



# Train Wreck

*Elise Faber*

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**Train Wreck** Elise Faber

train wreck

noun

1. A chaotic or disastrous situation.
2. An utter catastrophe or mess.
3. A devastating calamity or source of trouble.
4. Pepper O'Brien.

As the daughter of a famed film producer, Pepper O'Brien is Hollywood royalty.

Also, her life sucks.

Because, unfortunately for her, the old adage is true: money can't buy everything—including grace, true love, or the ability to not screw up every single opportunity her life has brought her.

After her latest disaster, Pepper moves across the country to start over but, as usual, her life has other plans, namely in the form of Derek Cashette, her former teenage crush and now ridiculously handsome friend of her older brother.

Derek is determined to salvage the train wreck of her life and Pepper's determined not to let him. Her life is her problem and, dammit, why can't she be her own hero?

But sometimes fate has other plans. Or maybe it's hormones. Especially when her rescuer comes with a killer smile, a chest Thor would be jealous of, and a butt that any girl just wants to—

## Train Wreck Details

Date : Published May 31st 2017

ISBN :

Author : Elise Faber

Format : ebook 250 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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# From Reader Review Train Wreck for online ebook

## Michelle says

**\*\*You can see this full review and more at Book Briefs: <https://bookbriefs.net>\*\***

NA Review

My Thoughts

Train Wreck is a standalone romantic comedy by Elise Faber. It is also the first standalone novel in the Life Sucks series. I'm not sure if the series is all going to be set in the same town or not. We might get to see totally new couples in each book that are not connected. Either way, I can't wait for the next book in the series to find out, because Train Wreck was a lot of fun.

Train Wreck follow Pepper O'Brien, who life is a total train wreck. She is basically the running joke for her family. I felt kind of bad for her. On one hand, she comes from a big Hollywood family and grew up very privileged, but on the other hand, she just faced one back thing after another. I kept saying to myself, "when is this girl going to catch a break." Sure, some of the situations were a bit over the top, but in my opinion that just added to the hilarity and fun of the story.

And then we get to Derek. I loved Derek. I thought he was an excellent hero and an even better love interest. I loved how well he saw Pepper. He really empathized with everything she was going through. Watching the two of them dance around each other was so much fun for me. (are you sensing a theme yet? This book was a lot of fun.) I kind of wished that the whole Pepper's father asking Derek to look out for Pepper element didn't exist, because I feel like their connection would have genuinely happened either way, and it was just an unnecessary road block for them to face. I would have liked Derek to hang around organically. Because he totally would have. He is a great guy and he was clearly smitten from their first re connection encounter.

Bottom line: If you are a fan of romantic comedies, Train Wreck will be a book that you will likely enjoy. It is so much fun. The characters are so easy to root for. I couldn't wait for Pepper and Derek to get together, and I really wanted things to take a positive turn for Pepper. She is such a sweet girl, you can't help but like her. I loved that Train Wreck was a standalone with a happily ever after. Train Wreck is totally worth checking out.

This review was originally posted on Book Briefs

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## Carvanz says

Pepper O'Brien has been the center of attention all of her life. And not in a good way. She's the one that the paparazzi always seem to catch right as catastrophe ensues. Klutzy and dangerous to herself as well as those around her, she is struggling to find her place in life outside of her family's Hollywood status.

Derek Casette has given up practicing law and is in search for the perfect small town to film a documentary. He knew Pepper when they were younger and is surprised to find her in the same small town working a minimum wage job. With help from her father he will gain all the financing he needs to produce his film. All

he has to do is baby sit Pepper for two weeks.

This book has a fast pace and I really wanted to love it but found that I liked it instead. The humor was cute and sweet but sometimes just fell short as did the chemistry between the hero and heroine. I never felt the full connection between these two and I liked them so much as individuals. I wanted to feel the burn, the angst, the all in this relationship frame of mind.

It is still a book I would recommend to someone who likes their heroines accident prone.

ARC provided for honest review

Dual POV

No physical abuse

Possible Trigger - (view spoiler)

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## **Leticia says**

A train wreck? Yes it was one But it was a damn good and sweet one !

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## **~Mandi~ says**

Train Wreck

Elise Faber

3.5 ?

This was a pretty quick read for me. It didn't grab me right away but I kept reading because I felt there could be potential with this story.

