



Lessons in Letting Go

Jessica Peterson

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Ten minutes ago, I was just an American student studying abroad in Spain. But now? Now I'm a professional soccer player's muse. His good luck charm...

Soccer star Rhys Maddox's recovery from an injury isn't going well—until one night with a beautiful American and a few terrible pick-up lines changes everything. With Laura at his side, he plays smarter, runs faster, and fights harder than he ever has on the pitch. She's just the good luck charm he needs to turn his flailing career around.

Laura Bennet begins her semester in Madrid with plans to ditch bad habits and worse boyfriends. But when she unexpectedly gets caught up in Rhys's A-list life, her plans are put on hold. Who *wouldn't* skip class to fly on a private jet with a studly Welsh footballer? It's a no brainer, or so she thinks. Turns out Rhys's glamorous lifestyle hides an obsession with appearances—an obsession that makes her totally miserable. Determined to take back her happiness, Laura decides to dump Rhys and tackle a "Spain Bucket List" on her own.

But Rhys isn't letting his good luck charm go without a fight. He's spent his entire life trying to earn his way into the big leagues, and he'll do anything to win—even risk his carefully crafted image to help Laura with her bucket list. Will he be able to let his ego go? Or will he and Laura ultimately let go of each other?

**Excerpt from LESSONS IN LETTING GO – Copyright 2016 by Jessica Peterson/Peterson
Paperbacks**

I wonder if Rhys Maddox would be an *unreal* lay. A trophy lay, one for the books, and not just because he's the super hot footballer of my dreams. He'd be intense, athletic. Hard in all the right places.

For God's *sake* he is smoking hot. He's an athlete, with an athlete's hard, delectable body. He's got an accent, and a British one at that, and he is charming as hell.

He is asking me up to his *penthouse suite*.

"Are you really so generous?" I say, breathless.

He runs his tongue along the slick inseam of his bottom lip. "Why don't you come up to my room and find out?"

My heart skips a beat. "Liar," I say. "God, Rhys, you're such a liar."

"I am?"

"You said you weren't good at pick-up lines."

He smirks.

I shouldn't.

I shouldn't take him up on his offer. But oh, I want to. And isn't that what that bucket list I just drew up is all about? Doing what I want, eating what I want, being who I want without worrying about what anyone else thinks?

Tonight I want to be the girl who makes her footballer fantasies come true.

Tonight I'm going to do what I want.

And I really want Rhys.

Lessons in Letting Go Details

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From Reader Review Lessons in Letting Go for online ebook

Shannon Moore says

That ending though. <3

Review to come!

Shweta Choudhary says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I felt connected to Laura because I'm also a person pleaser and I felt how she felt. I felt her struggle to be herself, to love freely and to have fun. I liked Rhys, too! I know he did many things but emotions can be our best friends and the worst enemies. I'm so glad regarding what happened towards the end. Nope. I'm not gonna tell you. You need to read cute, amazing, sexy filled with weird pick up lines to know what I'm talking about!! Highly recommended.

Deanna (A Novel Glimpse) says

Note: I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an unbiased review.

I was so, so excited to hear the next book in Jessica Peterson's Study Abroad series was going to be Rhys and Laura's book! I've been waiting for their story ever since I met them in Spanish Lessons. The bits and pieces I got of them in the first two books really intrigued me.

Lessons in Letting Go was a great story, but it wasn't exactly the story I was expecting. That's not a bad thing, but it surprised me. I thought Lessons in Letting Go would be a lighter sports romance. It wasn't. It was a complex story about two imperfect people who didn't see their true reality. Lessons in Letting Go was filled with very real and raw feelings. I loved that!

Rhys and Laura's chemistry was undeniably sexy. The heat they put off had me fanning myself so often throughout the book. Their sexual connection wasn't the only thing they had going, though. They truly brought out the best in each other, like all couples should.

