

Our Forever

Elena Matthews

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Our Forever Elena Matthews

****SECOND CHANCE CONTEMPORARY/ ADULT ROMANCE - STAND-ALONE****

Spin-off from the Look After You series

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When you fall in love with your best friend, it's supposed to last forever.

Jo Donovan was a true believer of happily ever afters—until her best friend, Christopher, was killed in Afghanistan.

Destroying her. Destroying her world.

Five years later...

Jo finds herself still stuck in the past, unable to find closure.

When she moves to Austin, Texas, with her son, she finally finds the fresh start she's been desperately seeking.

What she doesn't know is that the fresh start comes in the form of her sexy neighbor, Drew Greyson.

Their friendship starts off rocky, but eventually, a spark between them ignites. It isn't long before their attraction turns into something explosive and unexpected.

Drew wants to be her everything, her forever, but will Jo's loss and grief stop her from following her heart?

Warning: Recommended for ages 18+ due to explicit language and sexual situations.

Our Forever Details

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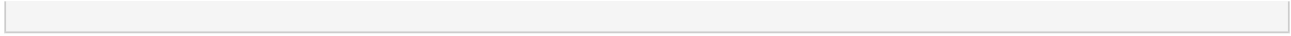
Author : Elena Matthews

Format : ebook

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review Our Forever for online ebook

Leo (Queen of the Rants and the Crazy) says

[I was reading this but the heroine is not over the dead boyfriend. She kept saying that he was her first love, her world and her everything.

I counted 168 times that the dead boyfriend's name was mentioned in the book. (hide spoiler)]

Ddkmc95 says

This is one of those bitter sweet love stories that would make for an awesome movie!! Jo thought that she had her HEA...she was married to her best friend and love of her life, Christopher, and she had a precious baby boy, Junior. Then Christopher was killed in combat and Jo's life fell apart. That was 5 yrs ago but Jo is still finding it hard to move on. A new job forces Jo and son to move to Austin, TX, a few hours away from the life that she lived with Christopher. On the first night in her new apartment, she is rudely awoken by loud, obnoxious music from the neighbor across the hall. Jo promptly goes to the neighbor and gives him a piece of her mind! New neighbor, Drew, is sorry for the poor welcome to his cute neighbor and starts his apology with gifts. Jo, Junior and Drew slowly become friends and there is definitely chemistry between Jo and Drew. Will Jo finally let go of the pain of her loss and learn to love again? Will Drew patiently wait while Jo figures out what she wants? I really loved this story and can't believe that I waited so long to read/listen!! Junior is a hoot...nothing gets by that kid! There were times when I was bawling with Jo...and times when I really wanted to smack some sense into her! Like I said, a book worthy of a movie!

Alex ? says

DNF @ 24%

Dead spouse is not my trigger, I love books about 2nd chance in love. And heroine's ex was amazing. But it was, IMO, disrespectful toward him/his memory to fall for a guy, whom she 1st met interrupting his sex-marathon with OW. The 2nd tume she saw him he kissed OW in front of her. Really, woman? Self-respect overrated much?!?

Her new love interest told her he couldn't stop thinking about her the 1st time he met her -> I wonder if it's a sign of a true love to have sex with OW after you met your forever woman??...

Add a dumb BFF to this mix and Alex goes ballistic.

Nope, just nope!

A says

ARC received in exchange for an honest review :)

GAH!!! this book... *sighs happily* the writing style, the characters, the story... it was pure perfection... I absolutely loved it from the start and it only got better and better with each chapter... *sighs dreamily* I could easily start to re-read it right away ;) you all need to read it :) full review on my stop at the blog tour but people... it was phenomenal!!! :)

edited to add my full review :)

I got my hands on the ARC of this amazing book, and I couldn't be more happy about it because... well... it was absolutely fantastic ;) for a person who reads as much as I do on a daily basis, and I am not talking only as a book blogger, but as a reader in general ;) the situation that happened to me with this book, is not a very often occurrence ;) long story short, and don't worry, my whole review is going to be the long version ;) but for now, long story short... I fell in love with this book from the very first chapter, and it only got better after that... ;) so now I will do my best to convince you about its awesomeness, so you'll give it a try as well ;)