It was a pretty basic romance between Pepper and Derek. Pepper is a disaster waiting to happen which is why it's titled Train Wreck. She is completely accident prone and has horrible luck. Derek is old friends with Pepper's brother. I felt that they went from meeting each other again as adults to falling in love overnight. I would have liked for this to have had a little more background story and a little more detailed. I felt it was more of a novella than a full story.

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## **Tami says**

Funny and sweet contemporary. It even tied in to one of my favorite hockey romances. Though my copy had editing that was a bit of a *TRAIN WRECK*

This review is based on the ARC provided by the author and/or the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

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## Tricia says

### TRAIN WRECK BY: ELISE FABER

Train Wreck was like a breath of fresh air. It was so cute, light, sweet and funny and it was impossible to not be charmed by Pepper and all her adorkableness. She was honestly one of the most refreshing new characters that I have read in awhile. I think we have all felt like a train wreck of sorts at one time or another, and Pepper managed to make it feel okay to embrace that a little. Or at the very least accept it and still be able to face the day with a smile and a can-do attitude.

Pepper and Derek were really cute together. I liked the idea of these two both out trying to find their own way in life, free of the family expectations that don't quite fit them, and ultimately finding a new way together. Even if they were kind of fumbling through it at first, actually that might have been my favorite part.

This is the perfect little rom-com that pulls your right in from the beginning and has you rooting for these two to figure things out and make it work. It is a fun, quick read with laugh out loud moments. If you like contemporary romance with a side of comedy I suggest giving Train Wreck a try!

I received an ARC of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

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## Ashley says

Rating: 3.5/5

(I received a free copy from the author via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.)

\*\*\*Minor spoilers\*\*\*

Pepper O'Brien has always had it pretty easy. Her father is a famous film director. She grew up rich and with an army of people willing to do her bidding for a chance of being in one of her father's films. Unfortunately for her, she's pretty klutzy and has had her fair share of mishaps that the media loves to report on. Even when she was trying to go and make her own money, she almost got hit by a car. What she didn't expect was for the guy who saved her to be her brother's childhood best friend, Derek, who she's had a crush on for ages. Just when there seems to be something going on there, we find out that Derek is doing a project for her father and needs more funding. Is he there because he wants to be, or is it all a ploy to get her father's money?

This was a pretty short, predictable, romantic read. While I can't say that I was entirely invested in the story, I gave this book a higher reading because it flowed and was easy to read, and I didn't get that tired of it. Both characters had their flaws. Pepper was sweet, but she was so stereotypically klutzy that it made me cringe to read. It just seemed unrealistic. Derek was even sweeter, but towards the end of the book I started finding his attitude annoying. They were also both pretty bad at communicating, which became frustrating.

The story was pretty predictable for the most part. It was hard not to see where the romance was going and where the conflict was going to occur, though there was one thing near the end that I didn't expect at all. It was still a satisfying read, mostly because I wanted to get to the most satisfying part of any romance novel. Pepper and Derek also had pretty cute scenes together, which were my favourite part. I just didn't like the characters all that much when they were alone.

Overall, I enjoyed this book for its writing and ability to enrapture me, but there were some things that I didn't enjoy. I didn't think any of the characters were that likeable, except for Samantha, Pepper's neighbour. I felt that Pepper's klutziness was too overexaggerated to be realistic at all, which took away from her character. Regardless of these things, though, I'd recommend it to you if you were looking for a short, easy to read romance novel.

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## **Mollien Fote Osterman says**

**Title:** Train Wreck

**Author:** Elise Faber

**Series:** Life Sucks Book 1

**Publisher:** Book Buzz

**Reviewer:** Mollien

**Release Date:** May 31, 2017

**Genre(s):** Romantic Comedy

**Page Count:** 234 pages

**Heat Level:** 3.5 flames out of 5

**Rating:** 4 stars out of 5

**Blurb:**

train wreck  
noun

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After her latest disaster, Pepper moves across the country to start over but, as usual, her life has other plans, namely in the form of Derek Cashette, her former teenage crush and now ridiculously handsome friend of her older brother.

Derek is determined to salvage the train wreck of her life and Pepper's determined not to let him. Her life is her problem and, dammit, why can't she be her own hero?

