



## Finally and Forever

*Robin Jones Gunn*

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**Finally and Forever** Robin Jones Gunn

What was she thinking?

Katie Weldon wonders if she was crazy to spontaneously fly off to Africa on a mission trip. Suddenly she is dealing with a new culture, a world she's never experienced---and Eli, a friend who is quickly becoming much more. It's all overwhelming ... and exciting. As her life turns topsy-turvy, however, she begins to think this might be exactly what she needs. Here, God might give her a glimpse into His will for her life. But just as Kenya and its people find a place in her heart, and her relationship with Eli begins to get serious, Katie is faced with unanswered questions from her past and unresolved issues with Eli. Is she really headed down the same path into the future he is? It doesn't look like it. Why can't she finally and forever settle into a set direction? Living in this new and captivating place, one thing she knows for sure: anything might be possible.

Finally and Forever is the final book in the Katie Weldon Series.

## Finally and Forever Details

Date : Published April 24th 2012 by Zondervan

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Author : Robin Jones Gunn

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## From Reader Review Finally and Forever for online ebook

**Sarah says**

Some editing choices distracted me to no end. First, the cover is a whole new design for the fourth book in a series. Editor, I will not be buying the previous three editions *again* just so they much. Because that's crazy and I see through that play. Also, you photoshopped and airbrushed that cover into oblivion. It's hideous. Second, there's an editor's note left in the text. Someone added a note in the manuscript that a word was spelled wrong. The word is still spelled wrong and the note was not deleted. Editor, that is tacky. This was a book I wanted to devour upon arrival, but these stylistic and editing issues got in the way of me enjoying this book quickly.

Despite these setbacks, I enjoyed the actual content. I love Robin Gunn's stories: she writes about young women like they are real people. Katie is one of the few characters I've come upon in a story that I truly identified with and felt like we thought and acted similarly. I've loved many a literary character, but Katie is like me. Hence, I love her story and the way Gunn writes that story.

I really don't want this book to be the end of the series, but these characters are probably finally done.

If the editors had made some better choices, this book would have been close to perfect. Those annoying errors ruined the experience for me, unfortunately.

Zoë says

## **Victoria says**

Few comments I found quite inappropriate but such a good book!

**Melissa says**

I don't know what to think. I guess my expectations were high after how tightly woven the Christy & Todd books were. I had loved Katie as she interacted with her friends in books 1-3. Finally and Forever gave me a downer feeling. Maybe because of the name and how Robin had asked for help to complete the story and made it feel so interactive. I went through chapter 5 to the end in one day, starting with work breaks and continuing through the night. I just couldn't put it down. But the pace of the book felt speedier despite Africa's time supposedly being slower than Katie's life in CA. To be honest, I didn't like Katie being so far away from Christy Spencer. A key puzzle piece was missing for me. Eli's mom didn't fill it, Sierra's friend didn't fill it. Eli is different from a reliable girlfriend Katie can have heart to hearts with. It was a fine story but lacked luster for my heart.

A bright side was how God was proven to control Katie's fears in Africa. That is always a blessed sweet reminder. I wish I were as prone to remembering Scripture, especially 1 John where God has not given us a

spirit of fear but of power and of sound mind.

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### **Leigh Kramer says**

So disappointed by the final Katie Weldon book! I've been reading Robin Jones Gunn since the beginning and was so happy when she decided to give Christy Miller's friend Katie her own series. Unfortunately, I can't get on board with RJJ's approach to Dating for 20-somethings. Completely unrealistic and promotes unhealthy ideas about chastity and marriage. It also demeaned Katie as the strong, adventurous characters she normally is.

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### **Lydia Howe says**

I listened to the first three books in this series and then read this last one. I will have to say that my rating of four stars goes to the series as a whole - not just to this book. I had read the Christy Miller series a long time ago, so to pick that world back up was pretty neat.

While the writing is amazing, it's hard for me not to skim-read too much while going through these books because it's not as if the plot is fast-paced or totally gripping. Therefore I've discovered I'd rather listen to her stories while going about daily life, because then I can focus on the beauty of the writing without being able to skim.

There were a few things I didn't agree with, but for the most part this series is beautiful and so friendship based, which is a delight.

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### **Kudzai says**

I've loved reading Robin Jones Gunn books, Christy & Katie's lives practically walked me through 'growing up'.. I was really disappointed with this last book though.. Aside from remembering the Lord's promise of not fearing & trusting Him, I wouldn't take anything from how Katie did things to apply in my life as I could with the other books..

Her relationship with Eli was really fast, hardly any accountability & it shows through their actions.. I work for missions in Africa, for a young woman to make a snap decision to go to Kenya at 1am or whatever time it was, only telling her friends is reckless rather than 'adventurous'.. How about someone a little older & wiser? Julia perhaps? A pastor? & even without a good relationship, just out of honour, she should've let her parents know..

I realise they are fictional characters, but knowing the profound influence these books had in shaping my Christian world-view growing up, I wouldn't let my daughter read this one..