Let me start by saying a little bit more about our main couple... because *sighs dreamily* ;) I adored them both... but since I have a very soft spot for Drew, I'm gonna start with Jo ;) ok, so she had a best friend growing up... she and Christopher were friends forever, before falling in love with each other... unfortunately a few months after the birth of their son, he died after being deployed to Afghanistan as an army doctor... and even though they weren't married, she's a widow... and now, five years later, she is still grieving... but that slowly starts to change when she moves to another city after losing her job... ;) my heart really went out to her... I wished I could just reach into the book and hug her... Elena Matthews wrote her as such a vivid, real and honest character, that my heart kept breaking for her and her sadness... but this was definitely not the only side she had... there was also a very sarcastic and even a little bit of sassy side we got to see more and more throughout the book... ;) and it all started with her meeting Drew... *sighs dreamily* I have to say that Drew is starting to be one of my favourite male names... because every time I read a story when he is the hero, like „Beauty and the mustache” by Penny Reid, or „Play of passion” by Nalini Singh, or „The hook up” by Kristen Callihan, or like this book ;) he is always one of the most swoonworthy and awesome guys ever ;) and Drew in this particular book... *sighs* I just... I can't... there are NO GUYS like him in real life... or I'm looking in all the wrong places ;) he was just... oh so perfect ;) smart, sarcastic with a delightfully dirty mouth ;) and did I mentioned all the tatoos and the fact that he plays guitar and can sing your panties off without really trying? ;) *sighs dreamily* he totally stole my heart ;) and him and Jo together.. it was pure perfection to read ;) not to mention, that they meet in a very interesting way... ;) after Jo and her son move to a new apartment, she is woken up in the middle of the night by a very loud music from the apartment next door... so naturally she storms there and yells at... what do you know, Drew is her neighbour ;) after storming back to her apartment, she gets a sort of an apology gift the next morning, which turns into exchanging messages and slowly into something more... ;) and seeing this more playful side of Jo, the banter between them... I can't even begin to count how many times I laughed out loud reading their messages and interactions ;) I don't want to say too much about how their story goes, but what you need to know is that it's a bit of a slow burn romance, without any unnecessary drama or angst whatsoever ;) which happens way too rarely in books ;)

Besides Jo and Drew, there were of course quite a few secondary characters I need to mention ;) first of all, Junior, her son ;) he was such a great kid to read about ;) smart and cute, I really enjoyed him ;) then I need to tell you about Kaelyn ;) now she was a fun friend ;) Jo's bestie, a little bit of crazy, but absolutely loyal, we all could use a friend like her in real life... ;) and of course, Christopher's family... ;) his brothers and parents, even though they appeared or were mentioned only in a few scenes, definitely left the best impression ;) and some of them may or may not already got their own story... ;)

Like I said, many many times during this review, this book was absolutely amazing... ;) I was blown away by the writing style of a completely new to me author... you can bet that all of her other books landed on my tbr #BookMountain wishlist ;) the characters she created, their stories and interactions... *sighs happily* it made me laugh, cry and make „aaaawwww” noises in all the best places ;) the majority of the book is written from Jo's perspective, with a few chapters when we can glimpse into the mind of Drew ;) and both perspectives are flawless... I mean... I was in such an awe of the way that writing style got to me... you never know what you get when you try a new author, so it's always so amazing to discover a gem like Elena Matthews... ;) trust me people, you all need this story in your lives ;) go one click it right now, you won't regret it :)

XOXO

A

for more book-ish stuff visit:

my blog -> <https://bookworm8619.blogspot.com/>

my facebook page -> <https://www.facebook.com/bookworm8619/>

Alyson LaBarge says

I cannot tell you how much I loved this book! New to reading Elena Matthews, I was not 100% sure what to expect but when you are completely drawn to the story from the cover to the very last page, well, that is an amazing book. I picked it up and was a part of Jo and Drew's world for the next four and a half hours straight. There was just no way I could put it down, afraid that I might miss something.

With a broken heart at the beginning, Jo tried to pick up the pieces of her life and go on. I don't know how you could do that other than to say that you had no choice. My heart was broken right along with hers. Thankfully Drew came along and in his wonderful way, helped her piece it back together. I loved the connection between them. There was a fabulous sarcastic wit and humor that was really appealing without going overboard. They were just a fabulous pair and their romance is one to make you believe in miracles, that true love does happen twice.

As the story drew to a close, I was far from done wanting to read about Jo and Drew. I truly hope Ms. Matthews has plans to gift us with more. This is a heart wrenching and healing book and there are some that may not be up to the emotions it stirs up. Only you as the reader will know. Our Forever is now one of my favorite books. It made me laugh, cry and brought up emotions I'm not sure I recognized previously in myself. It will most certainly always remain a part of me.

***** 5 Stars *****

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest and unbiased review.

Jenny says

[No (hide spoiler)]

Louise Roach says

"Nothing but baby steps. You have to learn how to walk before you can fly."

