



Not To Us

Katherine Owen

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If you get a second chance... Do you take a different path?

"There are all kinds of ways for a relationship to be tested, even broken, irrevocably; it's the endings that we're unprepared for. My life has become a roller coaster ride mixed with equal amounts of pure joy and exposed fear; and, sometimes, this unfathomable incredulity. This arrives in spurts, like adrenalin or injected heroin; well, how I imagine injected heroin would feel. That's when I consider that change—change, its inevitability—is coming. And, I can't stop it." Ellie ~ Not To Us

Ellie's perfect world unravels.

A best friend's betrayal ends her marriage.

An alarming diagnosis threatens her life.

Yet.

It all leads to Michael...

But, fate soon tests their perfect union.

And, begs the question: If you get a second chance, do you take a different path?

Not To Us is an insightful look into one woman's personal journey in discovering the only way to keep her one and only wish is to trust the ones that count, beginning with herself.

Author's Note : For some fans, this is their favorite book of mine. For others? No. Just know, this is NOT a nice, light, airy romance. *Not To Us* deals with some heavy subject matters including: infidelity and loss and starting over. There now. You've been warned. ♥

To learn of Owen's newest novel releases and updates, sign up for her newsletter at her website:
www.katherineowen.net or visit www.katherineowenauthor.com

Not To Us Details

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From Reader Review Not To Us for online ebook

Saunders says

****SPOILERS AHEAD****

I try to appreciate the efforts that authors put into writing a book BUT it has to give me something substantial with a decent storyline and characters. This book had neither.

This book is incredulous. It is extremely far fetched not only how the relationships pan out but how infidelity can be written in such a B movie manner.

Ellie Bradford's life is like that and the author actually tried to convince the reader that she was a damsel in distress leaving us to believe that she could not control her actions, let alone direct them.

Ellie's life as she knows it is about to change. The inevitability of the course it is taking is coming. She believed she had the perfect life, a perfect marriage and she was blessed with three gorgeous kids.

That is until the day she finds out not only she has breast cancer, her best friend Carrie is having an affair with her husband Robert.

Her way of dealing with the end of her marriage and her breast cancer diagnosis is to go on a binge of infidelity. This is what happens:

Ellie sleeps with Michael.

She divorces Robert.

Carrie and Michael divorce.

Robert and her "best friend" Carrie marry.

Ellie marries Michael.

She becomes pregnant but decides not to have chemo because of her pregnancy.

On the day she marries Michael her first born son with Robert and Michael's daughter with Carrie are in an accident. Her son dies and Michael's daughter dies shortly after but instead of comforting each other Michael turns to his ex-wife (Carrie) and they have sex. Reasoning being he was grieving so much "it just happened"

Ellie sees Michael and Carrie kissing and instead of confronting Michael she bolts to New York where she meets Court Chandler and of course he just happens to be married!

Michael regrets what he has done and tries to speak with Ellie to sort their issues. He lies and tells Ellie that it only happened the once. Instead she speaks with her "best friend" Carrie and being that best friend Carrie tells Ellie how they "did it more than once"

But this saga gets worse.....

Ellie decides she's not going to tell Robert that his wife (Carrie) had cheated on him with her ex-husband. So her way to deal with Michael's infidelity is to take off to Europe. She goes on a drinking binge (remember she has cancer and is pregnant) and sleeps with Court Chandler.

Moving on:

Ellie and Michael forgive each other but then Michael leaves her because he finds out she is still talking with Court Chandler.

Ellie has a double mastectomy (the cancer has come back) and gives birth to twins (coincidentally a boy and girl).

The author states this is “not a light, nice, airy romance and the story deals with some heavy subject matters. It's not . It's not even a romance.

Untenable, baseless without sound judgement, weak, questionable, without grounds. That about sums up this book people. So I will leave it there.

