



## One Station Away

*Olaf Olafsson*

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## One Station Away Olaf Olafsson

From the critically acclaimed Olaf Olafsson, an intimate yet sweeping story of a New York neurologist and the three women who change his life

An overlooked pianist who finally receives fraught success after decades of disappointment. An elusive dancer whose untimely death her fiancé is desperate to untangle. A mysterious patient who is comatose after a violent accident.

These are the three women who animate Olaf Olafsson's brilliantly rendered *One Station Away*. Magnus, a New York neurologist—son to one, lover to another, and doctor to a third—is the thread that binds these women's stories together as he navigates relationships defined by compromise and misunderstanding, guilt and forgiveness, and, most of all, by an obsessive attempt to communicate—to understand and to be understood, to love and to be loved.

A deeply affecting family tale, a heart-rending love story that spans the globe, and a suspenseful drama at the edge of the mystery of life and death, *One Station Away* is a profoundly moving story of memory, identity, and misconnection, a novel of haunting power and lasting insight.

## One Station Away Details

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# From Reader Review One Station Away for online ebook

## Heather Dolbeare says

I have no idea what the author was trying to say in this boring novel of a man who has a talent of obsessing over four (not sure why the book's description mentions three women, there are clearly four women in this man's life) for whom he treats more as after thoughts to his impulsive horrible decisions. This book just didn't work on any level. Magnus the narrator was just bland. While the women in his life may have been interesting, we only see them distantly from Magnus' snooze perspective. The book just didn't go anywhere.

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## Marjorie says

Magnus is a New York City neurologist. He's had three women in his life who have had a profound effect on him – his mother, Margaret, who is a pianist who has finally found fame; his fiancé whose time with him is far too short and one of his patients who is comatose. The author expertly weaves the stories of these three women into a compelling and masterful book.

The gorgeously told love story between Magnus and Malena touched my heart and then broke it. Their relationship is brought so vividly to life. The author's delving into the relationship between Magnus and his parents is told meticulously and expertly and I could feel his confusion and longings so clearly. I found the medical studies concerning Magnus' patient to be fascinating and suspenseful. In each area of Magnus' world, the author brings us his powerful and insightful interpretation.

I'm looking forward to reading more of his work. Mr. Olafsson is the Vice President of Time Warner and is best known for his introduction of PlayStation while working at Sony. I wish he'd devote all of his time to writing but there are a few past books of his already published that I'll be getting soon.

Most highly recommended.

This book was given to me by the publisher in return for an honest review.

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## Verna LaBounty says

Tangled relationships mixed with coma research.

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## Erin Charpentier says

The story of three remarkable women. As mansplained to the reader by the main character, Magnus. As a result, the three remarkable women are mere sketches and held at arm's length. I found Magnus boring and trite and wanted to know more about the women and less about him.

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### **Karen says**

This book was terrible. I don't know what book the reviewers on the back cover read, but it wasn't the book I read. The author had this terrible habit of switching scenes, time frames and characters from one paragraph to another without even the consideration of putting a couple of dots between paragraphs. That causes you to say, "Wait! Where are we??" "What time frame is this??" He may considered this edgy, I considered it very annoying as it pulled me out of the book every time. I would have normally quit the book but I thought the plot had potential. It turned out not to have any potential.

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### **Magdelanye says**

It starts off well, the dry humour of the semi-detached narrator is confident and soothing. The story of a man and the 3 main women in his life, an introspective journey I was preparing to share. Gradually, though, I began to dislike this narrator, this somewhat supercilious ego, and by the end of the book, sadly, the fluid writing was overshadowed by the dinginess of the characters.

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### **Patricia Baker says**

Lots of mystery still left in this at the end for me...that's not a bad thing. I think it shows how little we understand of others.

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### **Ken Fredette says**

I was taken aback in how this story was so noir in it's simplicity. Maybe that's why I gave it only three stars. Magnus didn't seem to connect Malena's clumsiness to her illness until a little while before she died, he was a physician. He also didn't know that Simone was hopelessly in love with him. And he didn't know that Simone may have committed a murder of a patient that they had smothered. Everything that happened seemed to be noir when it came to Magnus. Readers can makeup their own minds to whether or not Magnus was noir.

