



Fear of Falling

Catherine Lanigan

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Was Olivia hearing this right? The one man in Indian Lake she'd found truly intriguing since, well, forever—the hopelessly handsome heir to the region's most successful farming operation, Rafe Barzoni—was involved in horse racing? That made him, and her sudden attraction, downright dangerous. He wasn't just out of her league. He was a gambler. Like her father. With the shame of her father's racetrack betting addiction still haunting her, Olivia can't be part of that world. Rafe's world. She can't trust him, or his magnetism. But there's something deep in his incredible blue eyes that keeps drawing her closer

Fear of Falling Details

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Author : Catherine Lanigan

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From Reader Review Fear of Falling for online ebook

Tim says

Olivia is living in Indian Lake with her mother. She's working at the deli, but secretly hopes to someday work as a photo journalist if she can gather the courage to submit her photos. Her past has left some deep scares that she's not yet worked through. Her father was a horse gambler and Olivia feels like it traumatized her. A couple of her close friends have married in to the Barzoni family. Rafe, a son in the family, has attracted Olivia's attention. But what will she do when she learns that he has a thoroughbred horse that he intends to race? Is their relationship doomed from the start?

The story starts out on a sad note with a member of the community dying. This introduces a more emotional element into the plot immediately. The book is part of a series and so there is obviously some other relationships that a first time reader will note that they missed reading about. The plot is, as the "Heartwarming" title implies, emotion driven. The ending is naturally predictable, since the reader assumes the story will end well. Both characters need to heal before they can get together so the majority of the book is dealing with their issues. Because I prefer a less emotion driven plot, I had a harder time getting into the story. There were also some unrealistic points that detracted from the story for me. Overall, if this style of writing is indicative of the heartwarming genre, I probably won't read another one. I liked the story okay, but didn't love it.

I received this book free of charge from Bostick Communication in exchange for my honest review.

Katrina Epperson says

When I saw the cover I was immediately drawn to it.

The young couple gracing the cover gave a hint of their story. It was sweet and yes, heartwarming.

Rafe Barzoni has a connection with his father's prize Thoroughbred, Rowan, but more than that he knows in his heart this horse's talent and spirit he was a winner. Angelo Barzoni was a well respected business man. He had grown up on the streets of Sicily and immigrated to Indian Lake where he built a mini-dynasty from his wife and four sons. His greatest dream was to own a Kentucky Derby winner and it looked like Rowan would be just that. Of course his untimely death brought Rafe a grief he had never experienced before. He had one goal in mind and that was to ready Rowan and pursue the derby dream.

Olivia Melton works for her mother at Indian Lake Deli and with her catering business, but she would love to work in photography. Just to be able to capture the essence of something on film that would stand the test of time was what really drew her.

I loved both of these characters. Rafe was easy to love. I'm a Kentucky girl so his love of horses really drew me to him. Olivia is a sweet girl in search of a dream, but is she ready to give up what she has to pursue her dream. This story has elements of mystery, life choices and romance. I was easily drawn into the story and stayed entertained until the end. I found myself cheering not only for Rafe and Olivia, but also Rowan.

This is a book I would recommend to anyone who loves a clean story with elements of love, grief and life

choices.

Nicole says

"Fear of Falling" is the next story in the "Shores of Indian Lake" series by Catherine Lanigan,. This is the first story that I have read of Lanigan's and in this series. I didn't feel that it was necessary to read the prior books, but there are a lot of supporting characters that obviously had stories before and I did feel that I was missing a few details. Not enough to feel left out of the loop though. Olivia and her mother own and run a deli in a small town. Rafe and his family own and run a large farm and are beginning to race horses. Rafe and Olivia come together following the tragic death of Rafe's father. Let's start with the good stuff, Lanigan is a gifted story teller, giving a very descriptive portrayal of racing and the dynamic personality of "Rowan" whom was honestly the scene stealer of the book. On the negative side; I had a hard time buying that Olivia and Rafe had never met. First the town seems very small, they own a deli that everyone seems to go to. Second, almost every one of Olivia's friends is married or connected to his family. How could they never have met? My next problem is Olivia's overwhelming fear of horse racing, or more specifically gambling. I get that her father abandoned her family because of his addiction, but I felt that her PTSD symptoms were way over the top and hindered the story. Also, if she was so drastically afraid of racing and all it entailed, how did she plan on working for a magazine that focused on racing? I really wanted to like this story because I love the subject matter, but I found my almost dislike of Olivia (more her drama) made me just "like" this story. Because of the descriptive writing and ease of flow in the story, I was still able to rate this book a 4 hearts.

Reviewer for Romance Authors that Rock

Danielle Urban says

Fear of Falling by Catherine Lanigan is exactly as the title states. Both of the main characters have their own issues to deal with...issues that involve horses, fear of the past, and a love that burns hotter than any fire. Catherine Lanigan's contemporary romance tale is one that will warm the hearts of every reader. The characters have their own issues that keep them from going after their dreams. Can the past really scared us, so badly that we will let go the best thing that's ever happened to us? A realistic portrayal of how life really works and how fast we can lose what matters most. This was my first novel read by Catherine Lanigan and she has powerfully sucked me in with every word. Her talent is evident to all who read her novels. The plot is well-developed and steady paced. I enjoyed a novel that showed two people hopelessly in love who have a love of horses and struggle just like we do. Overall, I highly recommend this delightful story to all.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

3.5 stars

I'm happy to be a part of the tour for Fear of Falling. The Harlequin Heartwarming line is one of my favorites because I know exactly what I'm going to get when I pick one up- a sweet, clean romance. I love that.

