



Finding Ever After

Stephanie Hoffman McManus

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It's been three years since she left everything she knew behind, but Jaxyn is finally done running, and returning home to Boston face the friends she abandoned without warning and the nightmare that still wakes her in the night.

Back in the childhood home that holds all of her memories from before life showed her that 'happily ever afters' don't come easy, she is unsure of what the future holds. The one thing she definitely wasn't expecting was Kyden McCabe, the hot, tattooed and pierced musician she meets her first night back.

All she ever wanted as a little girl was to be swept off her feet by a prince, but Ky is nothing like the heroes from the stories her mom used to read to her. He's arrogant, frustrating and completely wrong for her. He lives his life one night stand at a time and she knows he's nothing but trouble.

Still haunted by her past and afraid to let anyone see the scars she hides, she fights the attraction she feels for Kyden and wonders if she'll ever find her storybook ending. Then a monster from her past threatens to rip away her chances before she realizes that maybe she already found it.

Content Advisory 17+ recommended

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Finding Ever After Details

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From Reader Review Finding Ever After for online ebook

Julie Reveles (ILST BLOG) says

***** I Love Story Time was gifted an ARC in exchange for an honest review *****

5 Stars!!!

It has been a while since I have read a story that kept me up until 2:30 in the morning! I literally had to force myself to put my kindle down and go to bed! Then when I woke up the next morning, I just rolled over and started reading again. Yes! It was that good! I finished this book in 2 days! It is not a short read by any means, but I just couldn't stop from wanting to know what was going to happen next. I loved Bas, Kyden, and Jaxyen.

Bas and Jaxyen have been best friends since they were little. They grew up living next door to each other. Over the years, through middle and high school, they have always been there for each other and have always been close like sister and brother. Over time people thought there was something going on between them but they have always been just friends. Then one night everything changes for Jaxyen and she leaves town without telling anyone. Not her family or any of her friends including Bas. Now, 3 years later, she finds out some new information about her family that brings her back home. The first night she comes home, she goes to see Bas for the first time in 3 years. When he first sees her he can't believe his eyes. He can't believe she's back and he lets her know exactly how he feels about her leaving him 3 years ago and how things were "supposed to be"....

"So much happened Jazz and you were supposed to be here for it. You were supposed to be there on move in day at the dorms and you should've been there when I failed my first exam and thought I was going to have to change my major because there was no way I was cut out for it, and you should have been in those fucking stands, screaming your head off every time I scored on the field. But you weren't. You weren't here. You were God knows where."

I felt so bad for Bas. You can totally tell how hurt he was and how much pain he went through when Jaxyen left. Once Bas and Jax make up after getting everything out in the open, he then introduces her to his friends which are also his brother Chris' band-mates. One particular band mate that catches her eye is Kyden. Oh man...Kyden! There's so much to say about Mr. Hotness! I love him. I wanted to jump in the story and knock his walls down and force him to believe in himself. Kyden has every wall up that can be possible and is not willing to take any of them down. From the moment Kyden and Jax meet, their push and pull relationship starts. Jax knows Kyden is a player that uses girls for sex, but she can't help the way she feels about him. However, Jax is not the only one that is holding her feelings back. Kyden knows that Jax deserves the happily ever after that she always speaks about. He knows that she deserves to be showered with love by her prince, but he also knows that he's no prince charming but doesn't want anyone else to have her either.....

"I know I have no right, but I'm asking anyway. I can't watch you with him. If you want us to be friends, I can't watch you with any of the guys Princess. If that makes me a selfish asshole, fine, I'm a selfish asshole, but I wanted to hurt him tonight and that's fucked up. I've never let a girl come between us and I don't want to now, but I want you. I understand why I can't have you, but please don't fucking ask me to watch one of my best friends have you."

There are so many more parts in this story that I want to quote. I think I literally almost highlighted the whole book! What I will say is, I loved this story! This book was not only a love story; it also had suspense as well. I can't believe all the things that Jaxyn went through. She is one strong girl and has the best of friends to get her through it all. While I was reading this story, it reminded me of the books *Thoughtless* by S.C. Stephens and *Taking Chances* by Molly McAdams. I loved those books and I really think that this one is right up there with them on my list of favs! So, if you liked those books, I highly recommend you pick this one up! I can not wait to read Book 2, *Chasing Ever After*! I really liked Ace in this story to the point that I almost wanted Jaxyn to like him!! I am really looking forward to reading about his story and his ever after!

~Juls

I Love Story Time says

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5 Stars!!!

