



Chasing Crazy

Kelly Siskind

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Dear Mom & Dad, I dropped out of school. I'm going backpacking. Sorry. Love you both.

At nineteen, Nina has endured two lifetime's worth of humiliation. Tired of waiting for it to get better, she decides to get going—across the globe to New Zealand. There she soon faces what she most fears: a super sexy guy ready to be Nina's next mistake.

Once Sam's life was all about having fun. That was before the accident. Now his friends have bailed and his world is broken. But when a gorgeous girl on his flight looks at him with passion instead of pity, Sam feels his old self coming back to life.

Now traveling together, Nina and Sam know this isn't just a fling. They're falling fast, hard, and deep. More than anything, Sam wants Nina to forget her fears. But to help her do that he must reveal his own painful secret—and risk Nina never seeing him the same way again.

Chasing Crazy Details

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From Reader Review Chasing Crazy for online ebook

Debbie I Heart YA Books says

I'll give you a heads-up before you start reading the first chapter of Chasing Crazy. Make sure you visit the ladies' room first. I don't think I have laughed this hard in a long time. Pininfarina (Nina) and Sam had me at the first chapter and I could not put this book down. Nina is an awesome female character and Sam is the gorgeous, sexy guy you can't help but give your heart to.

Nina is a walking disaster. She gives clumsiness a new name. After Nina's latest catastrophe, known as the "Public Speaking Incident", it was the last straw of her lifelong humiliations that has tanked her reputation. That's when she snapped. Went home, packed, wrote her parents a note and got on a plane for New Zealand, a place as far away as possible from her disaster-magnet life she lives in Toronto. Nina figures she can reinvent herself by going to the other side of the world, backpacking in New Zealand.

Sam hasn't been the same mentally and physically since the accident a year ago. The accident that took his carefree lifestyle, football, his girlfriend and his mom's life from him and left him one very messed up guy. Sam also figures backpacking through New Zealand might help him get the fun, cocky guy who used to rule the football field and turn girls on back. Sam needs to be that person again.

What Nina and Sam find is each other and their love is the power to overcome the walking disaster-magnet girl and the messed up guy. What starts out a trip for Sam to cut loose and get laid after a year of no hook ups, becomes a life-changing realization after he falls for the girl who is funny, clumsy, sexy and sweet, who makes him laugh and feel again. For Nina, who is ruled by her phobias and accident-prone, the trip becomes about finding the guy who teaches her to embrace herself and chase the crazy.

Nina and Sam's story has everything that I look for and love in a New Adult Romance: humor, a heroine who's strong and witty. A hero who is strong and sexy. A storyline that will have you laughing and crying, character growth, romance that is touch-your-heart beautiful and steamy hot. I highly recommend Chasing Crazy as a must, must read.

Mary Ann Marlowe says

I was fortunate enough to read an advance copy of this hilarious book. From the opening scene, I was laughing at the mishaps of a very accident-prone Nina. Kelly Siskind takes a series of cringe-worthy events and renders them with a narrative style that makes them laugh out loud funny. And when the heroine crosses paths (in the most humiliating way imaginable) with the seemingly perfect Sam, the swooning begins.

Though they start off strangers who met by chance on an airplane, as Sam and Nina begin to travel together across New Zealand, they grow comfortable in each other's company and their chemistry continues to heat up. But they both came to New Zealand to leave behind parts of themselves they'd rather forget, and neither

is ready to show the secret imperfections they fear will horrify the other. Since their friendship has an expiration date at the end of their respective travels, they can both pretend for a short while to be a more perfect version of themselves.

But their true selves have a way of showing, and it's enormously fun to watch these two navigate this new relationship together.

This is a satisfying romance with so much heart.

Kimberly Bell says

This book was so much fun to read. I tore through it in a night, constantly turning to the next page because OMG will this be the moment they realize they're amazing together? Truly quirky characters and great New Zealand settings make this coming of age story a perfect escape. ...Oh, and it's wicked sexy. If you like some sizzle on almost every page, you're in good hands.