What can I say – Elena Matthews books just keep getting better and better. Our Forever has definitely become my favourite book of hers. It is full of love, hurt, heart-break, compassion, tenderness, happiness, sadness, laughter and smiles. I honestly had all of the feels reading this book. My heart broke and then it was mended again... I laughed, and then I cried! You name it, I did it!

In Our Forever, we meet Jo Donovan. She was a true believer of Happy Ever Afters, being with her lifelong friend and father to her young son. But when tragedy strikes, 5 years on, she is still struggling to come to

terms with things, move on with her life and deal with the despair and emotions she feels.

“...An endless dark pit of pure agonizing fire, obliterating everything in its path with its earth shattering flames.”

She's existing, but she's not living – she's simply surviving and putting on a brave face for the sake of her gorgeous son Junior. When Jo moves away from home with her son, she moves to Austin for a new job, but she has accepted that she's destined to be alone.

It isn't long before Jo falls out with her neighbour Drew Greyson. Drew is just swoony! I feel in love with his character immediately. He and Jo strike up a friendship, which initially starts with a lot of banter, back and forth and funny moments. But what I loved most was the way Drew simply cares. His tenderness and understanding towards Jo is perfect in every way. He really is the full package and the friendship they develop is epic – Drew changes Jo and makes her start to see life again. He helps her, guides her, supports her and ultimately loves her. But can that be enough for Jo? Both Jo and Drew have had struggles and darkness from their pasts – can they move forward from this and come out the other side?

“He seems to be the light in my dark, and I'm finally learning how to bask in the light.”

There simply wasn't anything not to like about any of the characters. I immediately fell in love with every single one of them and was able to fully connect with them throughout. I really felt all of the emotions both with them and for them. Junior is an awesome little boy! But I also loved the fact we saw some of the characters from the 'Look After You' series, plus Christopher's parents play a very important role in this story too.

I won't give too much away about the plot or where the story goes, but I will say you need to read this book and simply discover it's beauty for yourself. This is a book that now has a piece of my heart and will stay with me for a very long time. I was totally blown away by Elena's writing, and I know for a fact I will read every single thing this lady writes now!

*****5 Sugary Cupcake Stars*****

My Girlfriend's Couch Blog says

I have read every single book that Elena Matthews has written. She is an author that I will one-click any one of her books without looking at the blurb. Our Forever was fantastic. It made me laugh, cry, and took my heart on a journey that I was not expecting.

Our Forever is a complete standalone. That being said, you quickly realize that Dr Ashton Bailey (from the Looking After You series) and his family play a huge role in this book. I am such a sucker when authors do that. I have insta-love!!! I screamed when I put it all together. I had such mad love for the Looking After You series. It was so nice to revisit the characters in Our Forever.

So I feel like I don't need to do a sum up of Our Forever since Elena Matthews did such a great job with the blurb. I will, however, tell you that this book is a 5 + star book for me for 2016. I loved Drew Greyson instantly! I loved his humor, his ability to go slow with Jo and his love for Jo and her son.

"You are my once-in-a-lifetime, whereas I'm your second chance. It doesn't matter how we found each other

or the short amount of time we've been together. All that matters is us. You're my soul mate, my best friend, and I know I'll never have to go without my sugar."

~ Elena Matthews, Our Forever

Jo Donovan is one tough lady. She has been through more than someone her age should have to go through. She lost the love of her life and had to rebuild her world with her son, Junior. Little did she know that when she decided to move to Austin, TX, she would begin her forever.

"I might still be in love with a ghost, but this thing between me and Drew feels instinctual. It feels right. He's bringing me out of myself in ways I haven't been able to imagine since the moment my world turned upside down. I feel like, after all this time, I can finally breathe, and it's revitalizing."

~ Elena Matthews, Our Forever

Drew's tenderness towards Jo was one of the most touching thing that I have read. He understood that Jo would always love her boyfriend, Christopher (who was killed in the line of duty). He was determined to win Jo's heart one step at a time.

"Nothing but baby steps. You have to learn how to walk before you can fly."

~ Elena Matthews, Our Forever

Did I mention that Drew is a singer??? *Swoon* I LOVED the song that he wrote for Jo! The chorus was perfect for them.

"You have to breathe in, breathe on
To see the shadows of light through the darkness.
You have to breathe in, breathe on
To allow your beautiful heart to feel once more.
You have to breathe in, breathe on
Until you find the one who can breathe for you."

~ Elena Matthews, Our Forever

I cannot even tell you how much I loved this book!!! Ok, I could actually go on and on, but I don't think that you would actually like that.... Needless to say, if you have not read a book by Elena Matthews, you are completely missing out. The way that she creates her characters, draws you in, rips your heart apart and then puts it back together again is simply a gift.