Things couldn't always be sunshine and rainbows, though. This is an NA romance after all. Rhys and Laura's drama was very intense and angst filled. I don't want to give too much of the plot away, but I will say that it affected how I felt about Rhys. I expected to fall in love with him a lot faster than I did. He wasn't as easy to love as I wanted him to be. Rhys was so consumed by the pressures placed on him that he let them take over his life. I didn't like who he was when he wasn't with Laura. It took a long while to feel he was worthy of her.

Laura was probably one of the most true-to-life heroines I've read. I loved her. Despite being beautiful, she had so many insecurities. Her thoughts and emotions were so easy to identify with. I felt like I was experiencing the ups and downs of 20-something life all over again. I honestly don't know if I could have made the same choices Laura did toward the end. She was a lot stronger than I probably would have been in the same situation.

Lessons in Letting Go was a great book. I truly enjoyed the journey this story took me on, and now I can't wait for the next couple of books. I am so excited to read Rachel's novella and to take a trip to London in Peterson's next full length novel!

Ari says

Original review: The Daydreaming Bookworm

****I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.****

I've been eagerly awaiting Rhys and Laura's story after seeing snippets of them together in *Lessons in Gravity* and I needed to know more about these two. I also was excited because this is a sports romance and I'm such a sucker for a good sports romance novel, I can never pass on them!

Hoping to reinvent herself, Laura Bennet starts her new semester in Madrid letting go of excess baggage from the past. With her bucket list in hand, she's ready to experience everything Madrid has to offer. But her plans get put on hold when she meets Rhys Maddox, a famous football player and the main lead in all of her daydreams. Rhys has been stuck in a rut, but his luck starts to change after he meets Laura. As they start spending more and more time together, Laura becomes wrapped up in Rhys' extravagant lifestyle which causes her to revert to old habits in order to feel accepted. But when it all becomes too much and Laura decides to walk away, will Rhys chase after his good luck charm, or will his own baggage force him to let her go?

Going into *Lessons in Letting Go*, I wasn't sure what to expect since we didn't really know much about our two main characters beforehand. While this book starts off flirty and fun, with lots of steamy moments and cheesy pick up lines, there is also a bit heaviness to the story as both of our characters are dealing with their own separate issues. Laura puts the needs of others before her own and this has unfortunately led to her feeling self-conscious and not loving herself for who she is. Rhys on the other hand is struggling to balance family obligations, football and fame. While I liked the conflicts, my main issue with the plot was that there just wasn't enough depth to it. I wanted to know more about Rhys and his family and maybe even seen them interact with him. Instead of just having Rhys tell us about his family issues, maybe we could've actually seen him fighting with his family or even show his family putting pressure on him to succeed. The same goes for Laura. I would've liked to know more about her past and what made her so self-conscious in the first place, besides just telling us that she is a people-pleaser. More showing, less telling would've ultimately made this book more enjoyable for me.

As for the characters, I had a hard time connecting with either of them in the beginning. I actually found Rhys to be very unlikable and even selfish. It takes him quite a long time before he realizes that the world doesn't revolve around him and even though he may have good intentions, the way he goes about doing things just didn't sit right with me. As for Laura, while I couldn't connect with her, I did grow to like her in the end and I loved seeing her take a stand and do what was right for her instead of continuing to suffer in silence. The lack of communication between these two also bothered me, especially since communication is key when it comes to relationships! To be honest, Laura deserved better than Rhys, but I'm happy that things worked out for them in the end.

Lessons in Letting Go was a steamy, fun read that fell short when it came to the plot and characters. Javier Montoya still remains as my favorite guy in this series so far and I'm excited to see what's in store for our

next couple. I'm ready for more adventures in Spain...and maybe take a trip north to say London?

Quinn's Quippy Quotes says

5 Amazing Stars!!!!

To say that I've been dying to get my hands on this book is a bit of an understatement. I fell completely in love with this series when my fellow sister Shannon gifted me *Spanish Lessons*. Little did she know it was my first hit in my addiction.

I just love the whole concept of this series and adore it even more because the author is writing from her experience from her semester abroad. I loved the connection that she put into the first two novels, but it's even more apparent in *Lessons in Letting Go*. This book is different than the first two, and by far my favorite. Not only do I see how this series is changing and evolving, but I'm witnessing first hand Peterson grow as an author.

