



Falling Stars

Xio Axelrod

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What if you met the right person at the absolute wrong time?

Meet Val Saunders and Sam Newman, two Hollywood actors at opposite ends of their careers. Hers is skyrocketing while his, well, never really took off. Fate brings them together when they're cast as lovers on a steamy new television series. The on-screen chemistry between them is off the charts and when it spills over into a real life attraction, they find themselves in a situation.

Sam is an honorable man. He has been faithful to a toxic, Hollywood marriage for nearly half his life. He's never strayed and isn't about to start now, despite the fact that he is falling head over heels for his co-star.

Val's worked hard to get her career on the path to the A-list and the last thing she wants, or needs, is a scandal. If only her heart and her brain were working with the same script.

Romance is an ideal. This is a love story. It explores the possibility of second chances and asks hard questions about duty, fidelity, life in the public eye, and the cost of being happy. Falling Stars is the beginning of a sexy, sensual, and emotional roller-coaster ride that reminds us that love, while not always easy, is always worth it.

Falling Stars Details

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Author : Xio Axelrod

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From Reader Review Falling Stars for online ebook

Rosa says

This is my first read of this author. I read and heard many praises from people that enjoy her works and it didn't surprise me how good she is. I really enjoyed reading this book, I'm rooting for h/h to have their HEA, can't wait for the second installment!

Anika says

This was a very well written book and a great read. The author did a great job in creating sympathetic and vibrant characters. Adultery is always a hard sell in romance but here because of the way the author has crafted the story you are actually hoping for a happy ending for Sam and Valerie. Yes this book also gave me vibes of a certain tv show that I've recently stopped watching. Looking forward to part 2.

*Dee's Reading Time Matters says

Have you ever read a book that you just didn't want to end... well this one was it for me. The story was written well with passion and heart and Sam and Val will leave you saying ahhhhh, literally.

I tend to give too much away in my reviews so I recommend this book to readers who love the ideals of true chemistry and love even though major obstacles were in their paths.

You will love Axelrod's writing style! Her words are cleverly crafted.

Read this one and I promise you will love it too!

5 great STARS *****

Patricia says

I felt like I was reading a loosely based. In depth behind the scene look of the lead characters of Scandal. :)

Flip says

Really good I can't wait for book two!!!!!!

Nia Forrester says

This is a new writer for me. And like every new writer you "discover", there's a mix of emotions--a sense of

elation that you found them, and a sense of betrayal that they've been hiding from you. Xio Axelrod's book '**Falling Stars**' was a risk for me, because when I picked it up, I knew it was the beginning of a series, and I'm generally not a fan of those where each book ends inconclusively. First of all, this isn't one of those. 'Falling Stars' can stand on its own, whether or not another book about this couple is ever written, and second, the writing itself was so good that I didn't care if it ended in the steepest of cliffhangers (it didn't).

So ... about the book. Val Saunders is an actress on the rise and Sam Newman is an actor standing still. She's young and vivacious and he's *just* past the Hollywood prime, and stuck in a marriage of convenience. Convenient for his wife anyway, but for him, simply painful, lonely and stagnant. When Val and Sam are cast in a new hit series that bears a striking resemblance to the real life hit 'Scandal', the chemistry between them is immediate and difficult to ignore. But Sam is not one to betray his marriage vows no matter how imperfect the marriage, and Val is definitely not the kind of Hollywood starlet who casually hooks up with her co-stars, married or otherwise.

Given that, you wonder, how are we going to get a sense of that hot-as-hell chemistry? Not to fear. Xio Axelrod makes the genius choice of having Sam and Val live out their passion in the scenes they play for the television series. Their kisses, embraces and (most) of their physical encounters happen in the context of their characters, torturing them both as they fight against the urge to embark upon a relationship they both believe would be wrong. But the need to abstain in the real world forces Sam and Val to get to know each other on a much deeper level, and they forge a bond that is unmistakable and just leaps off the page.

I love this kind of writing about relationships, where the writer is able to show the growth of an emotional connection without resorting to sex just to convince us that connection is there. The doubt, longing, and delicious wait for intimacy were incredibly well done in this book. As were the occasional pretty impressive turns of phrase. This wasn't just a "good love story", it was a well-written and layered book. While I certainly look forward to the next installment, this one felt complete.

Twyla Turner says

Such a Tease!!! I loved this book! I really enjoy Xio's writing style and the story was well written. Though I was waiting with bated breath for Val and Sam to finally get together. You're so cruel to tease me like that, Ms. Axelrod!!! Of course, this story hits a soft spot for me because of the parallel to the show Scandal. I have often analyzed Kerry and Tony's body language and interaction during interviews, wondering if the off-the-charts chemistry they have on camera crosses over to the real world. So Falling Stars was right up my alley. I can't wait to get into the sequel. Great job again, Xio!

Pan says

Xio has a way of crafting Sam and Val so beautifully. When I was first introduced to her novel, it was total fate. Reading this novel made me believe in love and falling in love. Please support this novel and my lovely friend! Starstruck will be a novel you will NEVER forget. Sam and Val have stayed with me. I cannot wait to read more of her works.

Rhenna Morgan says

When I picked up my copy of this book, I'd already read one of Xio's books and had seen several positive reviews for this one. Now I know why.