Elena, thank you so much for allowing me to read and review Our Forever. Drew and Jo's story is one that will stay with me forever. I want to see these characters later in one of your book. I need to know what becomes of them!!! Please, oh please give us an update, soon!

#TheDrewEffect #Sugar #Forever #DrewCanBringMeCupcakesAllDayLong

~ Review written by Heidi Pharo

Sammy ?? says

4.5 stars

Sheila Schoenauer says

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

This is the first book I have read by Elena Matthews. I can honestly say that from the first book it had me wanting to read more. Being a military spouse myself, and being surrounded with that never ending fear, I already caught myself with tears in my eyes within the first chapter. Jo is such an amazing mom and a true survivor, even if she still hasn't overcome her grief. Her son Junior was adorable and so full of love for his mom. Drew was the most wonderful man ever. His love for Jo and his acceptance and understanding for what she was going through was amazing to read. Not all men would be so accepting. This book was a wonderfully emotional ride.

Tatia says

4 stars

This is one of those stories that breaks your heart and then slowly rebuilds it throughout its entirety. Jo had her forever ripped from her hands. With a new baby, she has to keep going. For the next 5 years, her mourning over their loss doesn't ease. With no other option, she and her son pack up and move three hours away from the only family they've ever known. What she didn't know is that she was about to meet a major jerk.

When Drew meets his new neighbor, he can't stop thinking about her. While she was getting into him for his loud music, he couldn't stop thinking about how sexy she was. He does whatever he can to get her attention and keeps sending her little gifts hoping to win her over.

This story was a feel-good story. While my heart was broken in the beginning, just like Jo's, Drew helped piece it back together. These two, the energy they both had was beautiful. They worked so well together. Both have a witty, sarcastic sense to them, but know when it's time to be tone it down and be serious.

This had everything I love in a book. Elena Matthews has won me over. Even after the end, I just wanted to read more about Jo and Drew. All I can do is hope and dream for another book. But isn't that the thing about being a book junkie, when it comes to our favorite stories we are always hoping and wishing for more.

Read and reviewed for FMR Book Grind

Lady Living In Bookland says

Just when I think I know the capabilities of an author, they smash their personal best. Elena Matthews did that for me with this stunning story.

The spin off story from the 'Look After You' series (but can be read as a standalone novel too!) knocked my socks off!

Excerpt:

Our forever should have been forever, but unfortunately, forever doesn't exist.
At least not in my world.

Meet Jo, single mother, widow and all round amazing woman trying her best for her son and their life together. Moving to Austin, Dallas for a new job also brings new neighbours! One in particular was going to make a real impression!

Drew and Jo's relationship is a slow starter. But boy does Drew just melt into your heart. Jo struggles with her feelings for the man she lost (Christopher) and that she may erase his memory by moving on with her life. He simply shows her how to love them both.

Excerpt:

It's okay to miss him, to cry for him, but don't ever hide that sadness from me. When your tears fall, I'll be there to capture them, to kiss the sorrow away. I'll be there, but you have to let me. You have to let me in.

What I didn't expect?! The flaming steamy sec scenes. Elena has really outdone herself with this story in terms of stepping up the heat for me and wow! There may not be Nutella (hint: read the Look After You series!) but yep....still hot as hell!

All round, this story was just beautiful. Sentimental, stunning and a beautiful story of hope and new beginnings. An absolute corker of an ending with the best feel good factor too!

Lady Heather says

Expected Release date: September 27, 2016

A stand-alone spin-off from the Look After You series

Warning: Recommended for ages 18+ due to explicit language and sexual situations.

Snippet

"I love that I was your first since Christopher, that I was the first to push through those hardened walls that you'd kept in place since he died. There should never be a day when you're not worshipped, and I can imagine he thought so, too. There should never be a day when you're not smiling because, when you do, you're so fucking breathtaking that it literally hurts to breathe. You deserve the world and everything in it. You deserve forever."

I let out a long sigh while my heart constricts in my chest. "I might deserve forever, but happily ever after is bullshit because forever doesn't exist."

"I'd like to put a wager on that."

I stare at him with utter confusion. "A wager?"

"That I can make you believe in forever again."

I cock my head to the side, smiling in spite of myself. "I didn't realize you were such a Prince Charming."

"I am. I'm just a badass Prince Charming with tattoos and a big cock but one who believes that forever is possible."

I almost choke on my laughter at the big-cock comment. "Such the modest one, aren't you?"

"Never said I wasn't." He grins.

