



Not If I Save You First

Ally Carter

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Maddie thought she and Logan would be friends forever. But when your dad is a Secret Service agent and your best friend is the president's son, sometimes life has other plans. Before she knows it, Maddie's dad is dragging her to a cabin in the middle of the Alaskan wilderness.

No phone.

No Internet.

And not a single word from Logan.

Maddie tells herself it's okay. After all, she's the most popular girl for twenty miles in any direction. She has wood to cut and weapons to bedazzle. Her life is full.

Until Logan shows up six years later . . .

And Maddie wants to kill him.

But before that can happen, an assailant appears out of nowhere, knocking Maddie off a cliff and dragging Logan to some unknown fate. Maddie knows she could turn back- and get help. But the weather is turning and the terrain will only get more treacherous, the animals more deadly.

Maddie still really wants to kill Logan.

But she has to save him first.

Not If I Save You First Details

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Author : Ally Carter

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From Reader Review Not If I Save You First for online ebook

?★Tinja★ A Court of Pizza and Laziness says

Mmmhmm 3.5 stars? It definitely wasn't perfect but I liked much more than All Fall Down. It was entertaining and full of action.

Suzanne says

Cute, quick read. More or less it was a story of friendship that gets lost and gained to move to love. Kind of found Maddie to be a bit obvious sometimes but overall an enjoyable read about two friends who get thrown back together after growing apart. However, they were thrown back together in Alaska which adds to the story for me because I love reading books based in Alaska.

My quick and simple overall: cute YA friendship book.

jessica says

this was quite a short book, so i will keep my review brief, as well. this was good for what it was - it was a quick, enjoyable survival story filled with action, adventure, and romance. whilst it had its highs (exciting premise, easy writing, decent pacing), it also has some lows (shallow character depth, some unrealistic moments). even though i didnt think this was perfect, i would still recommend it to anyone looking for an effortless, entertaining story!

3 stars

Lola says

Ally Carter is back, baby!

Alright, so she never actually “left,” but I can’t help but feel super excited when the author of one of my all time favourite series – *The Gallagher Girls* – publishes a new book.

Even if said book is a standalone, which is unlike Ally Carter. She’s known for her mystery series for teenagers, but she isn’t exactly known for writing one-shot stories. So part of me does wonder why she didn’t make this a series.

But I’m okay with her decision. As much as I enjoyed reading about Maddy and her dangerous adventures in Alaska, Ms. Carter wrapped things up very nicely in the last few pages. This was fast-paced, addictive and I genuinely felt trepidation reading it.

I can’t say it’s realistic, because it isn’t. It isn’t even “movie” realistic. Maybe “sitcom” realistic. The way

Maddie talks to her and Logan's kidnapper would not lead to the same outcomes in real life. I can't really imagine someone even having the guts (crazy mind?) to talk back to a stranger pointing a gun at them.

But that's Maddie. And you know what? I never, ever go into an Ally Carter book expecting everything to make sense at one hundred percent. I mean, have you guys read *Heist Society* from this author? Like that's a plausible storyline.

And yet, it's entertaining, just like this book is. Perhaps it isn't deep enough to deserve four stars, but I rated this one based on my actual enjoyment of the story, not on the message or themes.

If you're wondering, yes, of course, there is romance. But the friendship between Maddie and Logan is much more explored than their romantic feelings for one another. Besides, they've been kidnapped; they have other fish to fry! Kind of.

What an unstoppable adventure! I would have read this in one sitting if I wasn't a human being who needs sleep.

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Nadia says

I didn't expect this to be that good. I absolutely loved it! The pace was perfect for me. I never got bored and was sitting on the edge of my seat the whole time while reading it.

I wasn't a huge fan of the characters at first, but the more I read, the more I loved the characters. Maddie is the type of character you shouldn't underestimate. She may seem girly (and she is), but she won't hesitate to protect herself and the people she cares about.

I also really liked Logan. I wasn't a huge fan of him in the beginning but he grew on me. Also, I think I might like Stefan (the assailant) almost as much as I like Maddie and Logan. Oops.

I liked the writing style. It was simple and it was easy to grasp the situation. The humor was also one of my favorite parts. I couldn't help but giggle at all of the bickering and sarcasm going on.

Overall, *Not If I Save You First* was not at all what I was expecting. I expected it to be slow and, well, bland. If you are looking for a fast and fun read, I definitely recommend this book.