♥ Tila Grey Maddox ♥ says

Spoilers Alert

I seriously hated this book. Didn't like any of the characters. Skipped through the chapters cause that's how much this book fucking annoyed me. What the fuck was up with her fucking so called "Bestfriend" I mean REALLY you call her you're Bestfriend but yet that stupid bitch betrayed you, and Ellie is one stupid bitch for her to still be friends with that whore of a Bestfriend. Her first husband was a douchebag her second husband Michael was even more of a douchebag & an asshole. Didn't like him at all. I don't see any love there in her relationship with her & Michael, I mean you claim you love each other but yet you go & betray their trust like that WTF!!! I seriously don't get how Ellie can keep torturing herself with the people that claim to love her, go behind her back & betray her like that. But whatever I'm soooooo over this book & this gawd awful characters, I didn't like Ellie's character as well. Cause she is seriously fucked in the head for making terrible choices in friends & men.

If you're thinking of purchasing this book, PLEASE save you're money, cause this book is seriously fucked up..

Randi says

Definitely a roller coaster... When I saw a tagline that has that phrase, I tend to think that it wouldn't be that effective. However, it was! I bought this book months ago and I finally had a chance to read it. This author is new to me.

But I'm glad that I got the chance to try her out. This book... It starts with this woman who was trying to keep her life together after finding out that her husband was cheating on her with her own best friend. How dare she do that to this woman? And worst of all, she was in the doctor's room being informed that she has cancer.. breast cancer. That's scary from the doctor who happened to be the best friend's husband. She found

out that he had known for a while.

Then her life falls apart... So many trials that one would think that she's a saint. Then she did have a mental breakdown at one point and honestly, I actually commended her for taking it in stride for SO LONG! I think that if I was in her shoes, I probably would have broken apart at a previous event that changes my life. No wonder why people are telling her that she's amazing, amazing. And she wonders why people think of her that so obviously she has self-esteem issues that I don't think anyone realizes until later in the story.

I would give this a 5 star but there were few lines that were too repetitive - "You're my only wish"... "Untenable..." and so on and on. There were a few grammatical errors like the author forgot to put a " in the sentence to complete it. Name was misspelled a couple times. However, it was not enough to distract me from the story which was nice! However, the repetitive lines were what made me drop one star. I still will read one of her books and I'm glad to see that I also have another of hers - Seeing Julia!

Booklover says

PHEW! This was my reaction by the time I completed this book, it was a roller coaster ride for my emotions from being so so pissed (towards all four of them) to feeling sorry for Ellen Kay cause she is the one who suffered so much pain may it emotionally or physically cause of treatments but all in all I can surely say this "Ellen Kay is not perfect, she may be weak at times but she is a brave character who withstood all the tragedies thrown at her by fate and hurt, pain, humiliation thrown at her by those people who are her friends and profess to love her. But I do not forgive her for lying around and cheating on Michael when he cheated on her - "TWO WRONG NEVER MAKE A RIGHT"

Carrie: What do I say about her whenever I think about her actions which destroyed two marriages and family my anger gets out of control. She is a Bit@@ with capital B, she doesn't love anyone not Micheal nor Robert the only thing that led her to sleep with both of them was cause they both wanted Ellen Kay. I do not buy her excuse for starting an affair with Robert, if she felt not loved and always knew Michael loved Ellen she should have first talked it out with Michael and then decide whether she will stay or get out of her marriage instead of betraying the marriage and friendship of 18 years.

Robert: One hell of a cheating -selfish man, he never loved Ellen Kay how conveniently he is having affair with his wife's best friend when he is caught-professing love and crying, no concern when Ellen tells him she has cancer he is busy saying sorry cause he is caught with his pants down. From few moments here n there I also felt he is not a good father. He failed as a husband and also failed as a father.

Micheal: I am confused as to what do I say about him, I can say he is good father and he was always there supporting and standing with Ellen through her treatments and surgeries but IF he loved Ellen all along and married Carrie on rebound if he is so clear on it then "Why did he sleep with her", he kept lying to Ellen when he is caught says it was nothing just happened but by what Carrie said its quiet obvious it was all planned after Elaina's death they again started their affair, What kind of love is this: (I do not buy their reason cause if he truly loved Ellen he would have been with Ellen sharing the grief and pain instead of having se@ in a hotel: (All I can say that Michael- Ellen rushed into marriage, they should have waited given time see where it went and then should have gotten married.

