



# Punching and Kissing

*Helena Newbury*

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**Punching and Kissing** Helena Newbury

*The #1 bestseller and Amazon All-Star Winner. Standalone romance: no cliffhanger!*

**She has no choice. She must fight. She's going to need a badass to train her...**

When an illegal underground fight leaves my brother in the hospital, I make a desperate deal to save his life: I volunteer to fight in his place. To survive, I need a fighter who can teach me to be as tough as him. I need Aedan O'Harra, the blue-eyed, Irish beast of a man who everyone fears.

But training together means getting close. Every touch of his hands makes it harder to control my feelings. I begin to see the man inside him, the one no one else can. Can I help him break free of the dark secrets that haunt him and can we save each other, or will we both be defeated? Because neither of us is ready for how dark and desperate this fight will become.

## Punching and Kissing Details

Date : Published July 25th 2015 by Foster & Black New Adult

ISBN :

Author : Helena Newbury

Format : Kindle Edition 312 pages

Genre : Romance, New Adult, Warfare, Fighters, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Punching and Kissing for online ebook

**bella ? [ bella farren ] says**

**3.5 / 5 stars**

The beginning of this started off perfectly, I was addicted from page one. I knew going in it was going to be very Insta-lovish, but it started to take a unique path with the over used 'bad boy' trope.

For awhile there, bad boy anything would sell, and therefor every author under the sun has put out a book with a character who "posses dark looks". A boxer of course classifies as a bad boy, and I have paid for my fair share of crappy books along those lines, but this was definitely one of the better ones.

It still had cliché elements sprinkled through the story, but I love the dynamic this author created. The ending was where this story lost me, it went from being realistic but still exciting, to very hard to believe.

Still an enjoyable read, but a pretty anticlimactic ending.

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**Helena Newbury says**

Author notes: Ebook out 31st July. This is a **standalone romance with HEA** You don't need to have read Lying and Kissing or any other book. It contains violent scenes and one scene that may be triggering for rape survivors.

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**Paganalexandria says**

Sylvie is the least likely person anyone can imagine finding themselves in a fight club situation. She goes from spectator to combatant in a last ditch effort to save her brother's life when his fight goes off the rails. She lucks out by catching the eye of Aedan, a former combatant in the world she is now a part of. He agrees to train her to at least survive her first fight.

At first I was not sure if I would like this. The premise was a little hard to swallow as believable. But after a few side-eyes in the beginning, the story took over, and I was able to just go with the flow. It helped that both characters were quite likable, so their romance made me overlook some of my storyline misgivings. I appreciated that Aedan was a blue collar working stiff, and not another rich guy saving a poor girl trope. The originality of the ending is what helped add the extra star.

If you are open to angst in your New Adult, this one is definitely worth a try.

\*I received this ARC in exchange for an honest review

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## Siobhan Davis says

Actual 3.75 stars. RTF

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## Cheryl says

ARC kindly provided by author in exchange for an honest review.

\*Slight spoilers\*

What starts out as a story line you may think you've read before, turns out to be far from it. We first meet Sylvie when she is at 'The Pit', an underground place where brutal, bare knuckle fighting takes place and the winner is the last one standing. Sylvie is there keeping an eye on her brother who is about to go into the ring in an effort to get some money to keep their heads above water. It is here that she sees Aedan, the sexy, brooding Irishman with a past filled with dark secrets. They have an instant attraction that they both try to ignore but they are thrown together when Aedan comes to her rescue.

When Sylvie's brother is badly beaten, the only thing she can think of doing is to take his place and fight for him. Aedan knows that without his help, she will be killed and so the two train hard together and one thing leads to another. I really enjoyed the relationship as it developed between them and the story is told from both MC's POV's so we know what is going on in each of their heads. There was a great chemistry between them and the sex scenes were hot but a little long winded and at times a bit unrealistic, I mean, what woman has several screaming orgasms every time she has sex?!

The story does however keep you hooked, wanting to know how it will all pan out but as we get to the end, it takes a turn into crazyville when the woman that Sylvie was lined up to fight is substituted by a man who will not only beat her but will most likely rape her in front of an audience. As if this wasn't bad enough, when this opponent is rendered unfit to fight, Sylvie is lined up to fight another man and this is a fight that will leave only one of them alive. I found it all a little disturbing and it ruined what would otherwise be a perfectly good happy ending.