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### **Cherise Wolas says**

I found this an intriguing read. The book copy presents it as three women's stories, but really it's the story of Magnus, a research neurologist, and his relationships with four women -- his mother, Margaret, his lover, Malena, his research colleague, Simone, and an unnamed woman in a coma. Is the fact that Magnus is Icelandic/British account for how he views and experiences life from a distance? Is it his mother's fault -- a classical pianist whose career may have been short circuited by motherhood? (Although we learn more about his father, Vincent). Is his research into the brains of coma patients, trying to communicate with them, the best he can do emotionally? It's not an easy book to get to the heart of. I didn't expect it to be a page turner,

but it was. There's a coolness to the prose, which is fitting. I'm not sure what I take away from this novel, but I think it will stay in my mind, which, to me, is the mark of something very fine.

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### **Olive Sampson says**

I found this book confusing and superficial. The descriptions of Magnus's relationships with the women in his life were so very shallow that I never felt I really got to know anything about them or about him.

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### **Geonn Cannon says**

2.5 stars. The story of three remarkable women... as told through a guy who happens to know them all. As a result, all three of the women are kept at arms length, painted with the same brush, explored through conjecture rather than who they actually are. Genuinely good writing, but to say this is a story about three women is misleading. It's a story about a guy who spends the whole book trying to figure out women he knows without actually letting them speak half the time.

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### **Val says**

I love it when I accidentally stumble across a great read. This short book blew me away! I was so sad when I finished it.

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### **Carol Scheherazade says**

Cold. Strange and cold.

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### **Kasa Cotugno says**

Without any preamble, the book begins with a questionable act. Why does the narrator choose to have himself paralyzed, and what purpose does it serve? This is only the first episode in a book loaded with questionable motivations and some unanswered questions. Magnus Colin Conyngham tells his story, not always reliably. His life has been filled with devotees to the arts, beginning with his self absorbed mother whose disappointment in his not being a natural pianist results in an upbringing while not cruel, more distant than most. He turns to science ("Science has always been my escape. The place I went when I felt cornered.") Fleeing his native Britain for the States, he pursues his vocation as a neurologist, forging a life in Manhattan with his worklife being spent in a research facility in Connecticut. This reverse commute is symptomatic for how his life unravels in unconventional ways. The love of his life, a dancer originally from Argentina provides more questions than answers, and their love is one of the most poignant encountered in a work of fiction recently. Because the reader finds himself caring about these people, despite their flaws. The story weaves around these two influences on Magnus's life as he and his team attempt to analyze the reasons behind a nameless patient they've been sent by a facility in New Mexico, a comatose female patient. So

much is rich in this story, including the importance of connection through music. It carries with it a haunting quality, and thanks to this book, I plan on reading more of Olafsson's work.

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## **Jennifer Blankfein says**

Reading this book I was pleasantly surprised...it was not what I expected, knowing the author, Olaf Olafsson, a successful businessman, is the Executive Vice President of Time Warner and was responsible for introducing Sony PlayStation.

One Station Away is a thoughtful story about Magnus, a Yale neurologist, and three important women in his life; his patient, his fiancé and his mother. He conducts research on head trauma patients who appear to have no mental capabilities but in fact may be conscious and communicative. He spends many evenings holding his patient's hand and feeling powerless to help as he thinks of ways to try and connect with her. Magnus struggles with the recent loss of his

beloved fiancé, as his unconditional love for her may have allowed her to hide something devastating from him. He was so thankful to be in a relationship with her, he believes he overlooked now obvious indication of a problem and cannot come to terms with the fact that, as a doctor, he missed the signs. Magnus feels guilty about his less than perfect relationship with his aging parents and grapples with feelings of mutual rejection from his mother. She is a professional musician and during his formative years up until now, Magnus has not been supportive of her accomplishments and often felt he was a burden and unwanted by his mother.

One Station Away gives us a peak into Magnus's thoughts and emotions as he replays interactions and revisits research regarding the immobile patient while he desperately attempt to connect with her. He continually recollects time spent with his deceased fiancé to uncover informations that will help him to understand her, and he repeatedly thinks of childhood memories of his recently musically recognized mother, to come to terms with their relationship, with the not so natural desire to recognize her new found success she seemed to achieve overnight with the release of some classical piano recordings. Past memories are replayed in Magnus's mind as he tries to detect where he could have connected more fully with each of these women. His medical prowess, his sensitive actions exemplifying his feelings of love, and his desire for connection all make me care about Magnus. He is attempting to be in touch with his feelings and has good sense but feels an overwhelming need to not let anyone down. This human story of memories and relationships examines Magnus's great depth of character and I highly recommend it!

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