



Losing Romeo

Cindi Madsen

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When Rosaline Capulet takes a pill Romeo Montague gave to her in a love letter and goes to the Capulet party to find him, the last place she hopes she'll end up is jail. Before taking the drugs Romeo gave her, Rosaline had always followed the rules. So she doesn't understand how her only mistake lands her a one-way trip to Middle of Nowhere, Arkansas. Forced to live with her aunt, the threat of military school hanging over her head, she's sure she's ruined her life—all over a boy who disappeared from the party with her cousin Juliet.

Bryson Mercer's motocross career was destroyed the night he was attacked, his knee shattered. Now he can no longer race, the thing he loved most in the world, and has to walk with the help of a cane. He's kept to himself for a long time, but then Rosaline moves in next door with her aunt. Even though Bryson's sure the girl's trouble, as well as out of his league, he can't deny his attraction to her.

The more time Rosaline and Bryson spend together, the closer they get, and they both find themselves doing the one thing they said they'd never do again—fall for someone. Meanwhile, Romeo and Juliet's relationship is igniting the Capulet and Montague feud back in Verona, and people are getting killed over it. Rosaline's starting to think losing Romeo was the best thing that could've happened to her. But when the words she speaks to Juliet lead to a chain of devastating events, the repercussions might not only tear her family apart, but also make it impossible for her and Bryson to be together.

Losing Romeo Details

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From Reader Review Losing Romeo for online ebook

Angy Potter - Collector of Book Boyfriends says

There is a saying: "Every cloud has a silver lining". This fits perfectly for this book. After very bad things happened to both, Rosaline and Bryson, after thinking that their lives were ruined, they met. And they fall in love. And life started to have meaning again. I loved this about this book. I love second chances, but this time it wasn't a second chance for their old relationship, it was a second chance for love and for life. It was great to read how their relationship started to grow, despite their fights and misunderstandings, and how they accepted their feelings for each other.

I can't help it, I just love a Love Story, and this one was very original. It's amazing how you can get such an amazing story from one of the iconic books in the history of romance/tragic novels Romeo and Juliet. And the best thing is that it wasn't about Romeo and Juliet after all.

I was so anxious about what was happening with Rosaline's family back home. Everything was a mess, but Hey! We already know how the drama between Montagues and Capulets is, right?

It was a great read. I loved the characters, the storyline, the drama, and the ending. It was amazing.

Shelee at Book Reader Chronicles says

****4.5 Stars****

What an amazing novel that features a classic story that isn't the main story, but helps to set up the world. I adored the way this novel was done, involving Romeo and Juliet, but it didn't overshadow or take away from the actual story at all. It helped to build the story, add elements, and to set that classic in modern day.

Rosaline was quirky, sarcastic, and overall a very well written character. I loved her and could relate to her right away. In the beginning of the story, she is led to a party by Romeo's instruction, and Rosaline thinks they are in love. Things go terribly wrong at the party, and she never ends up meeting Romeo there. She thinks being shipped off to Arkansas will ruin her life (because going from California to Arkansas can be a major change, right?). It is with reluctance that she moves in with her aunt Dafne and meets the nephew of the owner where Dafne works and lives. And while things don't go well on their first meeting, she doesn't even begin to understand what he'll mean to her.

Bryson...oh this poor man. He really hasn't had an easy life. He's been kicked to the ground, dragged through the mud, and had more mud dumped on top of him while he was down. After losing his dream of motocross due to an accident, he lives far away from the prying eyes of the town because his scars aren't only on the inside. He's basically one step short of being a recluse, and the funny, sassy nature of Rosaline will be what ultimately saves him. He was sweet, and brave, and oh-so-willing to put his heart back out on the ledge. I admired that about him, that he didn't consider himself "broken" enough to give up completely, and while he felt like he didn't have a chance, he still went for it with her.

The love story, the basis of the old classic, and great characters all end up to be Losing Romeo. It was exactly what it needed to be, and showed exactly how two people who were so different were exactly what each other needed for all the right reasons. A bright spot for him, and a stable spot for her. And it was magical.

****Received an ARC in exchange for an honest review****

Alison says

I don't know whether I like this or not. The book takes a similar vein to films like Ten Things I Hate About You by setting a Shakespeare play in a modern environment but takes it one further and tells the story of one of the secondary characters.

In this case Cindi Madsen takes Romeo and Juliet and sets it in modern California. She then tells the story of what happens to Rosalind after Romeo ditches her for her cousin Juliet. The two families appear to be vaguely mob-related and the traditional Romeo and Juliet story rumbles along in the background. The only thing is, I'm not sure why she bothered.

