



Gio

Elizabeth Reyes

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When tragedy strikes in the ring, Giovanni Bravo falls into a deep depression, walking away from his dream of boxing to train instead. He agrees to a two month get-away, helping train Felix Sanchez, his high school buddy and now welterweight champ of the world. Once at Felix's lavish boxing complex, he's reunited with Bianca Rubio, someone he remembers only as the girl with the innocent doe eyes back in high school. Her refreshing, cheerful demeanor not only takes Gio's mind off his troubled conscience, he finds himself falling for her fast and hard. The problem—Bianca is Felix's girlfriend.

Having a sexy, famous boyfriend has its perks, but they come with a price. Bianca not only has to deal with the ongoing tabloid rumors about her boyfriend's questionable relationships with other women, but also his constant absence when he is on the road. So now that Felix will be in town for two whole months to train for his next big bout, Bianca is thrilled. He's even asked her to move into his cabin while he's there. But when he leaves for days at a time to promote his fight, Bianca spends time getting to know Felix's gorgeous new trainer and good friend, Gio. Increasingly drawn to his sweet smile and smoldering green eyes, she finds herself saying and doing things she normally wouldn't.

As it becomes more and more difficult to resist the mutual attraction, Gio crosses the line between them. He hopes that one kiss will alleviate the overwhelming temptation and clear both their systems, but it does just the opposite. Their temptation suddenly becomes an overwhelming longing--a longing that quickly forces Gio to realize this is more than just lust. He's fallen hard and to his delight so has she. Now he's forced to make the hardest decision of his life. Risk losing a long time friend or walk away from the only girl he's ever loved.

New Adult

Gio Details

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From Reader Review Gio for online ebook

Lori Loves Reading says

This book did not resonate with me even though I am usually a Fan of the forbidden love scenario, even when there is sometimes cheating involved. But for some reason, Bianca and Gio's relationship did not scream romance to me. And their complete misunderstanding/jump-to-wrong-conclusion conflict at the end irritated me. I wanted to force them both in a room together and make them actually TALK. I felt this book had a smutty feel and I don't usually think that about Elizabeth Reyes' books. I was just a little disappointed.

As for the cheating storyline...I have read books where I was not bothered by this, but for some reason I couldn't justify the sneaky relationship in this one. I kept thinking that there is no reason they should continue taking advantage of Felix's generosity and still be sneaking around. And the way they snuck out to the van? I was practically yelling at them to smile for the inevitable camera! I was so irritated with Gio's excuses to Noah!! I wanted to tell him to shut it! He sounded so whiny. And Bianca was not much better. One redeeming point was that she quit sleeping with Felix.

With all that said, I do kinda like the 5th Street Gang and imagine I'll be back for more. I like the way the prior characters play dominate roles in the sequels and it was nice to catch up with Noah and Roni.

Bethany says

I will be dreaming of green eyes tonight!

Crystal Navarro says

I finished *Gio* at 3:30 in the morning after saying I was only going read one more chapter (I was at the 75% mark), and I have slept on it trying to decide how I felt about his and Bianca's story. My emotions are still all over the place, bouncing around over how exactly I should feel. Torn? Torn is probably about the only word I can come up with.

I'm holding off on assigning the star rating until I've finished this review.

First off, the glaring reality is that *Gio* is not just a book about love, and one-time experiences for a once-in-a-lifetime guy. It's not just a book about friendship and loyalty. It's a book about **cheating**. And this, in and of itself, is what has me the most tore up about the story.

Reyes has crafted a fantastic book, extremely entertaining. I have to give the novel that. I wanted to read it, I finished it-- and yes, I was rooting for Gio and Bianca, despite the stamp of "OFF LIMITS" that was everywhere. At the end, I was satisfied with their story and how the relationship came to be. It could have been any one's love story. They were just stuck in the constraints of *Bianca being Felix's girlfriend for the entire novel*. If that had not been a factor, the development of their love would have still made sense.

He knew a good thing when he saw it, and Bianca was as good as it got.

(view spoiler)

There is a selfish part of me that wishes the cheating hadn't worked out in the cheater's favor, and then there is a part of me that is glad. Gio and Bianca fit together with this electric, all consuming love that dominated all else (but not near the level of Noah and Roni). I just hate the way it came about.

I'm settling in 3.5 stars for Gio's book, even though a part of me feels this is unfair. I cannot get the idea of *knowing what you are doing is wrong* and *doing it anyway* out of my head, but my love for Gio's character and the story of the 5th Street Boxers has not turned me away from this series over this. Everyone makes mistakes, and Gio and Bianca and Felix all made mistakes. They just happened to benefit from them.

Props to Felix for being the bigger man and being able to support the people who hurt him. I know I would not have been able to do that.