It's real. Sure it's fiction, but it covers real life and real emotions beautifully. Understand, while it has romance, it's not the standard romance fair...and I didn't care a bit. The characters were all richly developed and the story beautifully crafted. I'm greatly looking forward to seeing where things end up with Val and Sam in Starlight, the next in the series.

--karen Green-berry says

Disappointed

This book was highly recommended by a few people but unfortunately I don't share their enthusiasm. It started off slowly for me, which caused me to stop and start a few times. I'm halfway in and I just can't connect with the characters.

Kim says

Sometimes we meet the right person at the wrong time in our lives. That's what happens in Xio Axelrod's Falling Stars on the set of We the People--the fictional TV show set where Val and Sam, two actors on the opposite spectrums in their careers, meet and fall in love.

One of the things that I love most about Falling Stars is the spot-on character development. Both Val and Sam are fully-fleshed characters whose flaws make them all the more real. As we follow their relationship (and their attempts to remain platonic when it's already written in the stars that they should be together), we get to know what makes them tick and we understand immediately why they resist and why they are tempted to give in.

I also loved the behind the scenes look at life on the set of a popular TV show. This aspect of the story adds context and complexity to the situation Val and Sam find themselves in--they are actors who play lovers, they are falling in love in reality but trying to hide it. The reader feels like she gets an insider's look at Hollywood and how life in Tinseltown can be life in a fishbowl.

Xio does a great job of handling the struggle for Val--and especially for Sam--as they both try to do the right thing. They want to be together, but they can't--not when Sam is still married--but the chemistry between them is off the charts and they are drawn to each other time and again.

I loved Falling Stars--this is definitely one of my favourite books of 2015. It's a beautifully written love story that will challenge and intrigue you. I can't wait to read the next book in the series.

Sabine Priestley says

I don't know how I missed reviewing this. I read it awhile back and am about to dive into the next book.

What can I say? This sucker wrapped itself around me and squeezed until I couldn't breath. And then ended on a cliffhanger. I'm going to have to deal with Ms. Axelrod on that issue. lol. Loved it.

Debra Crosby says

Right person wrong time

Valerie and Sam are stars on a tv show that have great chemistry on and off set but Sam is married, so they don't cross the line. The author makes you feel you are on set watching the scenes take place. There is a second book

Tina says

I really enjoyed being able to sink into a well written work with such layers. This is a romance novel that told a story and left me feeling full and invested in the characters. I just DNF'd a book that had more pages and all sorts of drama, but left me feeling like I was bloated on empty calories -- I couldn't even finish the book!

But this one -- what a night and day difference! And this story isn't even finished.

Which actually is one of my issues with the story... but before I get to that...

I generally don't like Hollywood set books. I feel sometimes that romance novels can often be mired in such a hyper-reality fantasy world that adding the faux-allure of Hollywood on top of it is just sort of overkill. And honestly, I don't think enough writers who have tv or film actors as their main characters get the details right. Some do... you can tell they've worked in the industry because there is an authentic feel to the setting & the characters. But for most, there just doesn't feel like there is enough insider knowledge of how film & tv work and get made so that the work or characters feel right.

But this one... worked. I often lament that lately romances don't do 'workplace' well. Authors make their hero a generic billionaire and somehow they have a ton of time to tool around in jets and whisk the heroine away to exotic vacations. But this one allowed Sam and Val to work. It makes sense, this was a work-place forbidden romance after all. We see them doing table reads, blocking scene, learning lines, and other on set activities. There are scenes with wardrobe and publicists and publicity tours. So as a workplace drama it really delivered.

The biggest conflict is the forbidden nature of the attraction between Sam and Val. You could almost hear them thinking: It is bad enough they are co-workers and on scene lovers, but it would be *such* a cliché for them to have an on-set romance. But that is the least of it. Sam is married. So while Sam and Val understand that introducing a romance in work is not wise regardless of their individual relationship status, the bigger issue is Sam just isn't available. So when both of the characters realize they are attracted to each other, they fight against it (even trying to deny it is even there). So there is a lot of great tension from a story standpoint. I know I was tense. Do I want them to acknowledge it? Are they good enough actors to hide it from the people who are around them 24/7? Can they not be so sizzling in their love scenes?

So yeah this was good. Smart writing. well drawn characters, and lots of sexy tension.

I really only have two quibbles with the story:

1) It doesn't end on a resolved HEA! Usually this is a deal-breaker for me. These days I actually do flip to the end before starting a book to see if it ends resolved. If it doesn't I table it till later. But there is another book already written, so I can live with that because I can slide right into the next one without a pesky wait.

2) Sam's wife/marriage. On the one hand I loved that as conflict. It is a good one. But on the other hand I really disliked how it seemed he was such a hostage to his marriage. There was some guilt there and some gratitude there and other issues with his wife Karen that kept him tied. So logically it worked from a story standpoint, but in my head I couldn't help but be exasperated with Sam and felt it kinda weakened him as a character for me.

But like I said this was a quibble.

Sophia says

Team Samerie

Wow!!!! This was such a good read. I enjoyed the story of Sam and Valerie. If you are a fan of Scandal then you will enjoy this love story. Sam and Val are the leading love interest on the prime time show *We The People*. Both are heavily attracted to one another both on the screen and off, but Sam is married. And he's not the type to break his vows. On the flip side Sam's marriage is nothing more than a partnership that has passed its time limit. It's heartbreaking when you find the right one but it's at the wrong time. What do you do????