Otherwise I kind of enjoyed Rosalind learning to like small-town life in the countryside and falling for the broken bad boy in the big house.

Peggy says

Don't start this book if you plan on trying to put it down any time soon! Once you start you are sucked in and held till you finish it! It wasn't anything that I was expecting. This book will amaze you with the story line as well as the character balance. A great book! A book that will leave you wanting more!

Received for an honest review

Isolde Marie says

it is nice but I hate [romeo and juliet] after i found out about their age gap and that set me off into hating it. Then there's a conspiracy of Shakespeare to be fraud because they said he didn't know how to write and I respect the man into not believing it.

and yet this novel, I let my brain to believe it is Rosaline's story from romeo+juliet with leonardo dicaprio as the main romeo in the movie about the warring era of the mafioso. but then i wanted bryce to be from a novel too, I wanted him from a classic english literature from the era of great expectations, just in victorian era times.

Courtney says

I thought this was a really good book. At first I wasn't so convinced and I even thought of returning it.. but as I kept on reading a little bit more it became hard to put down. I'm not going to lie I didn't think I really liked Rosaline at first but I quickly fell in love with her. I loved her sarcastic comments and her rambling. Bryson was hard not to love. I loved the whole Romeo and Juliet concept of the story. This was a very cute and light read.

Lauren at Live Read and Breathe Reviews says

3.5 Modern Day R & J Stars!!

Source: eARC for Honest Review Courtesy from Author and Wordsmith Publicity

Here we have a modern day take on behind the scenes of Romeo and Juliet with trials and tribulations of young Rosaline.

This modern take on a very old love story. Romeo and Juliet still have their fateful end but now we get to see how that tragedy aftermath helped build a bridge for so much more than just ending a lifetime long feud. Rosaline's a typical young girl jumping in and out of love but desperately wanting forever love as do a lot of young girls. Being part of family feud escalates young emotions especially for young Rosaline but she has the strength and determination to find love and end this feud.

Rosaline's a shy girl and doesn't know how to act properly around guys, so when the school hottie Romeo is courting her he suggests she take a pill to help them connect. Rosaline wanting to kiss Romeo properly takes the pill only to have Romeo not show up (as he found her cousin Juliet) and then finds herself arrested then shipped off after that offense to her aunt in the middle of nowhere.

"You're not the first person to make a mistake because of a boy, and unfortunately, you won't be the last. The trick is learning from your mistakes so you don't make the same ones again."

Being young Rosaline thinks her life is over having to move to Arkansas living with her aunt Dafne. However, luck is on her side because where her aunt lives also houses a grumpy young adult named Bryson, who has lived some tough lessons and now has a chip on her shoulder. Even though he's grumpy he's a break into her boredom of confinement.

Bryson is smitten with Rosaline but doesn't think someone as beautiful as her would give a scarred cripple like him a chance. Plus once burnt and all, he's a bit gun shy and temperamental toward others. They have a rocky start to their friendship but the more they hang out the more they like about one another. Bryson may have a chip on his shoulder but he adores Rosaline's sarcasm and wit, where as Rosaline sees beyond Bryson's physical ailments and sees the heart of a beautiful young boy. Since they're young they waver dramatically back and forth with the 'does he/she like me or not' woes.

"Sorry," she said. "My aunt makes me leave my sarcasm at home before I go anywhere with her. I brought it with me tonight because I was afraid it was starting to get lonely without me."

As Rosaline is finding her own and helping her aunt she gets pulled back home with all the drama between the Capulets and the Montagues. Now she's torn between Verona and Arkansas or really between Verona and her young love with Bryson.

I did like this book but sometimes I now find it hard to read YA with all the young love being so dramatic and emotional. When I first started to read fiction again I gobbled up YA, but the more I read YA, now at times YA can grate on me, but really it's a mood thing not a genre thing. This book was cute and I think I

would have liked it even more if I was in a different mood instead of reading it with a time commitment.