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

So...Gio. So...Gio. Soooooo....Gio.

I'm not sure what to say.

Usually, this type of reaction comes from me not being able to express how a book made me feel because it was incredible. In the case of *Gio*, I'm finding myself unsure how to convey that I liked a book fine without making people think I didn't care for it.

We'll start with the cheating

Call it a spoiler if you want to but I can't. Any time a person picks up a book about a trigger subject, it's probably a good idea for them to know ahead of time that it's going to happen. *And it happens. And happens. And happens.*

I can't say that it bothered me to the point of wanting to rant over the behavior. The book *Thoughtless* sort of set the gold standard for what not to do in a relationship when it comes to cheating. Any other book with this subject will probably never rile me up the way *Thoughtless* did.

However, this doesn't mean that I excuse the behavior. What is it with people in relationships where they can't just make a choice and live with it? Cheating happens. It's not a random and isolated thing. I've done it, you might have done it...I just personally have a bit of a pet peeve with people who cheat and cheat and cheat. If nothing else, call off the relationship and give yourself time to figure out who you should be with.

But...I also get that thinking doesn't always come into play when emotions are on the line. *Gio* allowed himself to be the mistress so I can't lay the blame solely on Bianca.

How was the love story?

It was fine. I didn't feel the same sense of passion that I felt while observing Roni and Noah fall in love. If anything, I've decided that I like *Noah* even more than I originally thought, so I'm about to go raise my rating from a 3.5 to a solid 4 star. *Gio* was adequate enough and I had no big complaints. This author has a writing style that's enjoyable and easy to read. I will be happy to continue on with her books because it will be nice to see the rest of the 5th street boys find love.

Alexis *Reality Bites* says

Spoiler Free Review

4.5 STARS

Genre: Adult Contemporary Romance

Setting: Los Angeles, Ca. and Big Bear, Ca.

Series: 5th street book #2

As a man, NEVER EVER leave your girlfriend home alone with your male friend. Why? Because love has no respect for persons and can strike at anytime.

"No matter what, this won't end well. You know that right?" - Noah in *Gio*

When Giovanni Bravo delivers a deadly punch in the ring he spirals into a deep depression leaving his family and friends very worried. When Felix Sanchez now Welterweight Champion of the world comes to 5th street gym *Gio* tells him he will never fight in the ring again. Felix suggest that *Gio* should come up to

his house in Big Bear to help him train. Gio agree's. But due to appearance obligations for his upcoming fight Felix will not be at the house 24/7 including the first few days Gio goes up there. Once at the house Gio meets Bianca Rubio. Bianca went to school with Gio and his friends and is now dating Felix.

Gio and Bianca feel an attraction for each other. In just a few short days they begin to fall for one another. Bianca slowly pulls Gio out of his depression and into her arms. Both are scared because they are betraying Felix and falling in love with each other. After trying to resist one another they finally give into temptation with a kiss. But the kiss opens a flood gate of lies and betrayals that will only result in broken hearts and end lifelong friendships. Can these two have true happiness and leave the hurt and deceit they started by being together behind?!?

Thoughts

OH MY GOODNESS!!! You did it again Elizabeth Reyes! I love Gio! This book **oozed** sex appeal and charm in the forms of Gio and Bianca. The slow build to their romance sizzled in a natural way. They both wanted something they felt they could not have. This aspect was done in such a way that you could feel the emotions emitted from the pages. You could feel all of the confliction and war that waged inside them. And boy did it hurt... On top of that you get thrown about 4 curveballs that you could have never seen coming! **LOVE LOVE LOVED IT!!!! A MUST READ!!!**

My Ratings

Characters- Lovable and Charming

Writing Style- Excellent, very solid and Skillful

Plot/Storyline- Emotional, Raw and Potent

Steam Factor- Very Steamy

Overall- I loved it!!

Laura says

Welcome back to 5th Street! This touching and sexy series centers on a sweet, masculine, loyal, and loving bunch of guys who call the 5th Street boxing gym their home away from home. Book two in the series tells the story of one sinfully “delectable”, green-eyed beauty that is Giovanni Bravo!

This book opens with one hell of a sad, painful punch to the gut that sends Gio’s world spiraling into darkness and depression. The man may have left me dazed with those sparkling eyes, but it was his pain, sorrow, and guilt that captured and squeezed my heart. All of us need a push or pull at times to get back up off the mat, to keep moving, and living after a tragedy. Gio’s helping hand comes from an old friend, Feliz Sanchez, a 5th Street alum who hit it big in the boxing ring earning fame and money along the way, but he always stays true to his roots and the gym. With obvious concern for Gio, Felix offers him a training job and time away from the city, sorrow, and pressures weighing on him. Perhaps an old friend, snow covered mountains, and a new job is just what Gio needs to distract him from the pain and help him get back on track.