This is the second book in this series, by this author that I have read. In this book we meet Olivia and Rafe.

Olivia's thing is photography and I love how that was incorporated into the book. Rafe is all about horses and not just horses, but racing horses and that is something that scares Olivia. Olivia and Rafe have their share of misunderstandings- back and forth throughout the book. It certainly takes them quite awhile to get on the same page about everything but things eventually start coming together.

I loved the general feeling of community and family in this book. It felt comfortable and it helped me have an idea of who Rafe and Olivia really are. Their family and friends are part of them. I kind of wish I had read all the other previous books because I could see that Olivia and Rafe's friends all had a love story that I didn't know about. It didn't stop me from enjoying the book and I never felt lost, I just wished I had known them better.

This is another perfectly sweet and clean romance from Catherine Lanigan and Harlequin Heartwarming. It was a good, romantic escape.

Miranda ❤️? says

Ahh I cant wait to read this!

Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says

3.5 stars

Fear of Falling by Catherine Lanigan takes readers on a journey through heartache, fear, defeat, romance, and even a little triumph along the way. Characters are the heart of the novel, even the four-legged kind, and you will be drawn to their stories and their community. Intriguing peeks into the intricacies of horse racing segue into scenes that will leave you waiting for the outcome with bated breath. You won't watch the Kentucky Derby the same way again! While a couple aspects of the plot didn't quite make sense to me, if you like a clean, sweet romance that still simmers with passion, this is a great choice to add to your TBR list!

(I received a copy of this book in exchange for only my honest review.)

Ashley Dawn says

This was a good, quick read. Olivia is a hard worker and is used to people overlooking her because of her job. She has several close girlfriends and they all seem to be finding their 'one'. Rafe has suffered a terrible loss and focuses on the passion he and his father shared...race horses. Olivia is very taken with Rafe, then she finds out what he does and it brings back a flood of bad memories. Her father was addicted to betting on horses, could Rafe be the same?

I liked both Rafe and Olivia. They were very intriguing characters that each had their issues to deal with. Olivia's fear of horse racing made Rafe really not a good fit for her, but she was working on herself. Rafe's snap judgments and 'poor me' attitude didn't really sit well with me, but he was also very caring and gentle. I absolutely loved reading about all the horses.

It was a 3/5 for me. I enjoyed the story but there were parts that didn't ring true and the ending felt a bit rushed.

Thank you to the author for the review copy of this book. I received this book in exchange for an honest review and the opinions stated above are 100% mine.

Beth says

I love sweet romances and I am embarrassed to say this is my first Harlequin romance. This one is part of the Heartwarming collection so you know what you will get when you read it: A heartwarming story. When Olivia was young her father was addicted to betting on horse races and it tore the family apart. She meets Rafe and finds out he wants to get into horse racing. She enjoys her time with Rafe but is fearful for the life he wants. Will horse racing tear them apart too? There were many times I smiled while reading this. It was a nice, light read.

Sydney says

Sometimes our fears get the better of us. It is only when we conquer them that we can truly break free and overcome the fear of falling. That is exactly what bestselling author Catherine Lanigan teaches us in book five of her Shores of Indian Lake Series, Fear of Falling. Olivia is not scared of the horses and the racing, just the gambling that goes with it, all because of her father's addiction to horse gambling. Rafe and his father's dream is to train and race their horse, Rowan. This novel depicts issues including heartache, learning to trust, and eventually falling in love. Catherine has created an intriguing story of horse racing and conquering fears, as well as realistic characters that readers will love from page one and throughout the entire story. I would recommend this novel to readers of contemporary, romance fiction.

Series: Shores of Indian Lake

Genre: contemporary, romance

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Publication date: March 1, 2016

Number of pages: 368

Content Rating: PG

Book Rating: 5 stars

Other books in the series:

1-Love Shadows

2-Heart's Desire

3-A Fine Year for Love

4-Katia's Promise

A review copy of this book was provided by the author and Prism Book Tours.

Megan says

I won't lie, this is my first book by this author. I realize that it is technically the 5th book in the Shores of Indian Lake series but I think it works well as a stand alone. Although, it is obvious that I missed out on

some interesting stories and couples.

Rafe works on his family farm but his real passion is horse racing. Olivia lives with her mother and is trying to put their lives back together after her father left. They own a deli and that's kind of how Rafe and Olivia meet. She goes with her mother when she is a cater for a party at Rafe's farm. There is an attraction between the two but Olivia is afraid to let it go any farther than that. She is afraid that Rafe is a little too much like her father. She has herself convinced that Rafe is a gambler and after all her troubles with her father and gambling, she doesn't want another man in her life like that.