We first met Laura as one of the Madrilenas in both *Spanish Lessons* and *Lessons in Gravity*. We learn mostly in *Lessons In Gravity* that Laura becomes involved with a very well know sexy Welsh football player that plays for Madrid. When we get to see a glimpse of them in *LIG* I just had this gut feeling that Laura and Rhys' story was going to get me.

Laura and Rhys have a lot of things in common. They both have a lot on their shoulders, expect more from themselves than what they would ever expect of anyone else, and feel like everyone is watching their every move just waiting for them to make a mistake. I feel like every woman will be able to identify with Laura. We are our own worst critics and often our own downfall.

I always felt less than. Less than pretty. Less than smart. And because I wasn't pretty and perfect and bubbling with intelligent things to share with the world, I thought I didn't deserve a place at the table. I didn't deserve anything. I was nobody.

Peterson is pretty much a genius when it comes to meet-cutes. In *Lessons in Letting Go* we get a first-hand experience of Rhys's awful attempts of pick-up lines.

**"Hey Girl. Do you work at Starbucks? Because I like you a-latte." He leans in. "Get it? A-latte?"
"I do," I manage. "Keep going. The 'hey girl' part is amazing."**

It's completely adorable. Another thing Peterson is a genius at...well, you'll have to check out chapter 18 on that!

Just as we start to see this incredible connection form between Laura and Rhys we also start to unveil a lot of their flaws and self-destructive behaviors. Laura and Rhys were so carefully crafted to have us fall in love with them, accepting them for who they are and what they become through this journey. There's points in this novel that I thought to myself that this wouldn't work in other books that I've read, but with Laura and Rhys, it's perfection.

Rhys' drive to drown himself in his success, playing against the ghost of his father's tainted reputation, starts to become incredibly overwhelming for Laura. She finds herself reverting back into her past, putting her in a dark place.

I'm starting to get the feeling that Rhys is a man of many faces. One he wears for his fans. One he wears for me. And one he keeps for himself. Maybe the faces he shows to the world are just masks he hides behind. I don't know why I want to dig deeper, and uncover what it is those masks hide.

Rhys slowly sees her slipping away. This is my favorite part in the book, watching Laura reform herself into this confident woman that strives to reach her goals.

The Laura who lives in the moment. I admire her. I want to be more like her.

When the downfall starts to spiral, I became furious with Rhys. I wanted Laura to scream at him, stand up to him, pound on his chest to make him see clearly. At one point I questioned how this could resolve. What grand gesture could Rhys provide that would flip my emotions from one end of the spectrum to the other?? The last 10% was a perfect volley of perspectives. I mean, honestly, it was perfection. Rhys starts to recognize that you can't buy happiness, and when you are lucky enough to stumble upon it, you latch on to it, guarding it close to your heart. Rhys' gesture was a-dork-able and incredibly genuine. I smiled, I laughed, I teared up a bit.

I'm beyond happy that I was granted the ability to read this book early and I'm just as ecstatic that *Lessons in Letting Go* was beyond my expectations!!! Like I mentioned before, this book is different but still fits so well in the series. It's deeper, it's stronger, it's the game changer!!!

Siobhan says

Oh gosh. All the feels. So many feels.

I can tell you right now this review will be long and overly gushy, thus I'm going to offer something different with this review. I'll write a quick short one, no more than a paragraph, just so that you can get a general idea, and then I'll give you all the feels in the rest of the review. Through this, you have the option to simply know what it is all about, or you can join me in the emotional rollercoaster as I try to organise my thoughts into something resembling coherence.

THE SHORT REVIEW:

This is easily my favourite book in the series thus far. With each book that is added, the stories become stronger and stronger. This one isn't a simple romance, as this one has much more depth. It's about finding yourself, coming to love yourself. Honestly, the depth to this one was amazing. The characters were wonderful, the storyline beautiful. I worked through it in no time at all, unable to put the book down, as I needed to find out what happened next. It truly is a beautiful piece.

