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Olivia Hanson has spent most of her twenty-five years staring wistfully across the tracks to the north side of town, longing for a white picket fence and normal—something she's never known. Born in a prison and abandoned by her mother, Olivia was raised in South Juliette by her father, Eugene—a knee-bouncing, chain-smoking loner with a Cheez Doodle addiction. Olivia drinks too much, loses her heart too easily, and works in a factory as quality control, a mundane job she'd sworn would only be temporary, not the permanent drudgery it has become. Her only joy in life comes in the form of late-night slow dances with hot bartender, George, who can set her body on fire with his kisses but is unwilling to go any further.

The day Olivia accidentally backs her Buick into a black Dodge pickup, she tumbles head-over-heels into what she believes is the happily-ever-after kind of love she has been longing for. But the road to happiness is not as easy as it looks. It's a long, winding journey of self-discovery full of potholes, pregnancy tests, lobster tattoos, Walmart scooters, impromptu weddings, hump-happy Boston terriers, and a sexy, but oh-so-annoying police officer who pops up around every curve.

Olivia Details

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Author : Donna Sturgeon

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From Reader Review Olivia for online ebook

BookKnutz says

5+ stars!!! Amazing, beautiful story!

Fram says

This book is a train wreck. I kept reading, thinking it had to get better and the end had to give the book some redeeming quality--but it didn't. Olivia is annoying and embarrassing and has the maturity of a 3 year old. This book was truly painful to finish. I've read a lot of bad books, but can't think of one I've actually liked less.

Melinda says

Just, wow. I loved this book from beginning to end.

It had me laughing and crying, questioning and guessing all the way through.

Olivia was beautiful and funny, and happy despite the life she was dealt with. Watching the growth of her relationship with her dad was also a highlight. Her discovery of the depths of her love for him and knowing their type of relationship was enough; no words were needed they just knew.

Each character all had their special place for me. I loved watching them all evolve; from Izzy's failed/rekindled marriage to George's love for Livi and his subsequent coming out. There was so much happening at every turn and couldn't put it down.

Peach says

I made the mistake of reading this book on a work day. The story of Olivia was very engaging and unpredictable. Enthralled by the book, I found myself reading into the wee hours and having to go to work on very little sleep. Olivia was a flawed character which made her interesting. She was basically white trash, immature and her impulsiveness led to bad choices and mistakes. Despite her shortcomings, she was a genuine person. The story is about her self-discovery and self-acceptance, made possible through the love of those who cared deeply for her. Donna is a very talented writer, writes beautifully and possesses the flair for bringing magic and uniqueness to her story telling.

Molly says

I originally had this at 2 stars, but as I write my review, I realize that 2 stars is far too generous. This was a mess. I didn't want to add another DNF to my shelf, so I FORCED myself to finish, really hoping it would

get better. It did not. Thank the Lord this was loaned to me. It is honestly, the most ridiculous rubbish I've ever read. Olivia is trash but that is not what is so bad. She is an immature idiot and just flat out obnoxious. She didn't have any redeeming qualities. It's just a bad story that had no consistency, it was all over the place! I don't feel like filtering out any spoilers, so I won't get into details, but ick ick ick. Hated it.

Aimee Seligstein says

I did not have high expectations for this book since I got it free for the kindle, and the protagonist is not normally someone I would connect with. However, I thought it was a well-written, fun story. I really enjoyed reading it.

Ann says

Review coming...but in the meantime...READ THIS BK! If you like the unusual story with a quirky cast, character growth and a heart melting wonderful HEA you'll like this one. Again, a great big thanks to Michelle for the rec.

Simone says

"I'm so sorry," she whispered
"Don't ever be sorry for falling in love."

Olivia is not your average girl.

She's not eloquent, classy, or behaved

But she has spunk and although there were cringe worthy moments, even moments when I almost closed the book, I adored her.

It took me a while to like her because she kept making stupid mistakes, wasn't always funny, chained smoked (gross), and swore like a sailor but I am so glad, so so very glad I kept reading because it's rare for me to show any physical emotion when reading (especially in public) and let me tell you I broke ... Full on tears.

But tears that needed to fall

You'll understand what I mean near the end.

Shite, I feel like I need a minute ...

Bravo Donna xo

Jamie Lovgren says

4.5 stars. It was a bit slow to start and a bit trailer park trash at times but it was one hell of a love story. It definitely reminds you that love is blind.

Michelle [Helen Geek] says

03/22/2013 --

Overall Rating =

Book Cover / Book Blurb = 3 / 5 = 4 Stars

Writer's Voice = 5 Stars

Character Development = 5 Stars

Story Appreciation = 5 Stars

Worth the Chili = 5 Stars [\$Free!! on Amazon]

Absolutely Amazing! Everything about this book just blew me away. This book was a beautiful bit of quirk that I didn't want to end. I'm trying to think of all the wonderful things I need to say to get you to read this book right away. **READ THIS NOW!**

What did I like about this book?

1 -- All the characters. There wasn't a single one that I didn't find valuable to this story. We have Olivia who is just ... well she's ... oh, you know ... I can't describe her. She is just everything. She is that person who thinks of themselves as not real pretty, not real smart, just okay or passable, but who has a heart of gold. Who is that person everyone gravitates to. She has such presence, such energy and such compassion and love. Her father Eugene loves her. She knows that, but it isn't a love like you're used to. He definitely grows on you. You have Clete and George. I can't tell you much about either of these two or I would give things away and you really need to read this to understand.