But what Gio didn’t count on was Felix’s girlfriend being the distraction. Bianca Rubio was beautiful, tender hearted, caring, smart, and innocent—a girl Gio was attracted to in high school years before, but never made a move on. Building off their pasts, Gio and Bianca create such a wonderful, warm camaraderie filled with laughter, talk, hot chocolate, snow, hot tubs and naughty, fun flirting. Their chemistry truly sparked, sizzled, and scorched the pages every time they looked at each other, touched, or laughed. And those dreams! Bianca,

girl—WOW! ;) What these two brought out in each other went from heartfelt and touching to hot and naughty with one blink of their beautiful eyes! Pure hot love and lust! I got lost in Gio's hot gaze right along with Bianca!

"For a moment, the very naughty thought of what his lips would feel like on hers, crossed her mind"

Now here is the issue, problem, and disappointment with the book for me. Cheating. Grrrr... There is no sugar coating or changing the facts here—Bianca is Felix's girlfriend and she is cheating on him with Gio. *shakes head in disappointment* Same can be said for Gio, he is betraying the trust and friendship with Felix by going after his girl. Both characters filled my heart with disappointment. Just break up with Felix! Ugh! But that is not how life or fiction works. Whether it is fear or cowardice of hurting the other person or shaming themselves, cheaters never come clean or face the consequences in time. Everyone gets hurt. All that said....

I still liked both Gio and Bianca. *shrugs* I know. Surprised me too. For me, the reaction from Noah and the guys helped my heart still flutter for Gio and Bianca's romance. The 5th Street gang was openly disappointed and shocked with Gio's disrespect towards Felix. Cheating is not easily forgotten or forgiven. I hope it made all the guys think. This forbidden romance swept me up from page one though. A connection and temptation so intense it could not be denied. Gio and Bianca's story showed me that love can happen without a plan and sometimes no matter how hard you fight it. Love always wins in the end!

Gio is a knockout! Come on—had to do it! ;)

I can't wait for more! Some of my favorite moments from this story and Noah's involved the energy, gossip, and love when all the boys are together. They project such protectiveness and love for each other that hits my funny bone and heart. I can't wait to see what the future holds!

Bring on the next guy! :D

Mariann {at} Belle's Book Bag says

I love this series. It is definitely one of my favorites and it has made me a HUGE fan of Elizabeth Reyes.

I started this series out of order by reading Felix, Hector, Abel, Noah and then finally Gio. Loved Felix until I read Hector then loved Hector until I read Abel and I really loved Abel. I liked Noah in his book but grew to love him more in the other books.

Gio...I actually liked Gio more than I thought I would. I really loved his story but I had a HUGE problem with how Gio and Bianca handled their relationship. I loved them together from the start ~ so cute together ~ so I wish they would have just come right out and told Felix before anything happened. I actually felt bad for Felix even though I wouldn't have wanted him with Bianca and it definitely gave him a dose of his own medicine. I liked the way everything worked out and I loved the ending. So good.

Amelia says

I'm almost embarrassed to admit I even read this, but whatever... It was free, I downloaded it without looking at it properly and I hate deleting stuff unread. I probably should have though, because I hated it. Meet the characters:

Felix - AKA Cheating Asshole, although why the others are so sanctimonious about this when they're cheaters too is beyond me.

Bianca - supposedly incredibly sweet and innocent, except actually she's just stupidly naive. Actually, make that stupid and naive. No one is that naive. She's not a virgin. She doesn't dress or behave like some shrinking violet, so why are we supposed to believe she's an angel?

Gio - the love interest with no appeal. He's supposedly all manly and shit apart from that he still lives with his mum and is required to contact her several times a day (much like Bianca. You would never guess these two were adults.) And have I mentioned that I don't think there's anything particularly manly about boxing? Wow, you like beating the shit out of people for a living. Not particularly admirable, but apparently it's ok because it's "a sport". Don't get me started.

Here's the thing. I like characters with brains. And by brains, I don't necessarily mean crazy intelligent, but rather people with personalities who at least show some indication of, you know, thinking occasionally.

And then that ending... you must be fucking kidding me (or f-bomb kidding me if you ask Bianca). It reminded me of the only Danielle Steel novel I have ever read:(view spoiler)

I spent the last ten or so chapters shouting "This is such bullshit!"

Coco.V says

FREE on Amazon today (09/06/2017)

Georgina ? 2greekgirlsreading says

I could have liked this book so much. Gio was such a likable character, even from the first book he was my favourite.

In this book we have Felix, Gio's old friend that's coming back to 5th street so he can train with him. Then we meet Felix's girlfriend Bianca, the girl that Gio was secretly crushing in high school. Gio & Bianca share a connection, they feel strongly attracted to one another. At first they try to fight it, but as the time passes they start to fall for each other.

