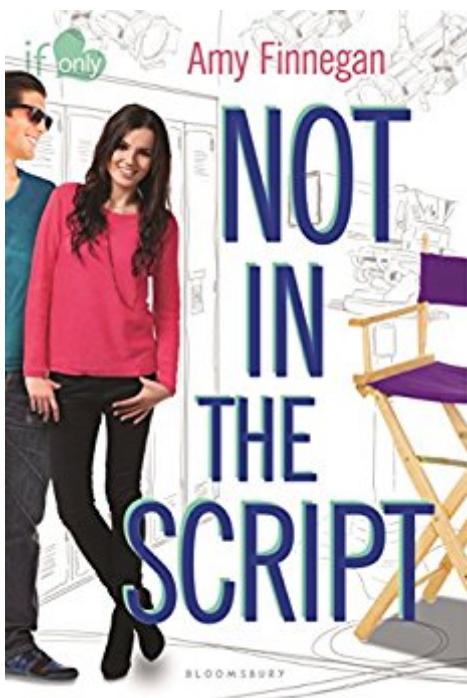


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Not In The Script: An If Only Novel (If Only . . . Book 3)



Synopsis

Enjoy Not in the Script and the other standalone titles in Bloomsbury's contemporary If Only romance line centered around an impossible problem: you always want what you can't have! Millions of people witnessed Emma Taylor's first kiss-a kiss that needed twelve takes and four camera angles to get right. After spending years performing on cue, Emma can't help but wonder if any part of her life is real anymore . . . particularly her romances. She's been burned by heartthrobs (and the press) one too many times, but there's something about Emma's co-star on her new TV show Coyote Hills that is irresistible. Jake Elliott is gorgeous, smart and actually cares about Emma's charitable foundation. But she's sworn off on-set relationships. They always end badly . . . don't they? This third novel in the deliciously fun If Only romance line proves that the best kinds of love stories don't follow a script.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Each time I read a young adult novel, I question it as I sit down to begin the first page. I feel more harshly than others. Perhaps that's my skepticism

talking because I'd have been disappointed one too many times by the genre or maybe it's my practical side wonderful why I like to read a genre where more often the not the characters are immature and often leave me wanting to shake them. This debut novel tells the story of Hollywood "it girl" Emma Taylor. A good girl, who keeps good grades along with plenty of college credits already to her name not to mention has starred in an award-winning film at a young age, Emma's kryptonite arrives in the form of dating bad boys. She has had a string of exes, all of whom have wound up cheating on her and breaking her heart. Now Emma has a rule: she will no longer be dating her co-stars. That is where the trouble ends. Only trouble is about to find her again when the new show she is cast on features the boy of her girlhood crushes and the new guy-on-the-scene, Jake Elliott, who's non-Hollywood attitude appeals to Emma. Secular genres are hard for me to get behind, partly because of the age group they target and the issues they can deal with (depending on how the author writes it) can overshadow what is good about the book. This novel seemed to stick with its "cute" genes and that worked really well for it. The result was absolutely darling. I enjoyed everything about it. It was the kind of happy-go-lucky read I needed before a stack of "tougher" reads were coming next in line. If you're not a fan of the romantic-comedy that is all about being cute and follows many of the same patterns as those that came before, then *Not in the Script* isn't for you. It's a cute work of fiction that had great things going for it and certainly was more than enough to keep me engrossed. While reading it, I didn't get in much reading for two full days and during that time, I kept wondering what would happen next and if the bubble of happiness I'd left the characters in was about to burst. Sure enough, it did just that shortly after I picked it up again. Aside from the characters, what I enjoyed most about this book was its setting. I don't recall reading a novel set in the TV/film industry, so this was an obviously unique setting that definitely upped the curiosity as we are invited to a behind-the-scenes look at what might go on off-camera (this is especially cool to a television addict, which I have self-professed to be). Another thing that might surprise potential readers is the characters having more depth than you might assume. Emma's character is a fantastic heroine and I enjoyed her passion for doing more than just being a popular face of a world obsessed with "perfect" and also the way she was able to reconnect with her family. Both MC's are wonderful, even in spite of the dash to pick up the pieces nearer the end when it looks like the couple might not make up. Another thing to

