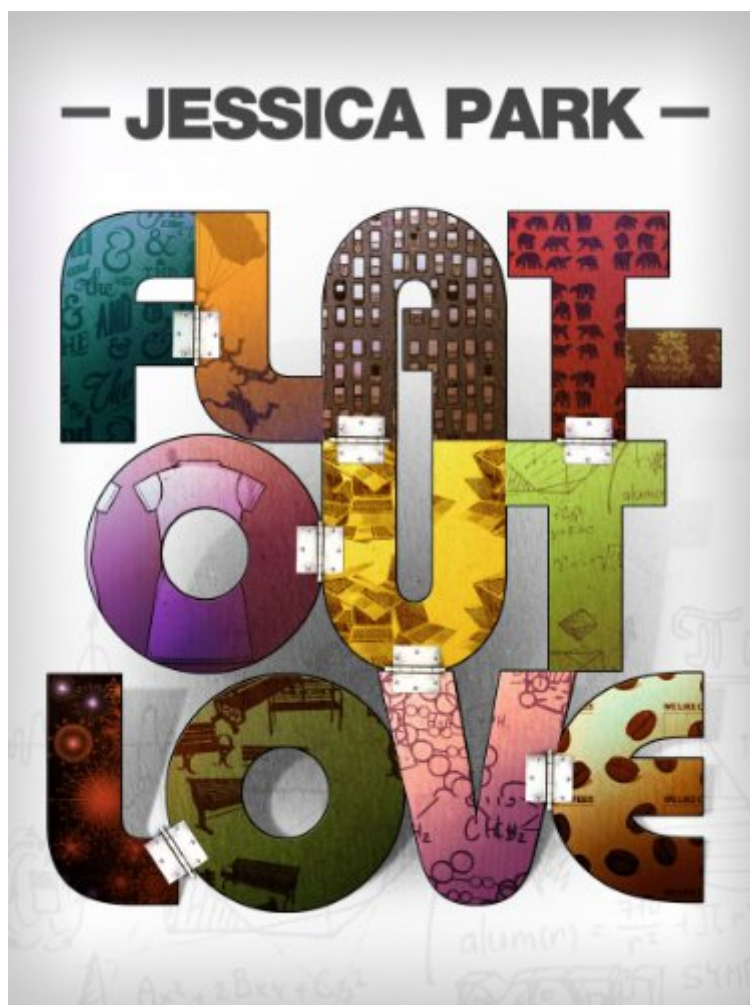


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Flat-Out Love (Flat-Out Love Series Book 1)



Synopsis

He was tall, at least six feet, with dirty blond hair that hung over his eyes. His T-shirt read Nietzsche Is My Homeboy. So, that was Matt. Who Julie Seagle likes. A lot. But there is also Finn. Who she flat out loves. Complicated? Awkward? Completely. But really, how was this freshly-minted Boston transplant and newbie college freshman supposed to know that she would end up living with the family of an old friend of her mother's? This was all supposed to be temporary. Julie wasn't supposed to be important to the Watkins family, or to fall in love with one of the brothers. Especially the one she's never quite met. But what does that really matter? Finn gets her, like no one ever has before. They have connection. But here's the thing about love, in all its twisty, bumpy permutations – it always throws you a few curves. And no one ever escapes unscathed. New York Times best-selling author Jessica Park mines the territory of love's growing pains with wit, sharp insights, and a discernible heat and heartbeat. Her previous novels include *Relatively Famous*, and she authored the e-shorts *What the Kid Says* (Parts 1 and 2) and *Facebooking Rick Springfield*. Visit her on the web at www.jessicapark.me The author of *Flat-Out Love* has donated this book to the Worldreader program

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Customer Reviews

I'm going to try very hard not to be all gushy and a flat out girl. Even though, it is what I am. Sorry folks, can't argue with biology. Flat-Out Love was a book that was recommended to me by my Kindle Paper White the day I received it in the mail. I checked it out and after deciding that it was a good gamble I bought it. Needless to say, I do not regret my decision. I absolutely fell in love with Jessica Park's unique, witty, and quirky writing style. It's a fresh and new read that will have readers fully engaged and enthralled until the last page. After Julie Seagle finds herself apartment-less in Boston, her mother, Kate, comes to the rescue. Kate contacts an old friend from college who resides in Boston and has her daughter there faster than you can say Nietzsche Is My Homeboy. Cue in incredibly smart, techy, cute, and sweet Matthew Watkins. It's in that moment that Julie's life becomes interwoven with the Watkins. She never expected to get close to them. Never expected to think of them and their house as home. And she most certainly did not expect to fall in love with Finn Watkins, the older son who she has never met but knows fully like she's never known another boy before. There's a secret surrounding Celeste and what happened to her. Celeste is the youngest daughter in the family. She's rather quirky and very mature for her age. From the moment that she walks into the Watkins home there is some mystery surrounding Celeste. Everyone seems to be walking on egg shells around her and oddly go around with her protective nature over Finn. Finn is a life size cut out of her older brother. You see, Finn is traveling the world and Finn is a way for Celeste to deal with her brother being away. Of course, there is something more. The secret itself broke my heart because I didn't see it coming whatsoever. I had my own theory, but I was very wrong. I mean how could I think that Matt had some sort of personality disorder? I am the worst at coming up with theories. But I'm getting way ahead of myself here. Let's talk characters. I loved Julie Seagle, she reminded me of my best friend Anna with her witty facebook status and how just intellectual she was. Julie is passionate, funny, and witty. I loved her bantering with Matt. It just made me gush like a crazed teenage girl. Also, Julie was very relatable to me as a person because she was around my age. She's just starting college and with that comes her journey on unknown territory, trying to navigate her way around school, friends, and matters of the heart. Moving on to Celeste Watkins, who is a central character to the story.