THE LONG GUSHY REVIEW:

As the inaugural member of Jessica Peterson's advance read team (this isn't an empty boast, in case anyone

is thinking such a thing, as I have the email to prove my claim to the title), I would like to start by saying a great big massive 'oh my word'.

Jessica Peterson is one of the authors who has secured my status as a romance fan. For the longest of times, I was someone who would only accept romance as a subplot in a story. I would ship couples like nobody's business, and yet I found myself shying away from purely romance books. After reading *Spanish Lessons*, I knew I wanted more. It was such a cute story, with such a great group of characters, that I needed more. After reading *Lessons in Gravity*, I knew I was a goner. I could no longer deny it: I was a romance fan. I am a romance fan. I'll chant it loud and proud... or, at least, I'll try to do such a thing. I'm really not the kind for crazy displays of my feelings – but still, the fact remains, I was hooked.

Thus, an impatience grew within. I wanted the next read. I was super excited to see what comes next. I hate reading series when they're not complete, even when the stories work as standalone, as I'm nowhere near as patient as I let people believe I am when it comes to books. It should come as no surprise, therefore, to find out there was a crazy amount of excitement when the advance read of *Lessons in Letting Go* appeared in my inbox. I was on that thing like – well, I'm sure you can come up with your own analogies of jumping things.

I sat reading through a meeting. I sat reading through dinner. I sat reading until the early hours of the morning. I simply could not put the book down. It pulled me in even more than the prior books – and they both managed to grab me good. I know, I know, you're probably questioning why this is only a four star rating. I'm really mean when it comes to my five star reviews. I hold them closer to my heart than I should. This book was a solid four-point-five read. It was so close to reaching that five star rating I hold so close to my chest. However, I'm super mean when it comes to handing it out. If nothing else, through being so close to receiving the five star rating, it shows Jessica Peterson has the potential to pull five stars out of me. Such a thing translates to other people giving this book a five star rating, and me sitting to the side bouncing up and down with excitement due to the belief that the next book will pull that five star rating from me.

Don't just take my word for it; Jessica Peterson's editor seems to be of the same belief. Whilst in touch with Jessica she mentioned how her editor is of the belief this is her best book by far – and I wholeheartedly agree with the statement. Can you not tell by the amount of gushing that I'm doing? I've yet to mention why it's my favourite and we're already at a lengthy review. It's just... well, the feels. So many damn feels for this book. It's so wonderful, so close to perfection.

In books one and two, we got to meet Laura. Laura is the lucky devil who has managed to grab the heart of a celebrity, catching the attention of everyone's favourite football player. I'll admit the whole British thing and playing football (soccer, to those over the ocean) never really did much for me. I'm from the UK myself, and I'm more than a little bit bored of the football crazy fans. Nevertheless, I know there's an allure there. Moreover, even if I wasn't interested in Rhys due to the two aspects that make him so sexy to the characters in the books, I was interested in getting to know Laura's story. How did such a thing happen?

Lessons in Letting Go takes us back to the very start. We get to see this story from the first moment they meet, watching the interactions mentioned in the prior books play out. From the very start, things are hot; from the very start, you're pulled into their way of life. It's quite different to the prior books in the series, something else despite how it manages to stay so in line with the prior books. It's hard to explain exactly what I mean, but it's so wonderfully done. It's not a carbon copy of the prior books, it is entirely unique, and yet it stays with the feel of the prior books. You're pulled in. You want more. It's cute. It's hot. It's everything you want it to be, all from the very first chapter.

As with the second book in the series, this one is told from the two perspectives. I loved getting inside of the

minds of both of the characters. I'll admit to some tentatively at first, as I'm always worried when American authors write British characters. I find, more often than not, characters fall into one of two boxes. Characters either fall into the stereotypically British box – a box that really does not reflect our little island, leaving people to view us in the completely wrong way. Alternatively, characters fall into the American box – that is, they're written just like an American, and whilst we're not that far apart it is really strange to read a British character using American slang and doing something extremely non-British. It's something I notice far too much, something that bugs me more than it should. I just feel weird when characters fall into one of the two boxes. Well, have no fear with Jessica Peterson. Within a chapter, I had concluded this woman was more than capable of depicting a British person without falling back on the clichés. I admit that there were one or two slips regarding wording; but outside of those slight slips, it was perfect. It was honestly like listening to anyone I know. Rhys really was wonderfully written.