2 -- The utterly beautiful, quirky writing. This author paints such pictures and uses humor in such a remarkable way. The very first paragraph had me laughing [not going to tell you what it is, you just need to read it yourself!]. There were several times I was either shaking my head over something Olivia would say or do. God loves her even when she doesn't love herself. We watch her evolution as she figures it all out. Through it all, we have the author's stellar story-telling. I am immediately buying her other published book. I hope I like it half as much as this one.

3 -- I am a book hoarder. I pull down those Amazon Freebies daily. I'll cruise through and if a book looks good and has decent ratings, I'll get it. I try to read one or two a month. I pull down one or two a day [see my issue?]. All this to tell you the blurb grabbed me so hard, I read this book the day I pulled it down free. It caught me with it's bit of quirky humor. Most times when this happens, I'm disappointed. This is so not the case this time. This book is why we take the risk on new authors. Sometimes we find the mother lode. We find real diamonds. When we do we want to tell the world. This author, this book is the real deal. Remarkable.

4 -- For me this was an Amazon Freebie. I have to tell you, twice this year so far I've found wonderful new authors to add to my "favored author" list. This is the same number I found all of last year. I found them Free through Amazon. I made a pact with myself this year to read some of these Freebie's I pull down and am tickled to death it has worked out so well for me. I want to thank these authors for doing this. For giving us a chance to experience them free of charge. They are hoping we will do like I'm doing now. Love their book and write a review. For me? A very small price to pay for the joy of a story like this one.

Did I not like anything?

1 -- There were quite a few characters; primary and secondary. There were a few places I got lost with a

character and had to think about who I was reading about. Definitely not a huge issue, but notable.

2 -- The cover doesn't really do much for the book. When you read the book the train tracks make sense, but if you want to grab a reader and tell them -- YOU. MUST. READ. MY. BOOK! This cover just doesn't do it. It isn't bad, but not great either. AND, this book deserves great.

This was such a feel good story, I hated to see it end. I loved Liv. I loved Clete. I loved Eugene and Georgie. I didn't want to see them go. I wanted to watch the next 40 years with "Jack and Diane."

This one is now on my favorites list. This author is now a favored author. Any person who can write a book like this -- be such a master with words and characterization, is not a fluke. Just can't happen.

Gotta' say this again ... I LOVED THIS BOOK!

You will too. Happy Reading!

GeNette says

What a waste!!! SHM, Olivia is stupid, that the best way I can describe her besides irritating, and annoying.

Anne OK says

4.5 LOVED IT TO PIECES STARS

A very welcomed change of pace wrapped in a cleverly written twist of quirky and the unexpected. "Olivia" by new-to-me-author, Donna Sturgeon, dropped into my lap as an Amazon freebie surprise that just kept on giving until the very end. As a reader, who can ask for anything more?

Although the book cover is lovely, it is totally misleading. Those train tracks are leading to what most would say is a train wreck waiting to happen – and at points it is exactly that. But Olivia's story is so much more as well. It's packed with great characters and a very unique story that not only tugs at your heart but fills the room with lots of laughter, as well. It was impossible not to fall in love with this girl from the wrong side of the tracks.

Born and abandoned while her mother was in prison, Olivia was raised by her father. This wasn't a positive experience and leads Olivia into a rather ho-hum attitude towards life in general. She drinks, smokes, cusses, and enjoys the nightlife maybe a little too much. What is so surprising is that although Olivia makes mistake after mistake, she always gets right back up and plows forward. Her lifestyle is bizarre to say the least and there's certainly never a dull moment. Olivia is constantly looking for love, but most of the time she's looking for it in all the wrong places. There's a bartender, a jack of all trades jerk, and a policeman, who all play a major role in Olivia's life. The relationships keep readers questioning and in a state of confusion throughout the story. But by the end, you're left with a genuinely warm and totally satisfying happily-ever-after in more ways than you can imagine.

I highly recommend "Olivia." I'm looking forward to reading more books by this author.

Special thanks to Goodreads friend, Michelle, for her fab review on this one. It grabbed my attention causing me to promptly move "Olivia" to the top of my TBR stack.

Tara says

Olivia is FUBAR...that's what makes her so awesome. She's feisty and bitchy and will knock you on your ass. Loved this

Sonia says

Well, what can I say about Olivia? I could not stand this character. I liked her in the beginning, but she just got more annoying as the story went along.

Where as everyone in her life sees her as "quirky" and unique, I saw her as extremely immature and irresponsible!

ugh she's annoying. I'm going to have to read the book again, I hate giving a bad/fair review. If I find I like it better the 2nd time, I'll update my review.

And the whole am I gay or straight, no i'm gay but i want to be with you forever and I love you more than anyone, except i'm gay so you have to accept that. I'm sorry. I call b.s. So did not like that part.

Anna says

This is so not the type of book I typically read, but I'm so glad I did. It's refreshing to read a book about regular people...well, as regular as you can be with some of Olivia's shenanigans. I loved this book and the crazy journey of Olivia and her friends and boyfriends. I highly recommend this book!