Lisa: May be I have gone crazy but I am very suspicious about this woman sometimes I felt she was jealous of Ellen and was trying to deliberately create problems for Ellen

Things that disappointed me was Carrie went unscathed with her actions she broke Ellen's trust twice still by the end she was back to coming n going in house,Robert not knowing about his second wife's cheating on him,Court-Eve Chandler wanted to know more about them.

I have my doubts over HEA.I firmly believe that "An Ex can never be just friends cause the spark and temptation is always there"

I liked the book but there was too much of cheating,for me if Micheal had not cheated on Ellen,we would have gotten to see their journey towards HEA it would have been a 5 star book for me.

Katherine Owen says

I wrote it! "Not To Us" takes readers on a roller coaster ride with Ellen Kay "Ellie" Bradford whose perfect life is unraveling with her best friend Carrie's betrayal with her husband Robert and finding out she has breast cancer in the first three pages, but her misfortunes lead her to Michael Shaw (Carrie's soon-to-be-ex). Before long, things seem to be working out perfectly for Ellie and Michael, but then their newly-formed bond is tested like never before. This book isn't for everyone, but if you enjoy a little bit of drama; a heroine's personal journey into finding herself and contemplating life's paths taken/not taken; love; tears; and joy; you might enjoy this novel.

Helen says

I'M GOING TO GET A LOBOTOMY AFTER READING THIS BOOK. I DESERVE ONE....

This book made me feel so angry...and not in a good way.

The stupidest Female character in the whole wide world is called Ellen Kay....

Ellen Kay has just been diagnose with breast cancer.

She's married to Robert, and has two or three kids (I don't remember), Robert goes and cheats on her with her "best friend" Carrie, who is also married with a guy named Michael who's a doctor.

Ellen and Michael sleep together. Then they go and end things with their respective "loved ones".

Ellen Kay divorce Robert. And Carrie and Michael also get divorced.

Robert and "her best friend" Carrie get married.

Ellen Kay then goes and marries Michael, and gets pregnant. So, now she's Pregnant, with breast cancer, And she can affect her pregnancy with the chemo, so she stops the chemo, because she's going to have those kids with Michael, and she loves him so, so much.

The day after she marries Michael: her son with Robert, and Michael's daughter with Carrie, get in an accident, in which Ellie's son dies, and Michael's daughter gets into a coma and later dies.

SO WHAT DOES MICHAEL DO BECAUSE HIS GRIEVING?---> HE GOES AND CHEATS ON HIS PREGNANT WIFE, (WHO HE JUST GOT MARRIED WITH, AND WHO ALSO HAVE CANCER)--->WITH HIS EX WIFE, THE SAME ONE HE WAS DYING TO DIVORCE BECAUSE HE NEVER LOVED HER.

AND WHAT'S MICHAEL'S EXCUSE TO CHEAT?---> "HE WAS DISTRAUGHT BECAUSE HIS DAUGHTER WAS IN A COMA"

I MEAN, SERIOUSLY?, THEY JUST GOT MARRIED, AND HE GOES AND CHEATS ON HIS WIFE? WITH HIS EX WIFE?, AND GRIEF IS THE EXCUSE THAT JUSTIFY HIS ACTIONS? REALLY? ONE TIME MAYBE, BUT THEY DID IT SEVERAL TIMES. AND THEY PUT AN END TO THE AFFAIR, BECAUSE THEY GOT CAUGHT IN THE ACT.

But....Ellie's son died, and did she went and slept with her ex Robert?----->NOOOOOO, she did not do that shit.

She sees Michael and Carrie kissing, and Michael has the mother of all boners. So....Ellie runs away, gets in a ferry and goes to NY, where she meets a guy who's hot and married.