As wonderful as Rhys was, he had nothing on Laura. I could go on and on about how great Rhys is as a character – as the story grows he becomes more and more complex, we slowly get to see more of him – and I came to love him more than I ever anticipated. I think Javier is my biggest book crush of the series, but I would love to have Rhys as a friend. He's such fun, so complex. Nevertheless, Laura was just that little bit more.

In the first two books, I was surprised by how real Jessica Peterson's female leads were. You can truly relate to them. Viv and her emotions, Maddie with her philosophy on life. They were both very real people, people I could easily relate to. Laura, however, was something more. I cannot begin to explain how deeply her story resonated with me. Laura... damn, I don't even know where to start. The girl has serious layers. There is so much to her. Her trip to Spain is supposed to be a way to reinvent herself, a way to reinvent herself in the best way possible. The poor girl is lost, unaware of who she is. She has spent her whole life searching for perfection, putting other people above herself, that she has lost sight of herself. It was heart wrenching, and yet it struck so many chords. It is so easy to get lost in such a way of life, it's so easy to find yourself losing sight of who you are and what you want to be because you're unwilling to put yourself first. Honestly, I cannot begin to explain the depth of her character. Without a doubt, Laura has become my favourite of the females. After Maddie, I did not expect such a thing to happen, and yet it did. It isn't simply because of how easily I connected with her, it wasn't just because it felt like the author was trying to send me a message to remind myself to live, it was because she was so beautifully crafted. She was so real, and watching her grow... I honestly have no words. The depth of this book blew my mind. We see how the real world is, how finding yourself and where you belong in the world will be a bumpy ride. Jessica Peterson doesn't try to hide the truth of the world from us, she shows us how brutal it can be and yet we're still left with hope. Laura left me believing that anything is possible. Hell, I want Jessica Peterson to write my future for me – even with all the bumps in the road, despite everything Laura dealt with, I cannot imagine a more deeply moving tale of finding your place in the world.

For all those romance fans out there, don't worry, this is still one hot story. We still have all the romance drama of the prior books – it's just that this has that something more as well. Honestly, the rollercoaster I experienced. Every few minutes I had a friend checking up on me, making sure I was okay. My emotions were all over the place. One minute I was laughing out loud. The next I was curled into a ball chewing on my nails. The next I was muttering away about characters. Before long, I had shifted into another emotional state – and the cycle continued. It really did play me like a guitar, expertly playing my emotions so that I was left a mess by the end of it.

Just the damn feels.

Seriously, this review is ridiculously lengthy and yet I feel as though I've said nothing at all. There's just so

much to the story, so many layers, and I fear mentioning any single specific will ruin it all. It's a delicate house of cards, with one wrong move knocking it all down. I have no wish to be the one to knock it down, to spoil the beautiful story before you've had a chance to read it.

Due to the length, I'll come to an end shortly. You're probably still questioning about why this isn't that full five stars. For me, it was the ending. It was a great ending – I wouldn't have accepted anything else in terms of where the story ended up – and yet I felt as though it was a bit too quick compared to the rest of the story. We'd had such depth, and then a movie cliché appeared. It probably has something to do with the fact that I wouldn't accept such a movie cliché if a guy was to do such a thing to me, but still... I just felt as though the conclusion was slightly less wonderful than the rest of the book. I loved it, and yet it felt as though it slipped ever so slightly. Not enough to ruin the book – oh no, I just wanted more. I have no idea what this more is, I cannot think of such a thing myself, but I felt as though it wasn't quite on par with the rest of the book.

Overall, though, I adored this book. It is easily my favourite in the series thus far. It has left me more than ready for what else is to come.

Speaking of what else is to come – we're getting a novella. Honestly, it sounds so cute. I cannot wait to read it. Moreover, the next book is going to be slightly different – our setting is changing, and I cannot wait for such a thing. Seriously, I'm so addicted to this series.