"It's a lost cause," I add pointedly.

"Nothing that involves you is a lost cause."

“So, what’s the time frame of this wager, and what do I get if I win?”

“Six months and a lifetime’s worth of cupcakes,” he says straight off the bat, almost as if he had been prepared for my question.

I smile before asking my next question, “And, for argument’s sake, what do you get if you win?”

He trails his finger along my cheek. “I get you.”

My breathing falters, and I look him directly in the eyes to see only honesty swimming through his sea-blue hues. I fall in love with his answer, and my racing heart only confirms that.

“Okay, but it’s your loss.”

“We’ll see, sugar.”

My review:

What an amazing story of second chances, healing, and learning to open your heart again.

The characters were fantastic, and the storyline was well written.

My heart broke for Jo and her loss.

She should have moved on by now ... it's been five years, but her 'forever' is gone and she's just going through the motions hoping to put on a good mask so that her son doesn't see the grief and pain she still lives with.

Until... she meets Drew. He's the guy who lives across the hall from her. He's the first person she's met since she's moved into the building. He's also the guy she gave shit to at 2 am for playing his music too loud and waking her and her son up.

Right away there's an attraction-chemistry between them... right from the first time he called her "*Sugar*".

Drew gradually weaves his way into Jo's life and the two become inseparable.

With Drew, she can see a future. He pushes her boundaries. He makes her laugh. He makes her feel again.

She realizes she doesn't want to live another five years in a pain filled pit. The anticipation of moving on with her life with Drew excites her and scares her at the same time.

Drew is perfect for Jo.

He's patient, caring, and just 'there' for her.

He doesn't want to replace Christopher, but he wants to be Jo's second chance at love.

For Drew, Jo's his forever.

This is my favorite quote in the book:

"I don't know how I got so lucky to find you, that the love of my life would move in across the hall, but I know it will take more than a near-death accident to tear us apart. That, sugar, is the forever kind of love I was telling you existed. You are my once-in-a-lifetime, whereas I'm your second chance. It doesn't matter how we found each other or the short amount of time we've been together. All that matters is us. You're my soul mate, my best friend, and I know I'll never have to go without my sugar."

This is the first book I've read by Ms. Matthews and I really enjoyed her writing, characters, and voice.

I look forward to reading more of this author's work.

Buy links:

Amazon US - <http://amzn.to/2acFn2b>

Amazon UK - <http://amzn.to/29WV2AG>

Amazon CA - <http://amzn.to/29K9N7l>

Amazon AU - <http://amzn.to/29IGgyJ>

iBooks: <http://apple.co/2ajdQfL>

Giveaway:

Link: <http://www.rafflecopter.com/rafl/disp...>

Playlist: (Which I friggn loved!)

<https://embed.spotify.com/?uri=spotif...>

About the Author:

Receptionist by day, author by night, Elena Matthews is from Manchester, United Kingdom, the home of Manchester United, MediaCity and of course, Coronation Street. When Elena isn't writing, she can be found with her nose in a book or watching guilty pleasures such as Grey's Anatomy. And when she isn't doing any of those things, you can often find her on Facebook, obsessing over Kellan Kyle, book boyfriend extraordinaire.

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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/authorelenama...>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/authorelenamatt>

Goodreads: <https://www.goodreads.com/author/show...>

Pinterest: <https://uk.pinterest.com/elena9253/>

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Newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/4Lp05>

"A copy of this book has been provided by the author and IndiSagePR in exchange for an honest review"

Paula White says

I was gifted an ARC by the author.

This was a lovely second chance romance - with all sorts of emotions but left you feeling happy (and some laugh out loud moments). There was no over the top drama. no other woman - it was just love at its greatest.

Shout out to Junior as he was a great kid and made me laugh. Drew was just...swoon and Jo was a great h - she never got annoying and you felt what she had been through.

Coco.V says

?FREE on Amazon today (10/23/18)!?

Blurb:

When you fall in love with your best friend, it's supposed to last forever.

Jo Donovan was a true believer of happily ever afters—until her best friend, Christopher, was killed in Afghanistan.

Destroying her. Destroying her world.

Five years later...

Jo finds herself still stuck in the past, unable to find closure.

When she moves to Austin, Texas, with her son, she finally finds the fresh start she's been desperately seeking.

What she doesn't know is that the fresh start comes in the form of her sexy neighbor, Drew Greyson.

Their friendship starts off rocky, but eventually, a spark between them ignites. It isn't long before their attraction turns into something explosive and unexpected.

Drew wants to be her everything, her forever, but will Jo's loss and grief stop her from following her heart?
