



False Start

Marianne Rice

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Ex-NFL player turned high school football coach Connor McKay is well loved by all...except by the sexy principal who wants to make changes to his athletic program. Intrigued by Meg Fulton's beauty and intelligence, Connor doesn't mind going head-to-head with her. When he and Meg are set up on a blind date, he's finally able to open a crack in Meg's high emotional wall and see the caring woman inside. What Connor doesn't expect is that his buddy and ex-teammate is the one responsible for Meg's wall in the first place. To choose between a one-time brother and the woman he's fallen hopelessly in love with, Connor will make the riskiest play of his life.

Always the misfit growing up, newly hired high school principal Meg Fulton uses a fashionable wardrobe and a sharp tongue to keep men at a safe distance. After a drunken, abusive experience in the back of a Chevy as a naïve teen, she became a single mother with a tough hide...until Connor McKay walks into the picture. She can't stand him. He's a sports-loving alpha male—no thanks! Meg has a good reason to hate jocks. Been there, done that, much to her regret. But as her path continues to cross with Connor's, and attraction heats to a boiling point, Meg learns there's more to Connor than biceps and a tight rear end. Things are heating up with them, when someone from her past threatens to tear them apart. Meg runs for cover...and from Connor. It will take a leap of love for Meg to shed the scars of her past and let love into her life.

False Start Details

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From Reader Review False Start for online ebook

Kimberly Westrope says

I wasn't a huge fan of Conner at first. I'm not really into the macho, sports guy. He kind of grew on me, though, because he really is a good guy. I love all the characters in this story, and the pace at which the story develops. I particularly like the way the author slowly reveals bits and pieces about the past as the current story is developing. It's very well-done, revealing just enough information to keep you wondering. Looking forward to reading more in this series.

Nicole Huffman ~ Author Groupies says

False Start

4.5 Stars

This is a fun romance with a twist. It is written from both characters POV and you really get to know the characters. A confident and passionate former football star turned High School coach and a strong and jaded high school principal what could possibly go wrong?

When Conner and Meg first meet there is instant attraction but there is also a lot of head butting and arguing. Both are passionate about their beliefs, Meg's concerning education and Connors concerning athletics. I absolutely loved there back and forth bickering, they were an even match for each other. They try to avoid each other but fate has a funny way of sneaking up on you, add that in with sneaky matchmaking family members and there was no way to avoid the inevitable. There are definitely roadblocks to their HEA from their strong personalities to Connors jealousy to Meg's past.

This was a great debut book and was well written, with a storyline that pulls you in and really makes you fall in love with the characters. I really loved this book and getting glimpse at the other McKay-Tucker men. I can wait for the next brothers books, I will definitely be one-clicking, I'm hooked!!!

Rachel says

The book false start is a nice book to read you hate to put it away because of doing things because wants to know what 's going to happen between Meg and Connor because you get to see what the writing made ??him to let that advantage was seen despite of meg 's side there were a loving relationship has come out and ingratitude she was raped Meg still could love Connor. Kudos to marianne rice to write so beautiful book that you think it is that happens when fiction I think it's a must for everyone to read. Can not wait for the next part .

Suzie Parker says

Omg this book is amazing. It is going to make you laugh, cry, scream, and yell. But I know you are going to fall in love with Meg and Conner just like I did. I can't wait to see what comes next for this couple. Will they

beat the odds or not? You will have to read it to find out

N.N. Light says

Connor is an ex-NFL star, now teaching high school football. When his friends set him up on a blind date, the last person he'd expect to walk into his life is combative Meg, high school principal. He's looking for a fun-loving woman, not a jaded one. But when he peels back the layers, he discovers Meg is a beautiful woman, inside and out. They fall in love but when the one man who tore Meg apart all those years ago turns out to be closer than Connor would like, he must show Meg he's different. Another fantastic romance from Marianne Rice and this time, it's a football romance. I loved how these two spar and love with the same ferocity. My heart went out to Meg but also to Connor. He's not your typical jock and I loved that about him. Highly recommend!

My Rating: 5 stars

Jennifer LaFon - Book Bitches Blog says

Review copy received from the author for an honest review

4 "Connor McKay" stars

After finishing False Start, my first thoughts are Connor and Meg put the F in frustrating!! Even though I enjoyed their story, they still made me crazy!! Communication is a HUGE problem for them. At one point I was like, really?!?! Not again! But that doesn't mean I didn't enjoy their story. I did and finished it very quickly. This was almost a one sitting book for me :) ?

"Shit. I never thought I'd see the day! Someone's got Connor McKay by the balls."

The synopsis gives you a great description of what this story is about, so I am not going to review that. Almost too well, in my opinion. There was no way of going into this one blind. But, it's still an anxiety builder because you know that something is going to happen. I knew what would ultimately happen and I waited and waited for it to all go down. There is definitely more anxiety than romance here. It is a romance story but all the drama and communication issues sorta overtook the story. But that's not a bad thing! Does that make sense?!? Probably not. I tend to ramble sometimes. Hehe ;)

"I don't know if I'm terrified or turned on."

False Start is a great story for those who love the complicated romances. They are together...no, they aren't together. That kind of back and forth stuff goes on throughout the story. They both made some silly decisions and one time Connor did something that almost made me write him off as a book boyfriend ;) And that ending...huge smiles on my face from that one :)?

