



Range Of Motion

Elizabeth Berg

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'I can tell you how it happened. It's easy to say how it happened. He walked past a building, and a huge chunk of ice fell off the roof, and it hit him in the head. This is Chaplinesque, right? People start to laugh when I tell them-'As Jay Berman lingers in a coma, his young wife, Lainey, is the only one who believes he will recover. While he lies motionless, she hopes to reach him by offering reminders of the ordinary life they shared - sweet-smelling flowers, his softly textured shirt, spices from their kitchen. And throughout her ordeal, Lainey is sustained by her relationship with two very special women, each of whom teaches her about the enduring bond of friendship and the genuine power of hope.

Range Of Motion Details

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Author : Elizabeth Berg

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From Reader Review Range Of Motion for online ebook

Linda Lipko says

Lainey and Jay have what appears to be a perfect marriage, until it all comes crashing down, literally! Jay left the house that morning for work and an ice cycle hanging over his head broke, rendering Jay immovable. Lainey confides her fears that Jay may never come out of the coma to her dear friend and neighbor Alice, and it is their relationship that makes this book strong.

Alice is stable, predictable, someone to count on. She gladly watches Lainey's two young daughters as day after day Lainey visits Jay in the nursing home as he lies in a coma state. Gradually Lainey brings soft memories that might open his mind and heart to regain what they once had.

And, as Lainey shares her fears, and Alice outlines exactly why she believes her husband is cheating on her, the two laugh and cry.

This is very much what I've come to rely on regarding Berg's writing. There are soft images of difficult days handled the best one can possible know how to navigate. The love is real and solid, and the heartbreak of betrayal for Alice and uncertainty for Lainey create a very strong, unbreakable bond.

Thanks to my friend Diane Keenoy for bringing the books of Elizabeth Berg into my life!

Cindy says

This is very different from much of the women's fiction genre - there's no obsessing over fashion or weight, no moaning over lost loves - but it is still very much a women's fiction book. From the beginning, we see Lainey and her family dealing with the freak accident of her beloved husband, Jay. He was hit in the head by falling ice and now lays in a coma, a coma from which he may or may not recover. This is a quiet novel about the power of love and friendships. There are two friendships that pull Lainey through - one with her neighbor Alice and one with the ghost of the woman that lived in her house. They both help her work out her issues and see her through the difficulties of juggling her family and her feelings about her husband.

Quotes to remember:

You can't force miracles... You just need to stay out of the way for when they want to come.

I am saying all of this, all of this, all of these things are the telling songs of the wider life, and I am listening with gratitude, and I am listening for as long as I can and I am listening with all of my might.

Ruth says

Your heart bleeds for Lainey. Her husband was walking down the street and was hit by a chunk of ice falling off a roof. He is now in a coma. After being in the hospital for about 2 months, Lainey is told that there is nothing more that they can do for him and that he needs to be moved to a nursing home. Each day, Lainey

goes to visit him and along with his range of motion exercises, she decides to do some of her own attempts at helping to bring him back. One day she brings in spices that will remind him of meals that they have had. She brings in some of his favorite clothes and puts them on him. She brings in their children so that they can talk to him. Each day she hold one sided conversations with him. She meets many interesting people who live or work at the nursing home and in one way or another do something nice for Jay. At the home, Lainey meets Ted whose wife Jeannie had an aneurysm and surgery but also lapsed into a coma. Jeannie has been in the coma for six months which is three more than Jay. Lainey's neighbor/best friend helps her in many ways and is the one who spends most of the time babysitting her children while Lainey is at the nursing home. As the days pass it becomes more difficult to remain optimistic and maintain her faith that Jay can indeed wake up. Will the insurance run out? Will she need to go back to work fulltime? How will this effect her children?

Carole P. Roman says

This is a book about hope. I love Elizabeth Berg. It's like she climbs into people's homes and captures a slice of their life. She is able to write in such a way that you know these people and they remain in your life long after you close the book. Range of Motion is a book about hope. In a freak accident, Lainey's husband is comatose after an icicle falling on his head. (I had heard something like this actually happened in New York) Visiting him daily, she brings life to the lifeless- filling the hospital and the naysayers with her hope. She believes in her husband, coaxing him and talking him back. There are subplots, and they are all well developed and realistic. She is the lynchpin holding it all together. I think Elizabeth Berg shows great Range of Emotion with her book!

Louise Marie says

Amazing job!

Kaytee Cobb says

Sasha knew I would love this one and she was right. it is such a beautiful reflection on love and life and friendship and loss and grief and joy. I borrowed it from the library but found myself really wanting to dog ear pages and underline quotes and read paragraphs again and again. Berg is a stunning writer and I'm looking forward to finding a few more of her books to dive into. thanks, Sasha!

Vickie says

I loved the audiobook! Tanya Eby is one of my favorite narrators and she was wonderful with this story about marriage, love, family and hope. Elizabeth Berg is a hit or miss author for me but she hit this one out of the ballpark. As my family is going through a small crisis right now, the theme of commitment struck a real chord. I would love for my son and his (ex) fiancée to read this and understand the level of heartbreak and commitment that couples must endure. This is definitely a good read and I look forward to reading more by Elizabeth Berg and listening to Tanya Eby.