10/10 would recommend.

Carol (Bookaria) says

This is a cute and adventurous YA story and I really enjoyed it.

Six years ago, *Maddie*, the daughter of a secret-service agent, and *Logan*, the son of the President of the United States were both ten and best friends. Then, something happened and Maddie moved to Alaska with

her father.

Fast-forward six years and Maddie is still in Alaska. She has been living with her father, home-schooled, and learning survival skills. All gets disrupted when Logan is sent to Alaska to spend some time with them and just when he is starts getting settled ends up kidnapped. This is the beginning of the story and the rest is an adventurous journey.

The story takes place in an isolated region of Alaska and the characters are likable. I found the novel to be **entertaining, romantic, and fun**.

Overall, I enjoyed it and recommend it to readers of YA and contemporary fiction.

Maddie (Heart Full Of Books) says

For a standalone, this somehow managed to capture all of Ally Carter's strengths from her previous series! Political intrigue, high-stakes survival and hidden backstories, 'Not If I Save You First' would be a great starting point for people that wanted to discover Ally's books, without being intimidated by a whole series.

This felt the most real and gritty of her books, with people having guns shoved in their faces or rolling off cliffs left, right and centre. Of course, I had to suspend my disbelief that nobody died of concussion, blood loss or hypothermia, but still. Maddie and Logan wouldn't give up no matter what and they're determination to rescue each other kept me turning the pages non-stop.

A fast paced, adrenaline pumping read, perfect for fans old and new!

Mandy says

This is the story of Maddie Manchester, who is the daughter of the man who was in charge of protecting the president. Until that is, he got shot foiling a kidnap attempt by the Russians. Maddie, who saw her father wounded was with the president's son, Logan, and he was also injured.

Fast forward six years and Maddie and her father now live in Alaska. She lives a solitary life but has become very good at surviving in the wilderness, and making the most of what she has around her.

Then Logan turns up at her cabin and her little world gets turned on its' head.

I really enjoyed this. It was a fast-paced, entertaining read and I flew through it. I liked Maddie, and I liked the way that the author wrote her character. She seemed a typical 16 year old girl, just one that knew about surviving in Alaska.

This is the first book that I have read by this author, but hopefully not the last.

Very good read, that I liked a lot.

Trina (Between Chapters) says

Just what I wanted from that synopsis!

A cute, quick read that you'll probably enjoy if you like survival stories. There is also a good dose of friends-to-hate-to-attraction.

Only downside was that Maddie could be super annoying. She was acting that way on purpose, but let's just say she excelled at it.

Content warning: Russian terrorists, being taken hostage, falling, violence, injury, survival in wintry wilderness.

charlotte says

Galley provided by publisher

I'd be the first to admit that I wasn't all that impressed by the last book Ally Carter released. I would even go so far as to say that I was a bit disappointed. This one, on the other hand, is a welcome return to how good her previous output had been.

Maddy Manchester is the daughter of the (former) head of the Secret Service. Following the attempted kidnap of the First Lady, Maddy's father moves them to the wilderness of Alaska, cut off from human civilisation, for reasons unknown. In doing this, she leaves behind her best friend Logan, the son of the President. Six years later, Logan is sent to Alaska following a string of misdemeanours to find Maddy completely changed from the girl he knew, and hating his guts.

What follows is typical Ally Carter. And it's great.

I have to say, Maddy Manchester might be one of my favourite Carter heroines. After Kat Bishop, of course, but I might even go so far as to say she's better than Cammie Morgan. I loved her so much, even despite the slight "not like other girls" thing going on at the start (which, maybe fair enough, I wouldn't know many girls who could survive alone in Alaska myself, let alone throw a hatchet with accuracy into a tree trunk so). I think one of the problems I had with Embassy Row was that I didn't really connect with Grace that much, or even like her really, in the way I had with Cammie and Kat. Maddy is a lot more like those two, and it's like returning to something familiar (imagine thinking I wouldn't die for Maddy Manchester).

Normally, I also really like the love interests. However, the thing that slightly irritated me about Logan was that he never seemed to realise how capable Maddy was, not even really at the end. It was all him being like "no, Maddy, don't do this!!" like this isn't a completely different Maddy than the one he knew aged 10. There's also the whole thing where whenever one of the bad guys so much as looks at Maddy, he pretty much jumps them and starts yelling "don't even look at her!!", like, my dude, chill. I know your masculinity has been impugned on and you want to make up for it because Maddy is clearly more capable than you could ever wish to be but please. Just chill.