mention is the slightly older age of its protagonists. That element never ceases to earn brownie points in my reading-must "book of rules." The one thing I was puzzled by was the page discrepancy between the ARC text and the final publication. I since learned (via the author) that this is a mistake in the on-line texts, the books are the same length - thank goodness since the near-hundred page different would have been quite the cut. A companion novel (it's hardly a sequel since none of the same characters appear) in the "If Only" series by three different authors, if the other books are anything like *Not in the Script*, I will definitely be reading them as well. I dare you to read this and not find many "aww" moments among its pages. This debut author knew how to direct a charming, sparkling romantic-comedy. Sincere thanks to the publisher (Lizzy) for providing a complimentary ARC copy of this book for reviewing purposes.

As a famous movie and TV star, Emma Taylor has had her share of the spotlight. After her latest dating mistake is splashed all over the media, she vows to select her guys more carefully -- and none of them will be coworkers. But that vow is challenged when model-turned-actor Jake Elliott joins the cast of her newest TV show. To complicate matters, Jake has plenty of other admirers -- including Emma's own best friend. Navigating romantic relationships is hard enough for a normal teen, but for Emma and Jake it just might be impossible. This is a delightful story filled with humor, romance, and tons of insider looks at life on a television set. Emma and Jake's growth is well worth cheering on, and the secondary characters add some fun spice. Although Emma and Jake are older teens and have the chance to live the movie star lifestyle, the book is refreshingly clean and would work well in a high school -- or possibly even middle school -- library. Despite being on the longer side, Finnegan's smooth writing and good pacing make this book a fast read, and every scene feels necessary.

Super, super cute. So cute. I've heard some reviewers compare this story to a Disney channel movie, and that is how it plays out. Sure, it is maybe a little cheesy, but sometimes you are just in the mood for cheesy, and this is a sweet story to feed your need for cheese, if you're so inclined. It is a sweet and innocent little story that will leave you with a smile on your face. Emma is a Hollywood star who has just been cast in a brand new television series. Also starring in this series is Brett, another Hollywood star who Emma has crushed on from afar for years. They are joined by Kimmi, pretty much a diva (who may or may not have more to her than what appears), and Jake, a successful model who is making a move to acting. These four make up the principals of this story. I

will say this ... I would never want to be famous after reading this story. Constantly followed by paparazzi who twist your life to fit into their need for scandal would be a nightmare. Even though Emma is used to the scrutiny and hassle of it, it still can have a huge effect on her life. In so many ways her life is not her own. Her relationships have to be managed. It can be hard to tell who is genuine and who is playing a role. Everyone has an angle, and it would be hard to trust anyone. It is hard not to feel bad for some of the stuff that these actors have to deal with at times. There is not a love triangle in this book. It is obvious from the beginning that Jake is the one who Emma will fall for, and vice versa. But that doesn't totally fit into the narrative the production company wants to spin, so it can't be public. Brett is the one who is supposed to be the love of Emma's life, except Brett is kind of a jerk when it comes to women ... or is he? On top of that, Emma's best friend, Rachel, has LOVED Jake forever, and by "loved Jake" what I really mean is that Rachel has fantasized about "The Bod," an idea of Jake she has formed after collecting picture after picture after picture of his modeling shots and stalking him online. This is obviously ridiculous, but for some reason Emma wants to protect Rachel from being hurt, so she can't admit any relationship to her. Throw on top of this a good helping of past relationship fails to keep Emma from wanting to date fellow cast members, and you have lots of reasons that Jake and Emma can't be together even though they click. So, yes, this is a relationship story, and that relationship is beyond adorable. I like Jake and Emma together. I like the genuine feel of their friendship. I like how they can be their true selves around each other, and I like how they help each other to be their best. Super sweet. But this is a bit deeper than just a love story. This is also a story about Emma learning to stand up for herself to everyone. She has to learn how to be okay if others are not happy. She can't please everyone. Her relationship with her mother/manager and her friend, Rachel, were interesting to read, and it would have been nice to see maybe a little more depth explored in those relationships because of how it illustrated the growth of Emma's character. Still, this is ultimately a YA romance, and it hits the mark. It is marketed as a book for a 12-17 year old reader, and I agree that it is entirely appropriate for that age group. This is a sweet, innocent story with a great happy ending. Even though I am way older than the target audience, I still liked it a lot. Four stars!

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