Sasha says

I first read this 21 years ago. I liked it then; it was the first Elizabeth Berg novel I'd ever read, and turned me into a lifelong fan of hers. Reading it now, however... it was so much more. I just appreciated it so much more. I don't know if it's because I'm older and wiser, or a more discerning reader, or what the difference is but the entire book was just so much more beautiful and meaningful this time around.

Dani Stephens says

I absolutely love Elizabeth Berg and have never read a book by her that I haven't absolutely fallen in love with the main character or at least been able to relate to them in some way. Most of her books have a main character who is a little girl named Katie but I was surprised to find out that this novel was different. It was a quick read about a wife whose husband is in a coma for a long long time. It is the story of her life without a husband after all of these years of being married. He falls into a coma after being hit in the head with a piece of ice hanging from a building. This is such a random thing that could happen to anyone that no one ever thinks about having to deal with until it happens to you or a loved one.

Elizabeth Berg really has a way with words and also a way of making you feel like you are a part of the story that you're reading. As I read this book, I was in tears many times just imagining what it would be like to lose a loved one like this. I even think that it would be even worse if he was actually still alive and just unconscious. While he was in a coma, he was in a nursing home. My grandmother is in a nursing home right now and so many of the things were so similar, like the old lady with the baby doll and just talking to random people and random people's loved ones that are hanging around the home with you. I know these are things that happen to everyone and that a lot of people have been through but Berg has a way with words that just make it seem so real.

I would definitely recommend this book and all other books by Elizabeth Berg to anyone who likes a good but quick emotional read!

Cecilia says

Range of Motion is a well written book that stands as a testament to the power of love and of female friendship. When Lainey's husband is the victim of a freak accident that leaves him in a coma, she never wavers in her belief that he will recover. That belief, along with the constant support and devotion of her best friend Alice, carries her through this moving novel. My favorite part of the book was the lovely, stream-of-consciousness voice of her comatose husband. A must read for readers of women's fiction.

Atul Indurkar says

One of the best books I have enjoyed for a long time. True human emotions in a normal condition. Read this

book you will remember it for a long time. Elizabeth bergs finest work. Definitely 4 star.

Chana says

I very rarely "cheat" by looking ahead in a book, but I did with this one. I was only about an eighth through the story when I realized that the writing was too powerful and I was in the grip of a terrible grief. I needed to know what happened. Once I knew then I could adjust my reality to match the book and not suffer as much.

It is an amazing book about the strength of love, the beauty of love, the agony of sorrow and loss. I felt her pain on every page. And I was comforted by her friendships, her children, the supportive medical staff - as she was comforted. There is a world within the covers of this book. It is one of the most realistic feeling pieces of fiction that I have ever read.

Beautiful, brilliant.

Tanya Eby says

I'm so lucky that I get to narrate. I've always loved acting and writing, and this is the best of both worlds. And every once in a while, I get a chance to narrate a book that resonates in me, like a plucked string.

This is one of those books.

When I was sixteen, I tried to read "As I Lay Dying" by Faulkner and I couldn't figure out what the heck was going on, so I went outside, and sitting under a willow tree on a picnic table that sagged, I read that book out loud, using different accents. Suddenly, I got it. I mean, I GOT it. The characters jumped out to me. And I also got something else. I got that words, well-written words, are musical.

This book reminds me that words are both musical and magical.

I know this is an older book, so if you haven't read it, pick it up. It's a dramatic piece, but I think the themes of marriage, love, family and hope are so relatable. If you don't read it yourself, I'll hope you'll listen to the audio. I tried to stay true to Berg's characters, and I have to say that while reading it out loud, there were moments were I was just swept away..by the beauty and emotion and just, well, realness, I guess. I'm so honored that I was allowed to give her words voice. What a lovely story.

Donna Barnes says

another different subject ---- man in coma and his wife visits him daily, waiting for him to wake up. His thoughts are in here, in italics, as well. I found this quite intriguing.

Antof9 says

I loved this book! It was just beautiful. I cried so hard, almost from the beginning, but oh, what a lovely love

story this was. It's really interesting to think about how a huge accident or death affects everything, and our lives are divided by before the Event and after the event. I know I feel that way about my dad's death in 1998. Oddly enough, just a day or so ago, I posted in my blog about something my husband said to me. Unk was just walking out the door to see a movie with his brothers, and he said, "Hey. If anything ever happens to me. . ." (we have these conversations every once in a while, and I wondered where this one was going) "Well, you know, you've been travelling a lot, I've been travelling a lot, and I'm about to take another trip. . . Anyway, if anything ever happens to me, I want you to know. . . I've had a very happy life with you."

This is relevant because the whole book is about a man who was in a coma, and what his wife goes through during that time.

Two sections I'd like to quote, because they stood out:

Talking about the Forties

The women were home. They got to talk. I'm not sure it wasn't better. Think of it, the luxury of talking to another woman and feeling your three-year-old idly pressing his head into your stomach, instead of being fined for picking him up late at day care -- again.

Talking to a nurse who thinks talking to someone in a coma is a waste of time

'All right. I guess I understand what your wishes are.'

I stand. 'I intend to bring him home. Recovered.'

Nothing. Polite vacancy.

'If you don't think that's possible, I'd like you stay out of his room.'

'I'm the head nurse here, Mrs. Berman. I go into every patient's room, every day.'

'Well, don't talk to him,' I say. 'Don't touch him.'

I wanted to say YAY Lainey, when I read that :)

This book is just wonderful.