Natalie Williamson says

Dear Kelly,

- 1) Thank you for writing a girl like Nina, who reminded me to embrace my inner Pininfarina and, as Sam would say, let my freak flag fly.
- 2) Thank you for writing a boy like Sam, who had me swooning from page one and reminded me of all the reasons I love traveling with my husband.
- 3) Last (and arguably most importantly), thank you for making tents so sexy. No further explanation required.

<3 <3 <3

Natalie

Rê says

4 “Being crazy is the new normal” STARS

The second book I devoured this year! YAY!

CHASING CRAZY was one of my most anticipated reads of January, and you guys have no idea how thrilled I am that it didn't disappoint.

Get ready to meet Parafinina (yep, her parents named her that) a.k.a Nina a.k.a the girl who is a complete mess. Not a mess in the “something tragic happened” or “I lost a loved one” way – but more in a “I can't barely walk without tripping and falling on my face” way. Nina is funny, like ridiculously funny, and you know that from the first couple of paragraphs. She starts her tale explaining the three “have-to-pee stages” in what soon becomes a hilarious airplane experience like one you've never seen.

We follow Nina's rushed decision to get away from everyone she knows and travel to New Zealand after another of her "disaster-magnet" situations. Before she gets on a plane, though, we meet Sam a.k.a Frickin' Hot Guy a.k.a the guy who lost his mother and his confidence after a car accident.

Nina and Sam believe they're searching for different things when they pick New Zealand as their destination. While Parafinina is trying to be a different, more "normal" version of herself by becoming Nina, Sam is searching for the guy he was before the accident that left him physically and emotionally broken. But you know how life works... Instead of getting what they initially wanted, Nina and Sam find each other.

I know I'm making the story sound way too serious, but trust me when I tell you it's serious while being hilarious. The author uses a lot of humor, absurd situations and clever dialogue to address the journey of these two people who, by leaning and falling for each other, learn how to embrace who they are.

I was glad to see that instead of molding Nina to what society believes is normal, the author chose to explore what made her different. Nina invites disaster, that's true, but she doesn't need to live in chaos. She can learn how to be an "under-control-disaster", and that's exactly what happens as she lets Sam in and trusts him to embrace her quiriness. By doing that, she learns how to accept and embrace the crazy. She stops wasting time and energy fighting who she is and spends them simply being, living and loving.

And Sam... Sweet Sam also accepts who he's become. We didn't get to see who he was before the accident, but from the way he talked about his past, I bet Sam was pretty much every NA's love interest. Sexy. Confident to the point of arrogance. A player. Don't get me wrong. I love those types, too, but I won't complain that we got to meet the caring Sam instead. And that Sam cared for Nina from the moment they met. Sure there was a lot of lust involved, but from his monologues (Yep, this is dual POV, people) it was pretty clear Sam was falling hard and fast for the unique Canadian girl.

She was falling for him just as hard.

I fell for both of them.

For being able to make that happen while still leaving me with the message it did, Kelly Siskind (who I keep mentally referring to as Kinkid for some reason) deserves my praises. Go, girl!

She's also done a stellar job creating Leigh. Man, I loved her bluntness. She's exactly the kind of character I love. She made me laugh out loud more often than Nina, which is impressive since she didn't become a major character since later on.

But, even though I loved this (I guess that's pretty clear), there were a couple of things I thought needed improvement. I recognize them as part of the subjectivity that comes with the book world, but still... First, I wish the author could've used the setting better. New Zealand is such a beautiful place, but its beauty didn't come to life in the book, which is a shame since Nina and Sam spend the entire story traveling around the country.

The whole thing with Nina's mother (can't elaborate because of spoilers) in the end came out of nowhere and felt like something that only happened to guarantee the ending played out like it did. I didn't think it was needed.

Like I said, those are small things that didn't impact the book and my feeling so much. Although something else did, and I have to blame it for my 4 instead of 5 stars – let's call it the girlfriend thing. You'll understand

when you read it.

(view spoiler)

Overall, this is a MUST-READ if you love New Adult. Or romance. Or anything sexy, funny and well written. And I'm sure you do, because what more could you want, right?