This romance is sweet and slow. I loved seeing the characters develop as individuals and I loved seeing their relationship grow into something more than a casual friendship. It took the couple a while to see eye to eye and realize what they mean to each other.

The writing was phenomenal. I was hooked within the first couple paragraphs. The details made me feel like I was Rafe riding on the back of Rowan. All of the characters had such depth and even the horses had personalities and depth. The writing made me feel like I was at every race, on the farm, in the deli and I was feeling everything the characters were. I was extremely impressed.

This book is outside of what I usually read. Slow and sweet are usually nowhere in the types of books I tend to read but I still loved this book. It was a nice change of pace for me. If you like sweet contemporary romances then this book is defiantly for you and even if you aren't usually into those kinds of books, I would still recommend this one. Sometimes you just need something a little softer and I will absolutely be reading the other books in this series.

Melanie says

This is the fifth book in this series. I've only read one other book and, while this book works well as a standalone, there were stories I definitely missed out on.

Rafe lives and works on his family farm but his heart is in horse racing. Olivia's father left years ago and she was left to help her mother pick up the pieces and create a new life for them. They own a deli and catering company, but her true love is photography. Olivia and Rafe meet when she and her mother have a catering job at Rafe's home. There is an attraction but she spends a lot of time convincing herself that he's a gambler like her father and she doesn't want any part of that.

I thought it was strange that they didn't already know each other. They live in the same town and she has friends that are married to his brothers. It just seems like someone would have thought to set them up before now, or they would at least know each other better.

That aside, I did like how their relationship grew over time. They had some hurdles to overcome but also had enough in common to keep their relationship progressing. They are likable characters yet each have their flaws. Family and friends are important to them and are a big part of their story. It's a great read for those who enjoy clean contemporary romance!

I received a copy of this book via Prism Book Tours for an honest review. My opinion is 100% my own.

Mel's Shelves

Lynn Brooks says

A sweet story about overcoming your fears and finding happiness!

Olivia Melton works hard with her Mom at Indian Lake Deli and on catering jobs and enjoys her life filled with her close relationship with her Mom and friends around town. She's not looking for anything more, but can't believe the attraction she feels for Rafe Barzoni when she runs into him.

Rafe is one of the heirs of the most successful farm around the area, and is passionate about horse racing. When Olivia learns that last part, her stomach drops. She has residual issues regarding gambling and horse racing because of the hard childhood she lived through as the result of an addicted father.

Will she be able to overcome her hatred of the sport and enjoy the growing attraction between she and Rafe or will she let her fear hold her back?

Kristin Ravelle says

A Harlequin is a bit of a departure for the reviews I do on my blog but I had the opportunity recently to read the next book in Catherine Lanigan's Shores of Indian Lake series. These are part of Harlequin's Heartwarming imprint (clean romances with strong family and community values).

I've read some Harlequin books in the past but wanted to read a new title from this company that's been around since 1949! Catherine Lanigan is a best-selling romance author with nearly 40 books published so I'm grateful to receive a Harlequin from a long-time pro!

Olivia is a caterer whose father's bad horse betting habit traumatized her childhood. Now she's really attracted to Rafe, the owner, breeder, and to-be racer of a thoroughbred horse (Rowan), her very antithesis. Rafe is dealing with intense family grief so both characters are coping with difficult emotional stuff at the outset.

All the characters are very intertwined in each other's lives as Indian Lake is a small community. It's nice to feel the closeness and supportiveness of the entire community though in reality I'm not sure this would pan out so well. The author brings us through the emotional issues step by step and develops Olivia's and Rafe's relationship gradually and naturally, interlaced with local life. Love the food!

The writing style is largely expository or telling (vs showing) with lots of past tense "had" done somethings, and "___ed's". In one way it's great to get all the story fill in, but I prefer more dynamic writing styles where the story fill in comes through an event or dialogue, or even told in first person as many NA/YA books now do. And Olivia is a bit of a wonder as despite her childhood trauma, she rows, is a good tennis player, a photographer, and helps her mom run a deli (feeling very under-achiever-ish here!).

That said, there are lots of good feels, and a unique story line, all well hashed out. Ultimately, both Olivia and Rafe consciously decide what they want most in their lives.

If you enjoy reading sweet romances, I highly recommend Fear of Falling. Me, I'm in love with the fabulous Rowan... Solid 4.0 Stars!

My thanks to the author's publicist and Bostick Communications for a free copy for the purposes of an unbiased review. My review originally appeared on my blog:
<http://kristinravelle.blogspot.ca/201...>

Lissy Peace says

I am truly enjoying these Heartwarming stories by Catherine Lanigan. A story that's real and understandable. A story about a young woman who is afraid to fall in love because of past relationships. Rafe, the lead character, is a wealthy and attractive young man who is involved in horse racing. As a horse owner, he prides himself on the quality of his breed and the ability to win. Olivia on the other hand is frightened because her father was a gambler and it tore her family apart. She didn't want the same experiences her mother had. A brilliant photographer, she let her career take her away from her potential for love instead of fighting for the man she truly needs. A great story with real life issues. Gotta pick this one up.