There was also the small matter of the twist at the end being a little out there, but I kind of expect that with Ally Carter so, while a bit strange, it wasn't like it brought me out of the story any.

ilsa 🦋 says

The first thing I will say is that this book is pitched as Girl Saves Boy and Girl want to kill the boy and then save him and its set in Alaska and it's going to be really angsty and action-packed but,,, it really wasn't that.

This book is about a girl called Maddie. When she was little, her dad worked in the Secret Service and she was friends with Logan, the president's son. **After an incident, Maddie has to move away to the middle of nowhere in cold, dangerous Alaska living in a shack with her dad.** For years, she sends letters to Logan, hoping for a reply but she never gets one. When she finally thinks she's moved on from Logan, he arrives at her doorstep and the story starts from there.

Not If I Save You First is a really quick, light-hearted read, a mix of YA and MG just like all Ally Carter books. I was really excited for this release and I was lucky enough to get an early galley and to be honest, I was little *underwhelmed*.

60% of the book is Logan, Maddie and Stefan travelling through Alaska and while it's not exactly boring, I just wasn't into it. It's Maddie hating Logan because for six years he ignored her letters, and then some truths and lies being discovered and them failing to get away from Stefan. Oh and of course kissing because our lives are in danger and were about today but no!! GOTTA GET TIME FOR SOME ROMANCE.

It's not really something I would recommend. **It's all very filler, and very wishy-washy and the dialogue is so unrealistic as in it was so cliched** I'm surprised I'm not rolling my eyes. It was all so forced and "quoteable" and I hated it because just have a normal conversation.

Let's move on the fact that Maddie is annoying as heck. At one point, Stefan is telling them something really important and she just keeps on interrupting him like "uHFSJHGFSJH JUST GET TO THE POINT" in some whiny tone and UGH IM SO DONE. While annoying Stefan, she was annoying me and I could NOT bring myself to like her. And I thought Maddie was gonna be really strong and independent but no, she *needs* Logan.

Logan was a boring old pumpkin. **His literal character is "UHHH I LOVE MAD DOG PLEASE FORGIVE MEEEEEE"** and yes he called Maddie, Mad Dog. I *know*. I literally know nothing about Logan apart from that he's really handsome and he just screams "DONT TOUCH HER!!!" about Maddie all the time. Nice.

The thing is this was supposed to be gender-reversed plot where the girl saves the boy instead of the other way round but that's a lie. Maddie saves Logan, I guess. but what do you call Logan carrying Maddie on his shoulders and keeping her warm? BOY SAVING GIRL. Typical which is not what i signed up for.

You know how I said like 60% was travelling? Yeah, **A whole plot, history, political aims and everything else was dumped on us in the last 40% and honestly no?** The mystery was not built up at all and I didn't really FEEL anything. I was never on the edge of my seat, I didn't care about anyone and honestly, I was not entertained. I barely even LIKE this book.

So that's my thoughts on this very disappointing novel. **Ally Carter is a great writer, I think but this book just didn't DO anything for me so :((((((**

Chris Horsefield says

Enjoyable teenage/YA tale full of action, suspense and some great, sharp narrative. All the boxes are ticked here for a good, no nonsense escapist read with decent characters and great location. It's a fast paced read following the story of Logan and Maddie on the run in cold Alaska from Russian agents. Overall I enjoyed as I like Ally Carter and her teen spy books. But it was not fantastic, just a good read.

katwiththehat says

This was a cute escape novel where Maddie, daughter of a secret service agent, and Logan, son of the president, are off in Alaska, when Logan is suddenly threatened, and Maddie's survival smarts must save them both. Nothing too deep, and an easy-to-follow plot, but cute if you're looking for something light and easy. I enjoyed Maddie's sass, and bedazzling ?.

Please excuse typos/name misspellings. Entered on screen reader.

Adah Udechukwu says

The novel was good. The synopsis (...the part with the president and special forces) raised my expectations. I expected more action, guns, bombs and so on. An Alaskan forest as the main setting took the pizzazz out the novel.

rachel • typed truths says

New Ally Carter *set in Alaska?*