Annie Brewer says

I'd been done with this book awhile and really enjoyed it. My reading days have been scarce as well as my time on GR, sadly. However, this story was a wonderful read filled with angst and heartbreak- my two favorite things in books. And of course, romance. It wasn't all sad though, there was humor and sweet moments. Overall, I was pleasantly surprised by how much I liked it. Nina reminded me of myself in the fact that she's such a klutz. I, too, am a klutz, though I've never gone some of the funny and embarrassing shit she went through...poor thing.

Sam. He was amazing. A wonderful hero for Nina. He never made her feel stupid. He accepted her...in fact, he encouraged her to embrace her *crazy*. It was sweet and I loved that. He had a sad story of his own. I was glad Nina accepted him too, because I would've kicked her ass.

Great story with a good cast of characters.

Elle's Book Blog says

Published: 2016

:: 4.5 Pretty Little Stars ::

I found this to be a really enjoyable read with some hilarious moments that made me laugh out loud. It's a super sweet read, easy to get lost in, and downright fun! I love the travel adventures that "Nina" and Sam go on especially considering that these two hardly know each other. I loved the character development- Sam really brings out a whole new person in Nina- and I loved the plot. Kelly Siskind has easily become a top favorite author of mine and she only has two books out so far. But you can be I will be picking up anything and everything she writes because her stories at top quality.

So this story is about Nina who basically walks out on the college life and walks into an adventure as she takes the first flight out she can find to New Zealand. While this is all good and fun, Nina is hiding from her misadventures of the past. She is very insecure, clumsy, and afraid of people's opinions of her. So when she meets Sam on the plane in another awkward moment that seems to define who she is she begins to think that maybe running away wasn't that great of a plan. But fate has other plans for Nina and what was once an totally embarrassing moment leads to a friendship with a total stranger and eye opening experiences.

Sam is a downright charming character that swooped me right off my feet. Like Nina, he is on an adventure of a lifetime as he takes off to backpack in New Zealand. Of course he doesn't intend to meet and grow feelings for this awkward and clumsy red head, but there is something about her that he is drawn to. Through each stage of his and Nina's journey, the world seems to get a bit brighter, feelings of insecurity and resentment of the past begin to fade, and love begins to blossom. But what happens at the end of the trip?

Can these two strangers make a relationship work in real life?

This is a wonderfully written, new adult romance, with some HILARIOUS parts. I loved everything about this adorable love story and highly recommend it to fans of this genre. I would also recommend this book to those who are looking for new authors. Kelly Siskind is definitely one to keep your eyes open for because her work is just lovely, delightful, engaging, and fun!

J. R. says

SWEET & SEXY!!!

I received an advanced copy of Chasing Crazy from the author. That being said, I have made it my new motto to say nothing unless I have something positive to say (when it comes to reviewing books). So I freely give this review regarding the sheer awesomeness of this book.

Chasing Crazy was a fun, laugh-out-loud read, that also had hot scenes, with a love story that tugged at my heart strings. What more is there?

Kelly Siskind's voice is bang on. The characters were well developed and felt absolutely real and relatable. Pininfarina recreates herself as "Nina", or at least attempts to. Sam is running from his own issues and their chemistry is perfection. Within the first few pages I felt I knew these characters, and experienced their journey toward love alongside them.

It's been a long time since I've read a romance that has rung so true, yet was escapist fun with the laughter and AMAZING sexual tension. I LOVED THIS BOOK. It was incredibly and refreshingly well written. Plus, as a Canadian, there were many terrific truisms to our culture, that I cheered and Fangirled all over this. I cannot recommend this book enough. There is no "cheese" to be found anywhere in here (except the kind you melt on toast).

I want to read this one over and over. Can't wait for the next one!

Ron says

I have a confession: CHASING CRAZY is my first romance novel. Obviously, I've read books with romance, but never a Romance novel. So, with the understanding that this particular cherry has just been popped ...

Nina is adorable. And charming. And sexy. And clutzy. Watching her "chase her crazy" is a delight that plays out realistically, with just enough failures to make her triumphs all the more heartwarming. Sam (or he of the chest I will never possess) is a solid balance between wounded and assertive, an endearing blend of an alpha and a beta male. Both Nina and Sam flee to New Zealand to escape lives which, though dissimilar in detail, act as perfect foils, the ups and downs of both their inner personal lives and the relationship blooming between them rising and falling naturally.