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## Chu says

It's morbid, it's bloody, it's awesome. *Punching and Kissing* lived up to its name, and I can't help but to love and savor every single page.

Because this girl? Ahh, she's a brave girl. That or she's pretty much crazy to get herself in that kind of situation. She may or may not have a choice, but one thing is for sure – she has to go through with it because she couldn't bear the consequences. There is only one man who can help her...

Aeden – he was danger personified. He was done with his past, and he told himself he wasn't coming back into it. Until she came into his life and begged for his help. He was the only one who can help her. There was no way she'd survive the situation and get out alive. He wasn't sure at first, but how can he possibly resist this girl who had caught his attention the first time he ever laid his eyes on her? It took some time, but he agreed to helping her.

His control was tested whenever they're together. He was trying his best to stop the attraction and the urge to be with her. But every time they're together, she consumes him. His past always gets in the way, it was the only thing that was stopping him from wanting her.

And it didn't take that long before they finally gave in. It was a total explosion – the feelings and attraction that they are trying to cage in is finally out, and there was no way of stopping it. Definitely sexy, steamy and can set your readers on fire!

Nevertheless, there is still that pressing situation that needs to be addressed; Aedan's past and Sylvie's present. Can they survive? Will their love be truly enough?

There were so many heart-stopping moments in the book, interesting and jaw-dropping twist. You can't help but want to know how everything is going to play out, and if this two would have their happy ending. The powerful story line Helena Newbury had with *Punching and Kissing* is enough to get you hooked.

Review originally posted on my blog

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•Complimentary Copy was given in exchange for an honest review. •

More of my reviews at <http://reviewsofabookmaniac.blogspot.com>

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## **Elodie says**

The ending was extremely predictable, but the love story was still enjoyable. Great book !

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## **Yesenia Gonzalez says**

sylvie and Aedan meet during unusual and unpleasant circumstances she is about to get raped in the bathroom of an underground fighting ring when he saves her. Her brother is badly injured during a fight but nobody cares especially the boss because he lost him money. When sylvie steps in to and offers to fight to get money paid back the boss thinks its a good idea however she doesn't know how to fight. While her brother is at the hospital in a coma she sets off to find Aedan the only one who has been undefeated at fighting but she remembers her brother telling her to stay away from him. Theirs something about him that she feels connected to him but he straight out tells her NO he wont trainer her. With a little begging he finally agrees, He knows he should stay away from her and not ruin her innocence but he is to selfish to let her walk away. Weeks of training sylvie is stronger and is able take on her opponent when the time comes. When the boss decides to change the fight a bit this will leave them with no choice, it is either live or die.

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## **Violina The Romance Lover says**

3 "*Fighting*" stars

*Well that was interesting!* I didn't expect such a dark read but anyway. It was intense, misterious and kind of sweet at times !

**Aedan** was *the dark, misterious, broken hero*. He felt the spark between **Sylvie** and him from their first meeting, but he didn't want to get involved personally with her. He wanted to her to find something better and not fill her life with his life baggage!

When the sexual tension became too much but he still didn't do anything about it it was frustrating and painful for both of them..

**Sylvie** was the vulnerable heroine who has no other choice than *fight* for her brother and for her life . She changed during the book, she became bolder and stonger . Her mission was to become a *fighter* , something she wouldn't ever think of doing but when that's your only choice in order to survive do you do it anyway!

*Helena Newbury* , I can safely say, can write *SEXY* scenes! Full of passion and lust!Where the hero knows what to do, what he wants and the heroine is bold enough to tell her feelings out loud!

The twist was absurd to me and yes I was surprised and shocked, you will never expect *that* to happen!

### **My thoughts:**

I didn't connect with the characters the way I wanted to. I didn't feel their relationship somehow realistic. It was sexy and it had some sweet moments but it didn't win my attention very much. There were even pages I just scroll down because there was too much inner monologues.. *I am not proud of that, but still...*

**But if you want a book with dark elements, rough scenes, dark and tormented hero/heroine, bloody fights and bad boys.. this book is for YOU!**

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### **Ashley says**

#### **I LOVED THIS!!!**

*Review to come.*

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### **Beth says**

For me this book & Alaska Wild are fighting it out for spot 5 star reads area of rating-ness ...I love them both so so much. I am almost positive that Alaska Wild was my 1st Helena book? The 2nd. Kissing My Killer & 3rd. Losing My Balance. I love Helena's writing style ... I love the unexpected part of this book ... here is Sylvie ...not one who normally would fight in a club or anywhere for that matter ... but she takes it on your

her shoulder to fight for her brother's life. Aedan is a real bad boy ... 'nough said, you get the picture, right??!  
yep. Loved this read. Check it out! If you have not read Alaska Wild please do so ... such a great read. Love  
Helena's style. Please keep reading girlfriend. please. ( :

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### **Snigdha Prakash says**

This is a new author for me.