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Paula Phillips says

Are you a Romeo and Juliet fan ? Looking for a modern rendition with a twist ? Then Losing Romeo is the book for you. I am a huge fan of renditions and especially the tale of Romeo and Juliet - ever since watching the Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes version movie in 1996, I was hooked. In Losing Romeo , though we are presented with a twist of events. In Losing Romeo , set in Verona Beach we meet Rosaline Capulet and Romeo Montague. Rosaline has been secretly dating Romeo and tonight is the night, they will go all the way - to get them in the mood Romeo gives Rosaline a pill . This backfires and Rosaline finds herself arrested and then shipped off to the middle of nowhere to live with her Aunt Dafne Capulet. While Rosaline is away from Verona, she learns from her best friend that on the night she was arrested, Romeo was seen slipping off with Juliet and that for the two of them it was love at first sight and they are engaged. A Whirlwind romance. In a way though, this doesn't bother Rosaline as her eyes have found someone else Bryson Winslow - the nephew of her Aunt Dafne's boss and the owner of the property in which they live on. The Winslow's however believed they are cursed and destined to never successfully fall in love. Can Rosaline show Bryson that he is her "Romeo" ? Meanwhile tragedy strikes Verona and the families of the Montagues and Capulets when Rosaline's cousin Ty aka Mercutio is shot by supposedly Romeo. This throws Juliet into a downward spiral as they had planned to run away and elope. Not to spoil the ending, but for fans of Romeo and Juliet - I shall leave you with this parting statement - If you are a R and J fan, then you will be wanting to bump this book to the top of your TBR piles.

Prone to Crushes on Boys in Books says

<http://pronetocrushes.blogspot.com/20...>

Every now and then I LOVE a sweet and clean romance. This is what I got with this book and it had me smiling. ME!!! I'm such a sucker!! I really enjoyed the spin of the classic Romeo & Juliet tale in this modern day YA romance.

Rosaline is outgoing, humorous and quick-witted. She is dealing with being exiled from California and all her friends and forced to live in Nowhere and Nothing-to-do Arkansas with her spinster straight-lace aunt. All while nursing a broken heart. Bryson is the quick-tempered recluse on the mend from an incident. He

thinks he is cursed, he is in a slump and feeling down on his luck, and he thinks the new girl is trouble.

Rosaline's personality and humorous banter is what Bryson needs to bring him back to life. Once they are able to get out of their heads and put everything on the line they make a great couple, which could be short-lived if Rosaline's family problems back home aren't resolved. I guess the Mercer curse was lifted because Rosaline and Bryson got a HEA.

I read this in one sitting (since it was raining). It's a Very Good YA romance and I absolutely loved Rosaline. As for the Shakespeare fans, I think the true romance lover in you would also enjoy this sweet little morsel.

Louisa says

This book seriously has the Capulet's and Montague's, their feuding families in Ventura, California.

It's a modern day Romeo and Juliet..

but the story revolves around Rosaline and Bryson.

Romeo and Juliet are secondary characters,

but their love story will impact Rosaline.

This book is truly a YA book. It has a sweet coming of age story line with honest, innocent love.

I enjoyed reading a book that wasn't all about sex when it comes to 16 year olds.

To watch the relationship between the two evolve was beautiful.

They fight their feelings for each other because they have both had pasts that have impacted their lives and ability to trust.

One of my favorite ways to read a book...dual point of view.

We get to hear Rosaline and Bryson's view of their friendship and budding relationship.

The small love story with Rosaline's Aunt and Bryson's Uncle is also nice to watch as it develops.

I would love to read a book about them actually!!

Being sent to Arkansas after making ONE mistake, will change Rosaline forever.

For a sweet, kind story, check out Losing Romeo.

Jennifer Strand says

Review originally posted at www.fictitiousdelicious.com on 12/02/14:

When Cindi Madsen asks me to read one of her books, I just say yes. Only it's usually in screaming caps with lots of exclamation points. If Cindi's writing it, I'm reading it. So, when LOSING ROMEO landed in my hands I had no idea what I was getting into. Sure, I've heard of Rosaline Capulet, but I must admit that I never really liked that Romeo guy so I wasn't sure of how Rosaline really fit into Romeo & Juliet's story--other than the fact that he kinda loved her at one point? Maybe? (Hey, High School was a looooong time ago for me, okay?) Anywho, LOSING ROMEO is better than that tragic love story. Yeah, I said it! Take THAT, Will.i.am Shakespeare.

If I was smarter, I could point out the similarities between LOSING ROMEO and ROMEO & JULIET, but since I've already admitted my naivety in the latter, let's just say there are some same names in these books and move on to the part of this review that might actually be helpful to you, dear reader. This book is the bomb-diggity, yo.

Watching the build up of Rosaline and Bryson's relationship is both hilarious and angsty. Be prepared for some, "He likes me! He likes me? He doesn't like me. BUT I LOVE HIM. Maybe? Man, he's a jerk!" and then switch your pronouns around because this story is told in dual POV with both characters questioning their own and each other's feelings. This kind of back and forth can drive me crazy in some stories. Not so much here. First, it's not a drawn out angst and secondly, in true Madsen form, the humor livens up the angsty bits.