She's a fragile young girl, trying to figure out who she is, trying to be a normal teenager. Her journey of self-discovery and healing is one that I will remember for a long time. Then there are the two love interests, Matt and Finn. *sigh* Can I just have them? I mean neither one will do. Up first is Matt. I just loved how Matt was so brainy, techy, and sweet. He's very protective of Celeste and loves her so much. It's an admirable quality in a boy. And I think it's just the sweetest thing ever. He's also very broken and I didn't realize this until the very end when there is a scene where everything just falls apart and I just wanted to hug him close to me and tell him that everything would be okay, that I loved him. See what I mean! This book is. *sigh* Next is Finn *cue in loving sigh* who is just so dreamy. He's that boy who we've never met in person but fall in love with because of his personality. Or that boy you've been writing love letters to but don't know who he is. Have any of you experienced that sort of thing? I have and it can be so sweet at first and then shattering. Because you realize it just can't work. Which is what happens in the novel but on a whole different level. Like I said, my heart was completely broken and I was trying to stifle my heart breaking cries at 2 in the morning! I didn't want to wake up anyone with my blubbering whale noises. Lastly, Mr. and Mrs. Watkins play a vital part in the novel because well, they are never around. Which arises a few questions in how it affects Celeste and Matt. All the members of the Watkins family are emotionally scrambled. They've lost who they were because of something that happened, something that emotionally unhinged them all. There are of course other characters like Kate Seagle, Dana, Seth, and Mr. Seagle who play an integral part to the story and Julie's life. Her relationship with her father is jarring and tugged at my heart strings. I can't fully express how much I loved this story! Indie books are a hit or miss in my opinion. Sometimes you come across really horrible ones that just make you lose your faith in self-publishing. But then there are others that are beautiful and utterly amazing. Flat-Out Love is one of those books. I recommend it to anyone, both young adult and adults. It's witty, uniquely crafted, mysterious, humorous, devastating, dipped in social media, and wildly addicting. You just can't go wrong.

Occasionally you come across a book that goes so deep, it stuns you. This was one of those stories. Without giving away too much, the basic storyline goes something like this: Julie is a newly minted college student who arrives in Boston and due to an unfortunate turn of events involving

craigslist and a burrito joint, finds herself homeless. But not to worry, her mother calls her and tells her she can stay temporarily with the family of an old college friend until she finds an apartment. Or so she thinks. As she proceeds, in vain, to find a suitable apartment, she begins to get to know the family, becomes comfortable with them and settles in, eventually learning their strange eccentricities and falling in love with them. The more and more the inexplicable oddities pile up, however, she becomes suspicious that all is not well, until the big revelation at the end (not going to give it away). I have to say I knew what was really happening one-fourth of the way into the book, but I still didn't know the details about the older brother and regardless, loved the ending. There's a reason this book is called Flat Out Love. Because despite the precariousness of our human condition, the shallowness of our sanity, and the fragility of our minds, love (flat out love) is the only thing that can heal our emotional wounds and bring us back to that level that we call sane or "normal", however elusive or ethereal that is. Flat Out Love is an exploration into the human psyche, how it behaves in extreme circumstances, and how it heals itself with this beautiful thing called love. So, although terribly clichéd and used by way too many readers, I'm going to say it, too. I flat out loved this book. Buy it. Read it. You will flat out love it, too! My hat goes off to you, Jessica Park! What a terrific book!

This is a very different love story. Julia is a person whom you like or dislike depending on what she is doing. She has quite strong opinions but never tries to see the other person's point of view if they disagree with her. She slams people like the realtor who was helping her as a favor and has disgusting images of him and then she spews her venom verbally. She has so little people skills that it is amazing she even gets along with anyone. She treats her boyfriend Seth like he's not there and ignores his obvious kindness and love for her. When she was stuck in the elevator he was there for her and tried so hard to help her, but she cruelly ignored him to call Finn and never admitted what she had done. When she broke up with Seth for a guy she had never met that should have come out and she should have had to realise how cruel she was being, to him and to her friends. But all she did was feel sorry and that was over in three seconds. Seth was way too kind to her. There should have been more anger when she told him she was dropping him for someone else and it should have come out that she had ignored him in the elevator. But Julia never pays for hurting anyone until the end when Matt unloads on her and she never goes back and makes it right with anyone else she has hurt. She is definitely her father's child. Her behavior to her hometown friends who obviously care for her is abominable as she ignored them as pathetic losers and her tantrum and refusal to participate in the traditions at her mother's Thanksgiving makes all her relatives miserable and shows us a really bad side of her. Her mother should have unloaded on her and confronted her.

It makes no sense that she didn't. Once again Julia escapes the consequences of her actions. Julia is not a person to be a friend with because her ego is too big and she will either ignore you or use you as a punching bag and so I never warmed up to her. She is the most unlikable heroine I have ever read about. The twist at the end I didn't see coming. This is a great love story and it works on so many levels, but the main character still has a lot of growing up to do for her to be worthy of Matt's love. I see a very bumpy road ahead. This is a well written story and the mystery kept me reading but if it had just been about Julia and Matt I would have passed as Julia grated on me and I felt Matt deserved better.

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