoholism as a disease too because it is. Also, brownie points for our girl Jasmine all around. Jasmine doesn't back down and she is such a strong girl. She makes her mom change and she's capable of forgiveness. She also respects herself and I love how Jennifer Walkup showed how by how strong Jasmine's resolution is in not getting back together with Sebastian. She said it herself, that she respects herself too much to get back with an asshole cheater. Really, Jasmine is one of the most admirable characters I've read in YA right from the start. I love how much she loves Danny, how cool and awesome she was and her best friend Frankie, and just how well-adjusted she is. She's really mature and awesome. Thus, character growth in here is quite minimal since she's already amazing and I don't have a problem with that.

Then, I got a look into radio broadcasting because of this! So yeah, Jasmine being a radio DJ was legitimately shown in the novel. She even thinks as if she's on air and I love that about her. We see her in action A LOT and I love that so much. Sometimes in YA, we don't get to see students actually studying or doing their extracurriculars so it's nice when you come across one that shows it. In fact, it is so refreshing to read something that has never mentioned popularity in the entirety of the novel.

While Wes and Jasmine took their time before getting together, they sure make up to us all the lost opportunities for kisses. The last part of the novel were full of kissy scenes and Dianne is happy.

This Ordinary Life is a quick, cute, and fun read and I recommend it to fans of contemporary YA. It's nothing dark and it's a guaranteed good time. I look forward to more novels by Jennifer Walkup!

Jess says

5/5 BLOOMING FLOWERS!

Full review to come closer to the release date :)

<http://princessicaofbooks.wordpress.com>

Olivia-Savannah Roach says

When it comes down to it, this book just makes me incredibly happy.

Jennifer Walkup managed to bring the characters to life in her second novel, This Ordinary Life which addresses many themes such as romance, epilepsy and alcohol addiction.

We first meet the character Jasmine when her life is falling apart. She's very much into radio producing and wants to be a radio host, so she is looking forward to her school trip to a famous studio that was supposed to happen on the day. She goes to her boyfriend's house for her customary lift to school, only to find him cheating on her. And then, as if things couldn't get any worse, her seven year old little brother has an epileptic fit. Jasmine rushes to hospital to be with him, missing the once in a life time trip to score an

internship as well as having to deal with her alcohol addicted mother when she gets there.

I felt like I could really connect with Jasmine. I don't have a sibling with epilepsy but I do have a younger sister who is physically disabled. Although I don't have to do everything like Jasmine does because I have parents who are involved and really do care for her – hospital appointments and everything, I do a big part to help. I think I would just about do anything for my little sister and help take care of her in and around the house, as well as look out for her at school we both go to quite a bit. I love it, and I felt like I could understand what Jasmine felt when she wouldn't mind putting everything aside to look after her brother first and foremost.

One thing I also love about reading is that books can teach you things. This book did teach me a lot about epilepsy because although I knew about seizures and so on – I had no idea that something called 'absent' seizures existed and now I have something new added to my knowledge. In fact, I even learned a bit about how epilepsy actually works which I didn't know before.

Another thing I really liked about Jasmine's character was her ambition. She really wanted this radio internship and loved that hobby of hers, knowing she wanted it to be a profession of hers. It's kind of how I feel about writing, so I could definitely understand her working so hard and striving for that interview. Again, it just reminded me how realistic her character was and how much I loved reading this!

Jasmine's mother, Elena is addicted to alcohol ever since her husband left her. Elena did make some dumb decisions and she did have the problem of sometimes endangering Danny (Jasmine's epileptic little brother) because she would be passed out and not watching him. I understood that she had a lot to manage being a single mother, and then financial issues on top of that. But I did want to shake her sometimes. I also wanted Jasmine to go a bit easier on her too. She hated her mum, but I don't think she understood that alcoholism is just as much a disease as anything else sometimes.

I loved Wes, the love interest! He did have epilepsy too (you can see how Jasmine would be a bit reluctant about starting this relationship now) but he was so good to her! Just what she needed after her previous boyfriend. He was so loyal, funny, sweet... I think every girl needs a Wes in their lives. I also liked that Wes was confident, just like Jasmine. In YA books we have a lot of confident guys showing interest in girls who don't think they are beautiful, or are all about their insecurities. But it was nice to have two confident-ish characters this time.

Frankie was Jasmine's best friend, but I felt like her character was shoved a bit to the side. I would have liked a bit more detail on her in the story or some more focus on their friendship. She was the only one I felt needed development.

As you can see, this book was very character driven. The romance was sweet (and be warned, this is mostly a romance!) but there was mix about epilepsy creating important decisions, striving after your dreams and family as well. I loved it. Maybe the book had one or two flaws, but for me it still gets the five star rating because in the end this book made me so HAPPY!

This review and others can be found on Olivia's Catastrophe: <http://olivia-savannah.blogspot.nl/20...>