"For the first time in...ever, she felt safe with a man."

This is a very well written story about learning to trust again and love again. Book Bitch approved and recommended!! Happy Reading!! ?

Savannah Blevins says

I am sucker for sports romances and Marianne definitely hits the mark with Connor McKay. An ex-NFL star, Connor is definitely an alpha male with a soft spot especially when it comes to Meg and her sharp tongue. Meg knows how to hold her own with him and I love that. From the very first interaction between them in Meg's office I knew I would have to keep reading to find out how Connor manages to finally win her heart. This book will keep you guessing (Connor and Meg's relationship doesn't come easily) but it's definitely worth it in the end.

Kathleen Howard says

I really loved reading this book. It can be read as a stand alone or as part of the series. It was well written and has a great story line. There were many emotions throughout the book and I felt connected with the characters from the start of the book. Looking forward to reading more from this author. I will be adding Marianne Rice to my list of favorite authors.

Tara says

Ooh how I love football and author Marianne Rice gives me Ex-NFL player, turned high school teacher and coach Connor McKay, the ultimate alpha. Then she puts Meg Fulton, the principal, with the beauty and intelligence and the drive to make changes in the athletic programs at school to make sure all athletes pass their classes and get the education they need. Look out now, Connor and Meg are gonna go head-to-head, guess we'll see if it works out with both of them.

Connor and Meg are set up on a blind date and learn a lot about each other. Things are going well, and they've learned to work together. They both have secrets that come to light and may jeopardize what they have come to appreciate in each other. They have to learn to communicate and keep those lines of communication open, always.

This is an AWESOME story that is wonderfully written, has amazing characters, supporting characters, great twists, turns, drama, comedy, suspense, and my favorite love story ending. Thank you Marianne for a beautiful read. I can't wait to read the next in the series.

Kari Lemor says

Another excellent story from Marianne Rice. I couldn't put this book down and stayed up far too late so I could finish it. The characters in this book were more mature than most romance novels but it didn't detract from the story one bit. And I liked that even though the hero was pretty much an alpha male, he knew when to be soft and gentle, as was needed for this scarred lady. What I absolutely loved about this book was that it took place over the course of almost a year. Too many books have someone with an abusive past "getting over it" in the course of a weekend fling of wild sex. None of that here. The realistic approach, that this woman needed to slowly ease her way back into trusting a man, was fabulous! I applaud you, Ms. Rice. Well

done!!

Lisa says

The writing leaves something to be desired but anyway, it could have been executed better. There's so much miscommunication going that leads to conflicts in this book and I'm not about that life.

[Rape tw]

Brenda Ireland says

I'm not one for romance books, but loved it! For real, Marianne! ;)

Stephanie says

I absolutely loved Connor and Meg. Their relationship was the start of something beautiful. Meg was the new principle who strived for excellence and who had a horrendous past that no one knew about not even her family. Connor was the coach/teacher who went against Meg and tried her patience. Through the bumpy life of ex's and misunderstandings these two's love for each other shown even when they tried to hide it. As your reading you may shed a tear or two but it is worth it in the long run. Ms Rice wrote an amazing tale of romance that has you pulled in from the very start.

Deb says

Marianne Rice's debut novel, False Start, digs deep to get to the heart of her character's angst, taking the reader through an edge-of-your-seat competition with game-losing turnovers at each quarter. Makes you want to root for a winning tie.

Meg Fulton, one totally put together, uptight, and hot high school principal who brings out-of-the-box ideas to her new job, may be the one to throw retired NFL player, now high school football coach and town idol, off his game.

She's the farthest thing from his fantasy perfect mate as Connor McKay can get. Yeah, he might be ready for commitment, settling down in the home town he loves, once he heals from what life has thrown at him. But not with Meg. Hot, smart, sassy Meg.

Meg and Connor were never meant to belong together.

The two start off on the wrong foot and manage to dance around each other through the entire book, all the while falling in love against all odds. But who can't beat those odds when the entire small town full of family and friends is willing to help with a little shove or two?

Meg takes one look at Connor filling her office doorway and knows she better stay clear. She knows his

type—a full of himself player. In her practiced, stoic way, she lets him know she is out of bounds.

But life throws a spiral ball straight between their out-stretched arms. Rice weaves so many twists and turns into her story, throwing challenges at her characters, as inch by inch toward the goal line secrets are unraveled and hearts are opened to possibilities.

Meg and Connor don't stand a chance of not ending up together.

Introduce some meddling, albeit, loveable family and friends, and the happily-ever-after is inevitable. But what a game to watch, from kick-off, to half-time shenanigans, to the final run down the field to score, as Rice opens up her characters to the reader bit by bit.

And that is exactly what I love about good romance. Watching the characters learn to love the one they are 100% sure is wrong for them—and watching them finally understand why they've put up their own walls for so long.

Enjoy the game. Take a breath, then head back out to the bleachers for book two, False Hope, the next in the McKay-Tucker Brothers series. Can't wait to read it.

Amanda (Hootie) Clark says

[mildly detailed rape scene @ 60-ish % (hide spoiler)]