As for the sex? Good lord, the sex. It caused stirrings. IN THAT PLACE. It's hot, wild, and parceled out in an escalating, natural progression that matches the growth of Nina and Sam as a couple. But while the sex

scenes are sexy as hell and really well done, and the anticipation building to those scenes is off the charts, the truly standout part of this novel is the relationship between Nina and Sam. It's believable, and it's heartfelt. Like real couples, they make mistakes but learn from them. And like real couples, they grow as individuals even as their relationship evolves.

If all romance novels are as layered and well written as this one, count me as the genre's newest fan.

Heather Fleet says

If I could only use one word to describe *Chasing Crazy*, it would have to be captivating. Seriously. This book does something to you while your reading it, like romance-voo-doo meets smexy time-crack. Not gonna lie, Kelly Siskind has created a story so developed, and so well-rounded that finding a flaw between these pages is darn near impossible. As a debut author, I have to give this lady props, because she's got something not a lot of debut authors have. And that's a natural talent.

This is the story of Nina and Sam, two college-aged kids who, by chance and fate, meet on a backpacking journey through New Zealand.

Nina is that quirky, clumsy, adorkable girl that we can all relate to in some way or another. She's funny, even when she's not trying to be, and she makes our heart ache when her heart aches as well. She's a character you can relate to. A character you often find yourself wanting to hug. She's everything you adore when reading a NA romance. A perfectly flawed character with a pure heart of gold.

Then there's Sam. Sweet. Sweet. Jesus, did I love Sam. Sexy, sweet, damaged (did I mention sweet?) Sam. He's pretty much the perfect hero for those lonely nights when you're curled up in bed next to your snoring husband in bed. He's the guy your mom wanted you to bring home all those years ago. He's the guy your dad said would make a suitable father someday. Sam is...well, Sam. And he's mine. All. Mine.

Chasing Crazy was filled with humor, that much needed angst we all secretly crave, and the perfect balance of sexy and absolutely sweet. There was never a dull moment, from the Mean Girls crew, (Hello Regina, meet Reese) to the tent (Um, hells yes, that really did happen) and all the moments in between and after and before.

Bottom line is, this is one of those books that you can't walk away from without feeling every single emotion imaginable. (Believe me, I didn't) You'll want to hug your Kindle to your chest, close your eyes, and just breathe when you're done. I can't even begin to rec it enough. It's a phenomenal debut novel that exceeded all my hopes. So do yourself a favor...grab this baby. It's by far one of the best NA's I've ever read.

Christine (Shh Moms Reading) says

4 one syllable Sam stars!

Chasing Crazy is the debut novel by Kelly Siskind and I am so glad that I picked this one up. One of my New Year's resolutions was to try new authors this year; either authors I have never read before or authors with their debut novels and Chasing Crazy is one of my first for 2016. Well written, fun, and engaging - I am so glad I found a new author to follow :)

I have to say that I was roflmao by chapter 1 as the first rule of traveling is "always pee before boarding." This is a rule I always follow but you will have to read this book to find out why I was already smiling at the beginning of this book.

So what's this book about?

Well poor Nina, our heroine, is a complete klutz...this poor girl just wants to fit in yet disaster strikes at every corner and she can't escape it. The beginning of the blurb caught my attention right away:

Dear Mom & Dad, I dropped out of school. I'm going backpacking. Sorry. Love you both.

Nina wants to reinvent herself and find herself so she is traveling across the world to New Zealand to live her life and to hopefully learn to overcome her frights.

On the plane (hint chapter 1 lmao), she meets Sam. Sam, who has his own secrets, is also traveling to New Zealand to find the guy that he once was, to leave his insecurities behind, and to just have fun.

These two souls who meet in an almost kismet kind of way, who yes are attracted to each other though they try to deny it, are really like two peas in a pod because of how much they really need each other to overcome their issues and to "chase crazy" aka live life to the fullest.

What I loved about this book besides it being a new author to me was that I had a constant feel good feeling in my belly and a constant smile on my face. I loved the characters, their insecurities and all. But most importantly, I loved the emotions, the character growth and most especially the ending that made my heart happy because everything that was meant to be happened.