I cannot say that this was bad...because it wasn't.

But I can't say that I loved it either.

Since I am reading the second book without reading the first part...I'm not sure if it has to be related or not  
because if it isn't...then there were some unexplained points about Aedan's past that were in need of  
explanation.

So that was a kind of bummer.

Coming to the plot...the plot started out good and promising but somewhere down the line it became shaky.  
It needed more depth and character build up.

The author tried a lot to give background to the characters but somehow she couldn't execute it properly for  
me.

The romance was a hit and miss. I could sometimes feel it and most times I felt utterly detached.

I mean, Sylvie gets nearly raped in the first scene and her brother is in coma, she has to fight for her life in  
less than a month and even then all she thinks is about having sex with Aedan.

I understand chemistry but there are priorities. At least at the first 20% of the book...sex shouldn't have been  
focus.

The lead characters are the same. They succeed in connecting to you at times and at times they totally veer  
off the plot and that might make you frustrated if you are opposed to that kinda thing.

The highlight of the book, for me, was Rick.

He wasn't the best antagonist ever written. He doesn't even have much of a role. But I think, he was the best  
character in the book.

The most well executed and the one who has the most influence in the book.

I don't thin I have disliked an antagonist this much apart from the IMA series by Nenia Campbell.

You develop a taste of dislike in the first scene towards Rick and it just keeps increasing till the end.

The author achieved her motive by executing this character in a way that you end up hating him.

So the author excelled here.

The rest is decent.

I might try some other works by this author.

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### **Margaret says**

Aeden and Sylvie have a lot to overcome for them to finally be together. Rick is truly evil and he  
manipulates people into doing things they don't want to do. Alec and Sylvie are desperate and need the  
money Alec gets from fighting but when he is seriously injured in a fight Sylvie puts herself in danger by  
taking his place. She asks Aeden for his help but he is hiding from his own demons. Together they fight to  
free all three of them from Rick.

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## **Snow says**

### **4.5 "fuck me, I didn't expect that" stars**

**my, my, my...I gotta hand it to ya, rarely a book makes my tummy twist in a knot like this one did...**

and I applaud you for it...

I was expecting a tight fighters' love story and i got so much more...I got drama, I got suspense i got...oh, boy...

**brooding tormented hero - checked**

**bold, brave yet vulnerable heroine - checked**

**and a suspenseful story that will make you wanna re-read Shakespeare all over again, just to make sure I didn't miss anything... double checked**

**scorching hot scenes - triple checked**

I didn't expect a twist that will put me in a state of angst and I was telling myself - this can't be, right? right?!

so again, bravo!

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## **Michele says**

Helena Newbury has become one of my go to authors! From start to finish, she has such an amazing ability to suck you into her stories and fall in love with her characters.

Sylvie and Aedan meet during unusual and unpleasant circumstances. Aedan helps Sylvie about of a very bad situation, and even though it's not the right place or the right time, they both feel this unbearable urge to be with each other. However, Aedan's past mistakes come to the forefront of his mind, and he decides to walk about from someone who could help save himself.

However, these two aren't apart for too long, Sylvie seeks out Aedan for help to save her brother's life. After a lot of thought, Aedan finally agrees, and this is where things start to get interesting.

When these two finally give in to their feelings for each other, boy do the pages catch on fire! But things are going to be such a smooth ride for these two. Aedan still fights with his past, and Sylvie has to fight with what could be her present.

Will these two be able to make it through the hurdles in their way? Or will the danger they have to face be what ruins them. Sometimes you can't overcome evil, sometimes it takes over and destroys everything.

As I said before, Helena is definitely a go to author for me! I've never been disappointed by any of her books and I'm excited to read even more from her. If you haven't read any of her books, DO SO NOW!

\*\*ARC was provided in exchange for an honest review\*\*

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