It has been a while since I have read a story that kept me up until 2:30 in the morning! I literally had to force myself to put my kindle down and go to bed! Then when I woke up the next morning, I just rolled over and started reading again. Yes! It was that good! I finished this book in 2 days! It is not a short read by any means, but I just couldn't stop from wanting to know what was going to happen next. I loved Bas, Kyden, and Jaxyen.

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willing to take any of them down. From the moment Kyden and Jax meet, their push and pull relationship starts. Jax knows Kyden is a player that uses girls for sex, but she can't help the way she feels about him. However, Jax is not the only one that is holding her feelings back. Kyden knows that Jax deserves the happily ever after that she always speaks about. He knows that she deserves to be showered with love by her prince, but he also knows that he's no prince charming but doesn't want anyone else to have her either.....

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~Juls

Secretly Adorkable Readers says

Holy baby ninja turtles Batman!! This book was unbelievable. I was asked by the author to take a chance to read her first book that came out this year and I am amazed at how beautiful this story affected me in all sorts of ways.

Jaxyn grew up next door to her best friend Sebastian "Bas" and his older brother Christian "Chris". She was raised by her mother but due to unfortunate events, a tragedy took her mother away when she was 12, leaving Jax to move in with her estranged father and siblings. Jax cannot seem to get away from the bad in her life and so she runs away from her father & Connor. She doesn't return till 3 years later, and she is now 21. She moves back in her childhood home and first thing she does is look for her best friend Bas.

Bas is hanging out at the club with his brother's band and friends. This is where you will meet Ace, Spade, Marcus, Vi, Lissa, and Kyden.

I don't know how many times I laughed but I think I cried more and wanted to throw my kindle every time Kyden would break Jax's heart. It was truly beautiful how the story played out and how she found her dark,

broken, sexy and broody prince charming.

I cannot wait to read the rest of the gangs stories. I was gifted this book in exchange for an honest review.

Ellen Anderson says

I am really impressed with this debut book by Stephanie Hoffman McManus. She has put a lot of emotion and heart into this story. It took quite a while for Jaxyn's reasons for running and needing protection to finally come out and even longer for Kydan's. Then again, it was a very long book. Usually I'm not drawn to books this long, but I will admit that there are so many secondary characters, that it wasn't boring. I like the way that Jaxyn's faith was brought into the story and that she held with those beliefs. I look forward to more books by Ms. McManus in the future.

This copy was given to me by the author in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Heather says

Reviewed for EBooks Galore

Finding Ever After is, on the surface, a new adult rocker romance. It follows Jaxyn and Kyden; she left town for three years after high school, he is the front man of a rock band about to make it in the big time. Both have shady pasts and secrets, which conspire to keep the two apart for most of the book.

I was very conflicted when reading this book. A few things were done well; however, several things could have been improved upon.

First, the things I liked: I liked that from the beginning, Jaxyn knows that Kyden is a player/bad boy and actually chooses to stay away from him/keep things platonic. That shows a certain amount of self-awareness that I liked in a heroine, especially a new adult one. I loved the snippets the author gave of her relationship with her mother. It was clearly a warm relationship and was very well written. I also liked the way Jaxyn's time is spent while the band is on tour. I felt that the emotion (while stronger than merited, which I'll get to in a minute) was well written in that I could feel the ache Jaxyn was suffering. The fact that she got up and went to work and lived a normal life anyway was lovely to see in a NA. Too often the heroine completely stops living. It was nice that Jaxyn didn't do that.

But I only gave this book two stars, and there are numerous reasons why. First off, very early on in the book Jaxyn allows herself to be taken to a bar where it is likely a murderous criminal who has already attacked Jaxyn once may be. She just says, "okay," and goes, where - guess what - she gets accosted by the very criminal. Once we learn exactly what their past IS, it's even more ridiculous. Second, and even bigger, is the speed at which Jaxyn falls for Kyden, who shows almost no redeeming qualities at all. There's no reason for her to fall for him, because he's a womanizing pig who lets Jaxyn down over and over again. Flawed is one thing; Kyden is broken. It was really hard to be sympathetic to their issues when I didn't like Kyden to start with. If Jaxyn had ended up with Ace, I'd have been much happier.

The third and fourth things I had a problem with went together. Jaxyn is an irredeemable slut shamer. She

constantly calls other women sluts, whores, strippers, and worse. Only one does anything negative to Jaxyn; the rest are simply in her line of sight. It was incredibly unbecoming. Especially as Jaxyn (at the very very end of the story) is, apparently, Christian, with a strong belief system about church, God, and staying a virgin until marriage. That's fine, but it's not mentioned throughout the story, and it doesn't fit with how Jaxyn behaves. And if she is truly Christian, the slut shaming is even more damning. I was uncomfortable every time she mentally berated these women for having and/or using their sexuality.