There was no drama for the sake of drama, and nothing that was overdone in this story. Chasing Crazy was just a good read that kept me engrossed in the book on a snowy day, that kept me warm despite the chill, and left me with happy thoughts of a love that was meant to be.

I look forward to reading more from this author.

1-Click Addict Support Group says

Every once in a while a book comes along that basically ruins you for all other books—at least, temporarily.

This was one of those books for me.

Nina and Sam are both running away from their lives. Their reasons are different, but the result is that they end up on the same flight from Toronto to New Zealand and fate or circumstance—or Nina's propensity towards catastrophe—puts them in each other's path.

Nina is mesmerized by the "frickin' hot guy" who bears witness to an unfortunate series of (humiliating) events she experiences on the plane. Unsure of whether the attention he bestows on her is friendly or ill-intentioned (and always assuming the worst), she deems him way out of her league and makes every effort to shake him off.

Sam is drawn to the passion he sees in Nina's gorgeous eyes, but he has his own reasons for not wanting to get involved with a woman. His trip to New Zealand is supposed to be a fresh start of sorts, and he's not interested in taking on the baggage of a relationship. Anything beyond a one night stand is not part of his plan. Unfortunately, he can't seem to keep himself away from the lovely, disaster-prone Nina—and the more he's with her, the more he wants her. Regardless, Sam is determined to keep Nina at a distance, not willing to risk his own heart.

A series of events ends with the two traveling together, and the more time they spend together, the more they discover that their resistance is futile. The attraction between them is too strong and there's something much deeper and bigger than either of them pulling them towards each other. As they open up to each other bit by bit—conquering fears and letting go of their baggage along their trek through New Zealand—they must decide if the fall is worth the risk to their hearts, and if the future they may have together is worth risking everything.

Have you ever just read one of those books that made you feel warm and fuzzy all over? The kind that puts a big dopey smile on your face the second you pick it up and keeps it there until the final page? You know, the kind that you read as slowly as you can, because you don't want it to end, or the kind where you desperately wish you could read it again for the first time?

Yeah, that's exactly how I'm feeling about this book. I'm completely enchanted with it. My heart has wrapped itself around it and isn't letting me move on. To say I love this book is a tremendous understatement. I (more than) loved Every. Single. Thing. about this book.

I loved Nina, every quirk and insecurity. She was this incredibly buoyant, lovable person despite the trouble that seems to follow her wherever she goes. I loved her innocence and her sense of humor, and her great big beautiful heart. Was she sometimes a little over the top? Maybe, a little. But that's Nina. She's supposed to be that way. It's one of the many things I adored about her.

And Sam?

Frickin' hot guy.

He broke my fucking heart—in the best, sweetest, most achingly beautiful way. He's *perfect*. Funny and strong, playful and chivalrous, every single thing about him was designed to steal my heart and not let it go. I'm going to love Sam for a very, very long time.

It was literally impossible for me to read this book without smiling, and equally impossible for me to put it down for any length of time. A captivating blend of charming laugh-out-loud humor, scorching kindle-melting heat, and heart-racing swoon, this was one of the best debut novels I've ever read. I'm hungry for more from this author! I am still basking in the glow from this book, and I'm not ready to say goodbye to these beautifully written, fully formed characters.

You hear that? That's me shouting from the rooftops y'all? READ. THIS. BOOK!!!! ~ Shelly, 6 Frickin' Hot Guy stars

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This was an emotional read that had my heart going out to Nina and Sam. They have secrets and are afraid to share them with each other, thinking they won't be able to hand it. As they embarked on a trip of a lifetime, it's harder to keep hanging on to those secrets. The question is, when they come out, will they be able to survive it?

Sam has been through hell, so when Nina catches his attention he's smitten by her. Let me say, their bathroom encounter on the airplane had me cracking up and I knew that's probably what I would be doing throughout the book, and lo and behold, that I was!

These two were a disaster waiting to happen and Nina was just flat-out funny with her spunky personality! Though there was plenty of funny moments, there were also serious ones that had my heart hurting for both Nina and Sam. Right at 59% I was holding my breath because I didn't know how it was going to go and I was hoping it would go Sam's way!