But sometimes fate has other plans. Or maybe it's hormones. Especially when her rescuer comes with a killer smile, a chest Thor would be jealous of, and a butt that any girl just wants to—

**Review:**

This is the first book in the Life Sucks Series. It is a light-hearted romantic comedy about Pepper O'Brien and the train wreck of her life. She was born into Hollywood Royalty, but her life goes from one misadventure to another. Trying to prove that she can make it on her own after she cancels her wedding to her cheating fiancé. Pepper takes a job holding a sign to attract customers to a restaurant. When a driver nearly runs her down trying to read her sign, she comes face to face with Derek Cashette, her brother's best friend, and her first crush. Pepper has an overbearing father who will stop at nothing to keep his daughter safe and away from unwanted publicity, including setting Derek up to be in the same small town as his daughter. Derek is trying to make a documentary with Mr. O'Brien's backing. He didn't realize that when he joined forces with Mr. O'Brien keeping Pepper out of trouble would be a contingent for continued backing. No one including Derek realized that keeping Pepper out of trouble would lead to a fiery romance. The chemistry between Pepper and Derek is almost too hot. Sometimes I felt that the story was a way to justify Pepper and Derek getting together. The pacing was pretty fast. This is an easy story to read making it a great book to take to the beach or on vacation. The story has a wonderful happy ever after ending. There is strong character development regarding Pepper. She is a character that I really wanted things to work out for. Even with being the daughter of a Hollywood icon, she was still a character with a vulnerability, and no matter what she never seemed to be able to catch a break.

PLOT: 5 Stars

CHEMISTRY: 5 Stars

PACING: 4 Stars

ENDING: 5 Stars

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT: 4 Stars

Review Copy of Train Wreck provided by the BookBuzz I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book. Reviewed by Mollien from Alpha Book Club

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**Christina says**

Pepper is a disaster. We're not talking about her personal life; we're talking an actual agent of entropy; nearly everything she touches. Her controlling father has finally hidden her away from the public eye in the small, seaside town of Stoneybrook. She's trying to set out on her own, working a regular job, trying to cut herself off from her father's rule. Problem is, her reputation precedes her, not only do employers want to steer clear of the bumbling Pepper, they want to avoid the wrath of her famous director father, Peter. So when she comes across her brother's best friend and crush from the past Derek, she finds a friend that tries to help her navigate her new life. But Derek has been sent to watch over Derek, and the funding for his indie movie (backed by Peter) hinges on how well he keeps Pepper out of trouble. Sexual tension runs high between the two, but can Pepper get over the fact that Derek is her glorified babysitter? Or are Derek's intentions genuine, is he really interested in her and not her family's money?

From the very first page I was hooked. Pepper is a flawed character, but in a way that we the readers might be able to relate to more than your average heroine. She anxious around others and as such is a bit of a klutz



and will babble incessantly to get her out of the situations she finds herself in. Derek understands, especially given the history he has with Pepper. He recollects how Pepper has been treated over time and begins to understand that a lot of her problems might be caused by her family, not Pepper herself.

Train Wreck is a quick, quirky, laugh out loud read. I loved the characters from the very beginning (though I could have used a little less of the over the top, slap stick kind of comedy that Pepper started with), Pepper just wanted to be taken seriously, and Derek was swoon-worthy between his physical looks and his heart of gold when it came to Pepper. Watching Pepper evolve is one of the highlights of the book and it is refreshing to see a heroine find herself as the book goes on. It is a very fast read, easily done in one sitting and would be perfect for the beach or pool. Faber is quickly becoming a one-click author for me because I know that when I pick up one of her books, I know I'm going to get great writing that will suck me in from the get go. Fans of romcoms as well as contemporary romance will love this one!

I received an advance copy of this title for review purposes.

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## **Annika says**

I'm starting to believe and trying to accept that this author just isn't for me. It happens.

I can't seem to connect with either her writing style or her characters, and considering that those two are the most crucial elements for me to enjoy a book, the 2 star rating shouldn't be too surprising.

On the one hand, we have Pepper. She's always been a terrible klutz with a major streak of bad luck, growing up in a family of well put-together movie stars and film makers. After yet another catastrophic incident in Hollywood, Pepper is sent back to her hometown by her domineering father in order to live down the media frenzy and her embarrassment.

Boy, did she annoy the stuffing out of me. I've always disliked clumsy heroines, but Pepper takes it to a whole new level. Is there anything she can do without hurting herself or the people around her? I hated the entire damsel in distress act so much. I believe it was supposed to make her cute and quirky, but it just made me repeatedly roll my eyes at her incompetence. Add to that major insecurities and self esteem-issues despite her being gorgeous and sweet and kind, and Pepper made it to my *worst heroines* shelf. Congrats!