As a final note, I'd like to apologise for how lengthy this review ended up being. I know you probably wanted more, but as I said, I felt as though I needed to be careful so I didn't give anything away. Jessica Peterson was wonderful enough to allow me to advance read this story – I cannot thank her enough – and I have no wish to spoil things for the other fans.

Just know it's truly astounding.

Polly says

3.5 stars

This was my first book from this author and over all it was pretty good.

Rhys is a superstar soccer player and Laura is the regular girl next door that meets him while studying abroad.

I think there were more things that didn't work for me in this book that did and that's why I went with 3.5. Their chemistry was off the charts and their steam was right up my alley.

However there were a few things that bugged me. Rhys is doing all of the fame and stuff for his family but he never visits or talks to them. I would think if he was putting himself out there then at least they would have a relationship. They kind of just existed in his head. It just didn't make sense to me. He was also an asshole most of the book. He was pretty selfish and didn't take her feelings into consideration too long. After he had his "aha" moment he was much better to read.

Laura has many insecurities and that gave me a bit of a whiplash sometimes. Her inner thoughts took me on a roller coaster ride. She as well never talked about her family. I needed more depth.

Overall this was a quick and steamy read that lacked the depth I wanted.

The Review Lift

**arc provided by author for honest review*

Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says

3 Couldn't Connect Stars...

I'll be honest I had a little trouble getting into this book. I've picked it up and put it down on several occasions. The writing was good and the plot flowed well. The sex scenes were steamy. The setting was wonderful.

So why just 3 stars? I just didn't like Rhys. He was a douchenoodle through most of the book. He does eventually get his head out of his ass, but by that time I was just sort of over him. Laura I did enjoy *slightly* better, but her character was ALL over the place sometimes that it felt like I was watching a tennis match. Their lack of communication and the way they both behaved at times disconnected me from them as a couple.

In the end, even though the writing was great, my dislike for Rhys, and my disconnect of them as a couple made this just an OK read for me. That said, I wouldn't think twice about giving this author another go.

Kaetrin says

pre-ordered from Amazon.

Amber at WickedGoodReads says

They're finally here! Rhys and Laura are HERE!! *throws confetti*
OHHHHHH Jessica Peterson... what have you done? *flails arms around in a dramatic fashion*

Lessons in Letting Go is book number three in the Study Abroad series by smooth talking romance author Jessica Peterson. And honestly after Javier (book 2,) I was super skeptical that she could match the level of heat or depth of emotion that was attained in that story.

As with many things in life - I was wrong and I happily admit it. LILG was every bit as full of light, dark, hot, cold and sexysexsex... as the previous two books. YESSSS! It was beautiful and it transported me yet again to Spain and the magical world of these 6 young lives that I had previously been so engrossed in. It

starts over basically to when Laura and Rhys first meet - Rhys with his horrid pick up lines and Laura his good luck charm on the soccer/football field. Their relationship was very realistic in its development, I felt. The author did a wonderful job keeping everything as descriptive and real as possible. As with the first two books, I loved this couple and the POVs that let me get into their heads and understand how and what they were feeling as their relationship grew and developed. It really was a wonderful story and I was sad to see it come to an end.

Rhys might not have taken the #1 spot away from Javier but he has definitely earned a sacred place among my book boyfriends.

Thank you again, JP!

5***** WickedGoodReads

Beatrice ~ Confessions of a Pinay Bookaholic says

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.

For **Laura Bennet**, studying in Madrid is about self-improvement and exploring the beauty of Spain guided by her bucket list. Everything is organized and planned until **Rhys Maddox** came in the picture. He's a well-known Football player who recently came back after an injury. After their hook up, Rhys can't stay away and considered her as his lucky charm. As they hang out more, it progressed into a casual relationship. Laura adjusts in his glamorous lifestyle but when she noticed he's getting more obsessed with fame, she decides to leave him. She can't keep up and this time, she'll prioritize what she wants first before him.