In the end, this wasn't a terrible book. Not up to par with Kylie Scott's Stage Dive series, though. It could use the detailing of a really good editor, and if that happens I would re-read it for purposes of updating this review. If you're looking for a great rocker romance, though, maybe wait on this one.

Penny Stone says

FIVE STARS

FINDING EVER AFTER (Ever After #1)
AUTHOR: STEPHANIE HOFFMAN MCMANUS

Stephanie Hoffman McManus has written another breathtaking story! **FINDING EVER AFTER**, the first book in her **EVER AFTER SERIES**, is dynamic! I love the story and the characters are amazing!

Jaxyn, also known as Jazz, had a mother she absolutely adored. Her mother read her fairy tales every night. They always started with "Once Upon A Time" and ended with "Happily Ever After". They only had each other, and Jazz's mother made sure that her childhood was magical. Unfortunately, at age 12, Jazz learned that happily ever after didn't always happen. Her mother passed away, and left her with the following advice:

"Promise me you'll be careful with your heart. That you'll protect it and won't give it away to just anyone. Wait for the man who will cherish it. You are my Princess. Don't settle for anyone who doesn't see that. You deserve a real life Prince."

"There's going to be pain and disappointment in life, but don't let them break you. Don't ever settle."

Jazz spent the next few years with her father, whom she had not met before, and her life took a drastic, dangerous turn. Feeling desperate, Jazz escaped to try and find herself and didn't even tell her two best friends she was leaving. They were devastated.

Hoping that her best friends could somehow forgive her, three years later she decides to return to her childhood home, where she had so many memories of her precious mother. The one thing she didn't count on was meeting HOT, HOT, Kyden McCabe, the sexy, tattooed and pierced lead singer of a local, popular rock band. He was everything she knew she shouldn't want. She wanted a Prince. He wanted a one night stand.

Jazz was fighting the enormous attraction she has for Ky. Ky was also fighting his explosive attraction to Jazz. Neither one were having much luck. Then her past rears its ugly head and she finds herself in danger again.

Will Jazz find her Prince? Will it be Ky? Can she escape her dangerous past?

Stephanie - I was not ready for this book to end. I can not wait for the second book in this series!

Kelli says

<http://kellisreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

Finding Ever After is a great novel by the wonderful Stephanie Hoffman McManus. This book, is the story of Jaxyn.

Jaxen mysteriously left town at 18 to escape a living hell. It was the second time her world was shattered. The first time, she was only twelve.

Sebastian, or Bas has he is usually called, has been her best friends since she was five, when she and her mom moved in next door to him, his dad, and his brother Chris.

After running for three years, Jax returns to the only home she ever knew in Boston. The hell of her past threatens all of those around her, including bad boy Kyden, lead singer of a local band.

Talk about a great way to start off a series! Don't forget your tissues! You will need a lot.

***Marsha,Marsha,Marsha* It's always Marsha says**

This is a very difficult review for me to write. There were parts of the story I really liked and there were parts I did not. There parts that made sense to me, and there were parts that did not. And so I am going with a **3-3.5 Stars**. I will try and justify my reasoning below: (snorts)

Jaxyn is returning to her home near Boston after being gone for 3 years. She left after a life altering event that one can guess at but isn't fully revealed until closer to 3/4ths way in. She is scarred inside from that life altering event and is returning home to face her past as well as her best friends that she left behind, Bas and Vi. She knows it won't be an easy welcoming because she simply just disappeared without telling anyone where she was. Her past is also tragic. Her beloved Mother dies and leaves Jaxyn alone until her father who never acknowledged her is "forced" to take her in. The years she spent there from 13 -18 nearly broke her. No love, harassment from half-siblings, and fear from her father's "men." You see, Jaxyn found out the hard way that her father was the most notorious mobster from the Irish Mafia turned billionaire businessman. Just being in his house put her in danger and when she walked away, it was to save herself, emotionally and physically.

The story changes when she goes to face Bas and his anger. She arrives at a local bar and upon seeing him, she is thrust immediately into the world of the boys of Ashes and Embers, an up and coming band. Ace, Spade, Chris, and Kyden are pure sex on a stick but it is the intensity of Kyden who affects her the most. After her "confrontation" with Bas, they talk honestly and openly and begin to return almost immediately to their Best Friend Status. (more on that later). She is shocked at the sexual innuendoes, dirty talk and manwhore ways of these "boys" but in no time at all, she becomes "family" to them, via Bas. Here are a few

of her pet names: (everyone had to call her something OTHER than Jaxyn, which I liked.)