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## **Jackie says**

Was so excited to see a continuation on the story of Eli and Katie. The first few chapters I found to be slow but I loved reading about Katie and her transformation while working in Africa. While this is supposed to be the last book in the Katie Wheldon series, I really hope she continues to write books about Katie and Eli.

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## **Jaime says**

First, I loved all the African culture that was laced throughout this book. From learning certain phrases such as Jambo! (equivalent to "Hello!") and Mpaji ni Mungu (equivalent to "God is the sustainer") to just experiencing the people and culture (like the peanut-like bugs or the crazy wildlife) I felt like I had been transported half-way across the world. It was spectacular and beautiful. I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

Then there's Katie, who comes up with the quirky lines and hilarious ideas. She is truly one of my favorites out of the Forever Friends crew. I can relate with her very easily and understand her thoughts and feelings, almost like they are my own. And then there's the ever-awesome Eli, who becomes even more adorable and fantastic in these pages. Katie's journey in finding her place in this world and God's will is something any one looking can see. I love her God moments and the joy spread through the book by His hand. It's marvelous.

While there is troublesome conflicts within the story, the end is just perfect. Any fan of the Forever Friends this far will thoroughly enjoy this ending and hope that more books are coming and that the "forever" doesn't mean there adventures are over. I know I enjoyed it. This may be my favorite of the Katie books for the culture differences and the heart-wrenching moments with the people of Africa.

Uzuri wa Afrika -- "The Beauty of Africa" is truly seen throughout this book.

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## **Laura says**

Readers who have "known" Katie for years have come to expect the outrageous from our spunky friend, so Katie's spontaneous decision to go with Eli to Africa came at no surprise. What awaits her in Africa is a beautiful conclusion as one of my favorite characters finally stops chasing whims and finds what she's always wanted--a godly man and a place to belong.

Once Eli and Katie arrive in Africa, Katie is in for a culture shock that translates to some fun adventures: hugging giraffes, eating ostrich meatballs, and getting an African massage. Balancing the fun jokes Katie spouts as a defense mechanism is the great call Katie feels to help bring awareness to the needs in Africa. A call Eli doesn't share. Instead, he feels called to travel from village to village, accessing needs and setting up missionaries who come to help. Will the two be able to realize their dreams without losing each other?

I am just going to bullet point my thoughts:

1. I love Eli. I'm so glad RJD didn't have Katie settle for Rick. A fun, quirky character like Katie needed more adventure than Rick could give her.

2. I love Eli and Katie's relationship. RJJ does a great job at balancing their passionate feelings with a determination and a choice to keep their relationship pure. Sometimes Christian fiction makes it look easy to be pure when in fact, it's not.

3. RJJ is the master of sharing a Biblical truth without being preachy. She nailed it again in this book.

4. In this book, we as readers finally get to know more about Katie's relationship with her parents. I've read every book with Katie in it, and I always wondered why she felt the need to tell random jokes even at inappropriate times. I know now.

5. I really like the ending!

6. I loved all the African culture in this book--from the people to the customs and places.

7. I hope RJJ will write more about Katie's work in Africa. There is a lot of story left to be told.

8. You should definitely check this book out if you are a Christy Miller and Katie Weldon fan. I've been reading these books for over 15 years now, and I still love these two gals.

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### **Melanie says**

After loving the first three books in this series, I had high expectations for this final book. Unfortunately I didn't love it like I thought I would and found the beginning slow to read. I also felt like Eli changed in this book, but I might be wrong. The end of the book was very good and that's what brought my rating up a half star. Overall, an okay read.

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### **Hannah Elise Stone says**

SOOOOOOOO WONDERFUL!!!!!!

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### **Brooke says**

Loved it!! It had a great ending but I think she needs to write another one!

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### **Marmalade says**

Ever since Katie was introduced in one of the original Christy Miller books, she was my favorite Robin Jones Gunn character. As you can imagine I was thrilled when Robin decided to give Katie her own series. This was a great ending to this four-book series. Although I was very happy with where Katie's books left off, I loved reading about her wedding and the events leading up to it in Christy & Todd: The Married Years. I hope Robin eventually decides to give Katie a few more follow up books about her and Eli's lives as a married couple. Katie was like a close friend through my high school years, and I hope you will allow Katie,

Christy and their many friends to teach you from their mistakes and accomplishments as you go through life. High school, college and the early adult years can be rough, but you can save yourself a whole lot of pain and heartache by learning from these Godly yet human characters.

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**Christina says**

I LOVE THIS BOOK AND IT WAS THE ABSOLUTE BEST ENDING TO THE STORY OF ONE OF  
MY FAVORITE FICTIONAL CHARACTERS OF ALL TIME  
AND I REALLY LIKE ELI OKAY  
AND HIS PARENTS  
AND MY CAPS LOCK BROKE  
AND I LOVE ROBIN  
YOU ROCK  
GOD BLESS  
:)

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