I understand where Rhys is coming from and give him the benefit of the doubt. His perseverance to reach the top of his career is admirable and it's kind of him to help his family on their burdens. **However, he really gets on my nerves for being selfish, immature, arrogant, inconsiderate, jerk and showy.** It took me a while to read this book for such reason. When he gets a wake up call for his actions, he tries to win Laura back and he can't take her off his mind. These two have a hot romance but their relationship is toxic. They lacked communication which is unhealthy and I don't like Rhys's treatment on Laura (particularly near the last chapter) and I hate him for that. **Laura has a better character development than Rhys.** The low moments in her life helped her to become stronger and braver. Unfortunately, Rhys and Laura's story was a let down for me though they get a happy ending they deserved. I just wish Rhys treated her with more respect.

Despite of my disappointment, I am still looking forward for the upcoming books for this series. Getting a hint for the next book, oh man.. I can't help getting more curious about it.

Jessica Peterson says

Like hot footballers (the European kind) and hotter sex scenes? Then you'll love my Study Abroad sports romance, **LESSONS IN LETTING GO (Study Abroad #3)**. While this is the third book in my series, it can absolutely be read as a standalone. Check out the first three chapters on my website here.

Happy reading! Can't wait to know what you think of Rhys and Laura's story.

Christine Frieske-Miller says

This was the first book I've read by this author and I couldn't put it down. I finished it all in one day. There was something about Laura and Rhys that intrigued me. With that said....Rhys is the first male hero that after I finished the book, I love him, but I hate him, too. Both he and Laura live for other people. What they do in every day life is about making others happy, not themselves. When they first get together, Rhys just takes from Laura. She is his good luck charm and even though she wants more, she is just a thing to him and in return she is a shell of a person. When Laura finally decides that she wants to live for her and start checking things off of her bucket list, that is when Rhys finally opens his eyes. He sees the beautiful strong person she is. Not the shell that has been on his arm. That strong woman, is the one he falls for. They fall for each other hard and Rhys starts to play soccer for him and starts to live his life for him as he has learned from Laura. Then an unfortunate incident threatens to tear them apart. This is where I had a hard time with Rhys, what he did to Laura and how she could come back to him. He tore me apart while I read it, so I can only imagine how Laura felt and how she could come back from that. I loved how they found their happiness in each other and how they learned they needed to truly make themselves happy and not worry about the world around them. I just hope that Rhys has learned through his mistakes and they get their happily ever after. And no this isn't a cliff hanger :) I just always wonder about down the road. Really great read though....I couldn't put it down.

Sara says

I was lucky enough to have Jessica Peterson email a request to review the first book in this series and that book, and ultimately this series, holds a special place in my heart. So, admittedly I'm a bit biased. That being said, here is my honest review.

Laura is under a lot of pressure, pressure that mostly comes from her own head. Pressure to conform, to be better, prettier, more successful. I think we can all find a little bit of ourselves in Laura and her insecurities. She is a different kind of character from the other heroines in this series. She is not as easily likable, which I think was carefully crafted on Peterson's part. Laura strives to appear perfect, but we get to see the flaws. So, in the beginning, it was hard to read her struggles and really like her as a person. BUT, as the book progresses, so does Laura and that is when she really shines.

Rhys also has enormous pressure on his shoulders. Pressure to live up to his family's expectations and to break free of the tainted shadow of his father's legacy in the football world. Rhys is sexy and a little cheesy at times and he is easy to fall in love with and yet it hurts to see him try so hard and always feel he isn't good enough.

Laura and Rhys have a great start, but begin to struggle as their relationship grows. Rhys isn't handling himself well and Laura doesn't like who she is becoming.

The story is really one of learning to love yourself and accept the love of others without stipulations. L & R have some brilliant moments and some not so brilliant ones, but ultimately it makes their relationship quite realistic and I loved that. They are sweet and sexy and fun and a hot mess at times and that, for me, was perfect.

I really enjoyed Laura and Rhys's story. Kudos to Jessica Peterson for giving us another great read in an all

around great series!

ellieisuhmabookworm says

Final Score - 5 Bucket List Worthy Stars!!!

Review to come...