Now. When you pick this up and get to about 10 pages left--don't panic. I was so worried that resolution to ALL THE THINGS couldn't possibly happen with the amount of words left on the pages but it wraps up with a pretty bow and everything. Suffice it to say that my arsenal of fictional boyfriends written by Cindi Madsen has expanded. Again. Bryson Mercer is a good man. Er, young man. He's a fine young man. And Rosaline, too! Romeo was ridiculous for ever giving her up. She's a million times cooler than Juliet.

Melody says

I really hated the beginning of this book and almost gave up on it, but I am glad I didn't. I liked the main part of the story, but thought the hintings to Romeo and Juliet felt thrown in and could have just been skipped. All I could think of while reading this book was the Miley Cyrus movie where she goes back home. It had that feel and all I could picture were her and that cowboy from her movie the whole time. It's not the exact same story though. Still an enjoyable read!

Monique says

Cindi Madsen I love you! Review up on Monday!

Well, isn't this just the best way to start off the New Year? I get to gush and rave all about my favourite author and her new book. Losing Romeo. Now I know you all think I am terribly biased when it comes to Cindi madsen's books, but hey, once you read it you are completely hooked for the rest of your natural life. Of course if I somehow manage to turn into an unnatural being (let's face it, I already am a reading monster) I will continue to pounce on each and every Cindi Madsen novel that there will ever be.

Losing Romeo just blew me away. A modern retelling of Romeo and Juliet, this story focuses mainly on Rosaline, Juliet's cousin. boy was I glad. Rosaline always struck me as the one character who really needed more scenes in Shakespeare's play. Luckily Cindi Madsen brought her into the limelight.

I loved Rosaline. She was a breath of fresh air in YA romances. Her personality jumped off the page and she was a laugh a minute. A good rule following girl, who gets sent away after one simple mistake, a mistake a lot of girls would probably have done if a guy like Romeo asked them to do it. But really, who needs Romeo, when Bryson Mercer is just a few feet away?

Now this is where the story started to be a mashup of Romeo and Julie and Beauty and the Beast. Because man, Bryson could be really beastly when he wanted to. He embodies the brooding, mysterious guy every woman alive wants to love. And boy, did he jump off the page as well. Of course, what's a romnce without another guy thrown into the mix? I was completely hurt when Cindi just threw that guy into the story and for a moment, just a moment, I had my doubts about where the story would end up.

But between all the turmoil both our hero and heroine experience, between silly little fights and sparkly toy phones, I fell in love with two characters I never thought I would. Rosaline's aunt Dafne and Bryson's uncle Winslow. There romance was so sweet, it had me in tears at some point.

Naturally, there's some sorrow when R&J finally do the inevitable and do the whole suicide thing, but looking past that, this story was brilliant.

If I never read another YA romance, I will die a happy woman, just because I have read Losing Romeo. Of course, you'll have to make the call for yourself, but i bet you'll all love it just as much as I did.

For never was there a story of more joy, than this beauty of a girl and this beast of a boy.

Chris Myers says

You can't but love Madsen's writing. Another fantastic read.

Add one untrusting girl, one ex-motocross broken boy and a lot of banter and romantic tension and you get this great YA novel. I frantically flipped through pages to see what would happen next. Loved the country setting, too. Romeo and Juliet who? I'm cheering for Bryson and Rosaline.

Once Upon a Twilight says

I really wanted to read this one because I LOVED the rendition of Romeo and Juliet with Leonardo DiCaprio. I know...I know...that was so "the 90's"...but I was a teenager, what do you expect? I'm really into Contemporary YA Romances right now, so I thought I would give it a try. I'm glad I did! I was expecting a Romeo and Juliet story, but it was so much more than that.

The things I liked about this book was the love story behind it. Rosaline Capulet gets in some major trouble and is sent away from her Romeo to the middle of nowhere. All is lost for her, or so she thinks, until she meets Bryson Mercer. First of all, Bryson is a hottie. Who cares about Romeo when you have Bryson? I really loved the two of them together. Were they perfect? No, but that's what makes this even better. There are some YA Romances I read where it doesn't feel normal or realistic, but I didn't get that with them.

I also liked the plot. Madsen took the idea of a story that's been around forever, but changed it into her own little story. There isn't much about Rosaline in the original Romeo and Juliet, so the skies the limit when it comes to weaving your own story with her. I like that she was a good girl who made a mistake because of a boy. We have all done it. I know I have a time or two!! Bryson is also the hottie bad boy that you picture yourself with. The story line was good and kept me reading to the last page.

Overall, I really enjoyed this book and would recommend it to my 8th grade students. I think any grade level below that would be a little risky. I hope to read more from this author in the future!! - Laura