This was such a unique, beautiful story that it had my full attention, and I did not want it to end. Speaking of...that ending. *Argh* is all I will say on it! I also have to say that the secondary characters were awesome, especially Leigh! My goodness, Leigh was so real and I freaking loved her honesty!! We all need friends like her! ~ Kara, 4.5 stars

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## **Meri says**

Words can not describe how much I loved this book!! Sam and Nina are going to stay in my heart for a very long time.

*"Too terrified to say or do the wrong thing and effectively embarrass myself in the myriad of ways it seems possible, I've lived the life of a self-proclaimed hermit."*

*"Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle."*

*"If you accept yourself, others will, too."*

*"I'm reading into things with Sam because it's what I do: fantasize. I've for sure imagined this connection between us."*

*"You don't know beautiful, Nina, until you've seen yourself through my eyes."*

*"Having her close cases the ache under my ribs that flares when she's not around."*

*"Lucky isn't a word I'd have used to describe myself a year ago. Not even close. But it's the only one that comes to mind now."*

*"You're worth a thousand heartbreaks."*

*"You fail at a hundred percent of the goals you don't set.""*

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## Jessica says

Sweet, Adventures, funny, sexy.

Chasing crazy has plenty of laugh-out-loud moments that draw you in. Pininfarina has had the last bit of humiliation that she can face. So she packs up, heads to the airport, and hops on a random plane to New Zealand. She recreates herself as Nina and tries to leave her old embarrassing ways behind. However it's not long until she mortifies herself in front of one of the hottest guys that she has ever seen.

One tragedy has upturned Sams life. Life at home has become suffocating. He plans a backpacking trip to New Zealand. He is supposed to be having fun and learning more about the man that he has recently become. The last thing that he is looking for is a serious relationship. However there is something about the red haired Canadian that constantly draws him in.

A deep chuckle moves through his chest, and the sound travels up my spine. "Excellent point, Canada. So we're a fucked-up guy and a disaster magnet girl ready to take on a country with more sheep than people." He nods decisively. "Yeah, we got this."

The characters are well developed and awesome. The voice of the novel is phenomenal. This is one of the stories that you have no choice but to enjoy yourself while you're reading it. I don't know how many time I burst into laughter. The characters dialogue as well as Pininfarina's disastrous ways were hilarious.

Sam convinces Nina to slowly except her crazy, and in the process he re-discovers himself. The tone of Chasing Crazy is very realistic and it leaves you with only one question.

Can you find yourself by falling head over hills for the right person?

\*4.5 Accident Prone Stars\*

\*\*ARC provided to Books Need TLC in exchange for an honest review\*\*

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## Sybil aka Lala says

Pininfarina is a walking disaster. From her odd name to her hippie parents and her inability to control her limbs, she takes being painfully awkward to a whole new level. When a particularly embarrassing incident finds itself onto YouTube and the subsequent fallout follows her to university, she decides to take her long list of phobias and leave it all behind to go backpacking across New Zealand. Once there, she has to face one of her worst fears; a super-hot guy.

Sam used to have everything going for him, lots of friends, a hot girlfriend and a stellar talent for football. But that all changed after an accident that left him scarred. Tired of all the awkward silences and pitying stares from his friends and family, he decides to escape to New Zealand to find the fun-loving guy he used to be. He's soon taken by the awkward girl he sees at the airport and he grows addicted to her lustful stares.

Sam suggests the two of them travel together and they set off on a mission of finding fun and facing fears. Along their journey they meet new friends, go on adventures and try to fight the intense attraction between them. Both know their feelings are more than just a holiday fling but both have reasons to fight against it.

Nina was a great character. Her quiriness was endearing and her awkwardness and the special penchant for attracting disaster made for some hilarious situations. Told from dual POV's I found Sam's character to be very honest about the person he was and the one he is now. The build-up of sexual tension between them made for delicious reading and what started out as a bit of flirtation turned into a surprisingly beautiful connection. This started out as a typical coming-of-age and finding-yourself story but I was really surprised by how much I enjoyed this book and loved these two characters.

The angst and drama was relatively low and I recommend this delightfully sweet and hilarious romance.

(ARC provided by author via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review)

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