On the other hand, there's perfect abs-Derek, former teen crush and her brother Paul's best buddy, who sweeps in and saves Pepper's life and the day. Cue more saving. And more saving. And more saving. And..... You get the drift.

Of course, Derek is perfect. Perfect looks, perfect charm, perfect dimples, perfect life.

And that's about all I can say about him. He's an absolute cardboard cutout character, your typical bossy, charming alpha male that can do no wrong. Nothing wrong with him, but nothing memorable either.

Then there's some stuff about a wedding and an asshole ex-fiancé, art-making and an intrusive, insensitive father, and... I don't know. I couldn't really find it in me to care about all of it.

This just wasn't for me, and I think it's best that Elise Faber and I part ways here.

*ARC provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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## Carol says

3.5 stars.

Pepper was definitely the star of this story. She was so klutzy and lovable. I enjoyed reading this sweet romance.

ARC received in exchange for an honest review.

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## Julie says

I was lucky enough to read a book recently that had a novella from Elise Faber in it and I absolutely adored it. And this one wasn't too bad either.

The storyline for Train Wreck was really good. I enjoyed getting to know Pepper through all of her mishaps. Pepper is such a clumsy lady, you do find yourself starting to feel really badly for her because of the situations that she finds herself in. Granted ... most of these situations are pretty funny as they are happening and then as you keep reading, you feel guilty for laughing to begin with. When you're introduced to Derek, you can't help but root for him. He seemed to have the classic underdog stigma and you'll find yourself just pulling for him from the get-go. For the most part, the story really chugged along at a great pace and with the exception of a couple of spots, it really didn't lose momentum and the fun idea of the novel carried you through to the end.

For me, I really gave super short descriptions about the characters. Unfortunately, there's a reason for that. As much as I empathized with Pepper and found her endearing and as much as I rooted for Derek, that is kind of where my feelings ended for these two. If I'm totally honest ... I kind of found them absolutely forgettable. Not good. And while that isn't a really nice thing to say about something someone has slaved over ... that's just how it was for me this time. After I put the book down, I sat there and I couldn't remember what either of these characters looked like. Their descriptions just eluded me. I remembered bits and pieces about their personalities, obviously, but that was it. Two characters that I enjoyed reading about had become non-entities by the end of the book. Because Pepper and Derek started to kind of Back-to-the-Future-mickey-mouse-shirt-fade on me over time, so did their romance. It lost the spark for me and I didn't feel the heat surrounding their interactions as I had in the beginning. Honestly, this could be for a number of reasons ... more than likely I disconnected from the characters because I've got summer brain and I'm lucky to know my own name and day of the week.

Like I said, it was entertaining if for nothing else than to see what Pepper is going to get herself into next. This book is loved by many and I'm definitely in the minority with my thoughts on the characters. So don't take my word for it, give it a shot.

*\* I received this novel in exchange for an honest review \**

Check out more of my reviews at Little Miss Bookmark!

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## **Lisa Aiello says**

I received a copy of this through NetGalley for my honest review

A completely enjoyable, light-hearted, funny romance. Pepper is the epitome of a train wreck, but in a charming way. If there is a calamity to be found, she finds it. Her family has her convinced that she is a joke, so she decides to go find her own way in life without their constant reminders of how inept she is. Enter Derek, a figure from her past that she has crushed on from a very young age. He realizes she is more than just what everyone thinks she is, and an endearing little romance begins.

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## **Sissy's Romance Book Review says**

'Train Wreck' by Elise Faber is the story of Pepper and Derek.

Pepper's is famous for her accidents and is feeling down about it. So she is trying to make it on her own without her father's help and trying to stay accident free. But that doesn't happen and when she is almost hit by a car she is saved by Derek. Pepper had a crush on Derek growing up and hasn't seen him in a few years. Derek hasn't changed at all if anything she thinks he better looking.

Derek is doing some work for Pepper's father and he has asked him to check on Pepper.

How will Pepper feel when she finds out that Derek is keeping tabs on her for her father....upset for sure.

This was a sweet romance read.

"My honest review is for a special copy I voluntarily read."

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## **Heather andrews says**

Derek is a man that appreciates his woman's assets, "...the action lifted the hem of her dress and drew Derek's gaze down. For effect's sake. The woman had a spectacular \*\*\* ." Sometimes Derek just needs to touch his woman, "I'm going to kiss you now." One hand cupped her jaw, angling her head. "We'll talk later." I liked this book, Pepper was seriously a klutz but she was adorable.