Princess-Kyden

Beautiful, Baby Girl - Ace

Rainbow - Spade

Tink - Chris

Jazz - Bas

This annoyed me. And I'm not sure why other than they seemed to be used so easily as if she was ALL of their girlfriends. She and BFF Bas go back immediately to a near romantic connection except it wasn't. When he reveals that he going to propose to his g/f, Jaxyn is shocked but hopes his g/f likes her. (*Uh, not happening anytime soon*)

The drama beings almost immediately and there is so much of it I began to get dizzy. Here are a few: Bas's g/f is positive that Jaxyn and Bas are sexually involved and she hates Jaxyn and utterly disrespects her in front of Bas and others. Does Jaxyn stick up for herself? No. But can you blame the girl when Bas sleeps in the same bed with Jaxyn often? Too weird

Then there is the entire drama with the EVENT and her father and Connor, the predator. We are given snippets throughout and one can figure out what is going on.

There is this utter sexual tension between Kyden and Jaxyn and he's determined to get her in his bed. She is determined to resist because "bad boys are no good for me."

There is the drama of "the boys" needing to protect and watch over Jaxyn when they realize she is in danger from Connor. I swear, this girl just needed protecting throughout which caused MORE drama with all above.

In between all of the above, there is the romance/denial between Kyden and Jaxyn. And to add fuel to the fire, Kyden had his OWN ISSUES that caused him to be emotionally unavailable but he was more than ready for one night of mind blowing sex, which she never gave him. And I mean never. No sex between them in the entire book. We find out HIS issues nearly at the end and it's bad but I felt that he obviously had no idea just how bad it had been.

Here's where my problems erupted with the book. So much inner dialogue and so much denial on Jaxyn's part until literally the 96% point. They could not communicate well because they both were broken in some way. This caused multiple understandings and major hurts. Ky handles his pain by getting drunk and screwing as many women as he can. They are just going to be "friends" because it is best for them (snorts) Of course Ky crawls into her bed a few times to sleep. In fact, this entire group just crawled into bed and slept with her (No sex) at various times. Again, weird. Not sure how many girls could accept their guy doing that.

This book is long. And it can be complicated with all the drama but I also had a one more pet peeve: There needed to be some more proofreading done before publishing. There were flashes of good writing then I would see this: *He put his hands on my waste There were typos and grammar usage sprinkled throughout.*

The ending felt rushed and I kept waiting for Ky to come back. It took 98% point for their HEA to fall into place. I will read the sequel. I still find the characters worth finding more about but I am HOPING to see Kyden and Jaxon's wedding night! I know. Bad me. :):)

Bex 'n' Books says

Reviewer: Lynn

Disclosure: This ebook was provided by the author in exchange for an HONEST and not necessarily positive review.

I wasn't sure of my opinion at the beginning of the book. By 1/4 way in, I was hooked. I loved these guys; Ace, Spade, Bas, Chris and even Kyden. They were like the ultimate friends to have. After leaning the reason why Jax left, Bas knew what happened, the rest of the guys find out as the story progresses. They want to protect Jax and keep anything from happening again.

There is a lot of drama in the book, but I think that is what makes the story. Jax doesn't want to become a one-night stand to Kyden. Kyden has too many issues to want a relationship. So they try the friends only route. There is too much sexual tension for that to work long term. I don't want to give anything away with my review, so I am not elaborating on any of the situations in the book.

The story had me in tears a few times, and I can honestly say, I am looking forward to the next book. At least I hope there is a second book. As much as I liked the ending in this one. I need a little more.

Melissa Agena says

What a great story of two broken people finding each other. You might need to pull the tissues out on this one. Jaxyn, a girl who has been through lots of tragedy and loss finds herself back to the home that she fled after finding strength healing. Kyden, lead singer bad boy who just so happens to be seriously hot, has seen his share of loss as well. Both find each other and try desperately to remain friends until, of course, they can't anymore. There are quite a bit of twists and turns you may not expect and some that you do. They are all well played throughout the story. The tight bond that the characters form is great and makes you wish you had friends like that. The building romance throughout the book has its own ups and downs. There is no sex in this book but the story didn't need it. When you read it you will understand why. You will laugh and you will cry but in the end it turns out to be one really good story. The writing is excellent. It flows very smoothly and you will get lost in the words as you should in a really awesome book. I read this book in one entire evening. I couldn't stop and put it down. I really can't wait to read the other character's stories. They all have their own stories of loss and tragedy. I don't have any complaints about this book and would definitely recommend it.