" No matter what, this won't end well. You know that right?"

I didn't feel the passion or the love between them. The connection was almost nonexistent and their conversations didn't really flow well and were a little too cheesy at times.

My main problem though was (view spoiler). HELL TO THE NO. I just can't get past this. Sometimes when

it's done right I don't mind so much. But god, in this one I hated how it got handled. Maybe it was cause I loved Felix. There I said it. I don't know why, but ever since I saw him in this book, it was all about him. I really can't wait to read his book!

Overall I think this was an okay read. It had some unnecessary drama but it was still fun. Now on to the next one, Hector here I come!

Christie«SHBBlogger» says

I don't know, I am a big fan of Elizabeth Reyes, but this one was not one of my favorites. The whole cheating factor is what lost me. Ok, so I know that her boyfriend was scum and lying to her, but she was totally in love with him in the beginning of the book and unaware of what he was doing until AFTER she had already started sneaking around behind his back. They excuse their behavior by saying that they have this unexplainable pull and they just "couldn't control it and they didn't mean for it to happen". Those were the most cliched cheating excuses ever. I just wasn't buying into it. If you have a sudden uncontrollable attraction to someone when you are already with someone else, in my opinion the decent thing to do is to break it off immediately if you want to start something up with someone new. So when, at the end it is revealed that not only did her boyfriend cheat on her, but he got the girl pregnant and lied to her throughout the whole book, you are supposed to feel justified in rooting for the main characters to get together. Well, I just couldn't do it. I gave it two stars because I like the author and her writing style, but this story wasn't good for me.

Kay says

This is a tough one to rate since the whole cheating issue is not to my liking nowadays. But I did feel all the emotions involved here and I think it was spot on to how someone would actually feel or deal with in real life. I just think that Gio & Bianco should have come clean rather sooner than when they did. Also, the whole van situation was effed up. Noah from the first book was probably the only smart one throughout this whole book and I appreciate that. Overall, I did enjoy this and I give the author credit for writing a not so typical romance that involves a subject matter that many people may look down upon.

3.5 Stars

Abbi Glines says

I adored Noah- the first book in the 5th Street series. But I can tell you that for me, Gio blew it out of the water. This is an incredible read. I'm a big fan of angst and Reyes delivers in Gio. It's steamy, heart-breaking, romantic, and touching all rolled into one. This is the kind of story that stays with you long after you've finished it. It'll become one of your favorite rereads.

Laura says

Well I loved Noah (the first in this series) but I loved Gio even more. Elizabeth Reyes writes adult contemporary as well as young adult books. I have read some from her Moreno brother series, one of which I wasn't keen on. Although Gio is 'adult contemporary', it does still feel like a YA book as all the characters are aged around 21 (although we don't actually get told their ages in this book but I am going on their ages when Noah ended!). There are no explicit love scenes until near the end of the book and in my view even these are tame so yes, it does seem like a YA book however, I still really enjoyed it.

I have read reviews on Amazon.com and some people are not keen on the fact the book is about 'cheating'. I didn't have a problem with this as from the beginning, it is obvious that Felix (Bianca's boyfriend) is not being faithful to her. Also, the reason Bianca doesn't just end things with Felix when she realises she is falling for Gio is because she would then not be able to see Gio. I found this all very believable.

As with Noah, we get a slow build up on the romance side. I like this in a story. Gio to me is the best male hero I have read out of all Elizabeth Reyes books. He has reason to show jealousy, but it is in a normal way and not overly possessive like some of her other characters. Bianca as well is one of the best heroines I have read by Reyes.

All in all, a really good read. Reyes states at the end that she is taking a break from this series and going back to the Moreno brothers (Vince and Rose). I'm a bit disappointed we will have to wait for the next one in this series and I am hoping it is Abe and Nellie's story next.

Gitte TotallyBookedBlog says

Elizabeth Reyes never disappoints! Her style of writing in the 5th Street series just flows so easily and picks you up for the ride. It stays centered and to the point without always including all the, sometimes, unnecessary side stories. This makes 5th Street a refreshing change because it focuses intently on the 2 main characters and their journey, which makes it that more real and emotional.

This is the second book in the series and Reyes had me hooked once again with Gio..yummy lush Gio with his amazing green eyes..sigh...and the sweet and adorable Bianca!!! Their story was passionate and intense!!

The story-line is one that can be difficult to read. We all know that love is not simple, it is not neat and tidy and it isn't predictable. Love is uncontrollable when it happens. We also know that two wrongs don't make a right, and that with deception comes guilt. However, I think Reyes dealt with it beautifully and sensitively. I got it and I completely understood!!

This book was emotional and so yummy I couldn't put it down and I can't wait to have more from 5th Street!!!