Vicky says

I was given this book by the author in exchange for an honest review. I loved this book! Jazz and Bas are great, throw in Ky and the band and it gets interesting and fun. This story will make you laugh, cry, and gripe that all men are idiots! This book makes you think about life and relationships between men and women and family. I didn't want to put it down to go to bed. The author writes her characters as family and old friends. The conflict with Jazz and her family and the pain she went through is intense. The guys make you shake your head and roll your eyes. They are comical and serious. This is a wonderful book. Read it today! You will be glad you did.

Amber Preble says

Great story poor editing

Great story poor editing

I really enjoyed the story I like the main characters, I loved that it wasn't your everyday fairytale story. I love how the author put pieces of the story out there for you to wonder about. however there where so many misspelled, and incorrect words that at times it made it hard to get through. other than that it truly was a good read.

Kara Hildebrand (Two Book Pushers) says

This is the first novel from Stephanie Hoffman McManus and the first in the Ever After Series. The writing is great! The characters are all extremely likable and at one point, I was torn between who I wanted the leading lady to end up with! Jaxyn ran from her life after high school to escape her past but she's back 3 years later and she wants her life back. Bas, the best friend that she left behind, isn't too thrilled to see her. He's hurt and mad that she just ran without even saying goodbye. On her first night back in town, she meets some new friends of Bas' who happen to be in a band. They are all hysterical, hot and mouthy. She has an instant attraction to Kyden, but he is all wrong for her. When her past catches up to her, her new band of friends all vow to protect her. Will the feelings that she has for Ky break him from his player ways. Will his indifference make her run again? It's hard to dislike a book that references the Winchester brothers more than once! I enjoyed this story and was extremely happy to hear this is a series. I quickly became attached to the secondary characters and I can't wait to read their stories!

I don't know about you, but I want that mad, passionate, honest to God real love. When he touches me, I want it to ignite a fire in every part of me and I want to be kissed like there's no one else in the whole world.

I didn't know anything about cars, but I was very familiar with the Winchester brothers, and it looked an awful lot like Dean's car.

His grin was sexy, his smirk was infuriatingly charming, but his smile was breathtaking.

Claire - The Coffeeholic Bookworm says

I was breathless and emotionally charged after reading this book. Finding Ever After is full of surprises and Stephanie Hoffman McManus is impressive.

Jaxyn wanted to find her prince, her knight in shining armor, the one who would treat her like a princess. After her mom died, this wish just vanished. She ran away and was held captive. Her fairytale turned to nightmare and the evil villain in her story tormented her and made he wish she were dead.

When Jax came back to her hometown, the fog of doubt that plagued her was lifted, and then she met Kyden. Could he be the prince she'd long been waiting for? And what if the villain returned? Would her fairy godmother finally appear and help her?

Jaxyn's relationship with her mom was admirable, it was sweet and true. So I understood how hurt she was when her mom died and how devastated she felt when she was thrown to his father's other family instead where she was mistreated, unloved and broken.

I thought the author was a genius because she easily made me sob like a baby who spilled her milk, and then she made me laugh like a girl who watched a Friends episode. Finding Ever After is a story that swept me off my feet, had me clinging for dear life, and made me believe in happily ever after.

Kim says

Finding Ever After grabbed me immediately and didn't let go. This book really knows how to keep you on an emotional journey. The portrayals of how people hide their emotions and baggage from their loved ones and the reactions of each other when trying to cope was raw and beautiful. I truly felt that I was involved with the interactions of the characters.

Jaxyn ran from her hometown when she turned 18 and hasn't been back until now. She didn't tell anyone that she was leaving and didn't contact anyone. As she returns to Boston, we get to be with Jax as her story unfolds and she reconnects with her friends and her past. Her two best friends, Sebastian and Vi, pick right up where they left off. It's great to have friends that no matter the time or distance will be there for you. Sebastian is like a brother to her and as such way over protective of Jax. I absolutely adored Via and loved how she was sassy and bold.

As Jax returns she also literally falls for Kyden. Ky has his own baggage but the pull towards Jax has him reacting in ways that he doesn't know how to handle. Reading the struggle that both Jax and Ky had while trying to keep from getting hurt was heartrending. The others in the story were great and I loved them too. Each should have their own story. I can't wait for Ace's story and hope that Chris as well as Spade get their stories.