Michael calls her, and tells her that nothing happened (he's the biggest piece of shit I've ever come across in a book and in life). She thinks about going home to Michael and forgive him. But then she talks to her "best friend" Carrie, and Carrie tells her the truth about how she and Michael went to a Hotel (while their daughter was still in a coma) and fucked each other....but that they're ending it....(is this Carrie bitch trying to be considered?)

I'M GOING TO ASK A FIRST TIME---> ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

But wait, it gets worse

Ellie tells Carrie that she's not going to tell Robert(his Ex and Carrie's current husband) about the affair, she actually protects her piece of shit "best friend".

SO AT THIS POINT OF THE BOOK, I FEEL OBLIGATED TO ASK AGAIN: ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME?

After hearing Carrie's confession, Ellen Kay goes to Europe (pregnant and with cancer) and sleeps with the guy she met in NY. She then comes back, to get chemo, and to get Michael.

Carrie puts the cherry on top, and tells Ellen Kay, that she fucked Michael, several times. That they were trying to be "connected" for their dying daughter (the same daughter Ellen Kay was taking care of, while her parents went to a hotel to screw each other in the name of the grief they were feeling)...

SO PLEASE, PLEASE, SOMEBODY PLEASE TELL ME THAT SHE'S GOING TO DUMP THAT ASSHOLE'S ASS.....

NO, SHE DOESNT DIVORCE MICHAEL'S CHEATING ASS. SHE FORGIVES HIM, AND AT SOME POINT, SHE ACTUALLY BEGS HIM NOT TO LEAVE HER.....

ARE YOU SHITTING ME ELLEN KAY?

So...Ellen Kay forgives Michael, and vice-versa (because Ellen Kay slept with the other guy in Europe).

They're constantly fighting, and then Michael leaves her after finding out that she still talks with the guy she slept with in Europe. Oh, but Ellen Kay does have to stand seeing Michael talking and interacting with her bitch "best friend" Carrie, who he slept with, and also denied that he indeed fucked her.

He constantly denied the whole thing. With a straight face (I couldn't actually see his face, but I was picturing it).

So Michael, been the piece of shit husband that he is, abandons Ellen Kay, and in this time apart she gets a double mastectomy.

NOW....GUESS WHO'S PREGNANT, HAVE CANCER, JUST GOT A MAJOR SURGERY AND ALSO GOT DUMPED BY HER " LOVING HUSBAND"? ----->YOU GUESSED RIGHT: IT'S ELLEN KAY, THE STUPIDEST, WEAKEST FEMALE CHARACTER I'VE EVER READ ABOUT.

Then they forgive each other again, and have twins, they still don't trust each other (no kidding), but Michael always wins her up with the " I loved you my whole life" talk. Yeah right!

I was disgusted by all the four main characters in this book, and at the end Ellen got what she deserved, for being so stupid and so weak, for not standing up for herself, and for staying in that circle of backstabbing friends.

What kind of friendship is that? And why the fuck would you stay near people who do awful things to you, over and over again?

That "best friend" of hers, only cares about her urgencies, and her envy, and have no consideration for anyone feelings, but hers. I get that if she does it a first time, and she apologize and never does it again, but

to do the same thing again?, And to protect her? YOU HAVE GOT TO BE FUCKING KIDDING ME....
The part that upsets me the most, is the fact, that Michael denied the whole affair, over and over again. That's worse than the betrayal. She told her everything about the affair with the guy she met in NYC. But he's a fuckface and has no balls what so ever, his mom is twice the man he is.
This group of people have no respect for themselves, much less for anyone else.
The book ends with them (Ellie and Michael) in Europe and their trust in each other being stronger than ever...-----> I was laughing so hard at this point.
IS THIS BOOK FOR REAL?
I'M GOING TO ASK A THIRD TIME: ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME? REALLY?
This book teaches you two things: 1) You can go through life, messing with people lives and get away with it. And also teaches you, that marriage is a joke, and that its not build on trust and respect, but in betrayal and lies.
I feel sorry for their kids...really.
I know that books can be about anything, but that doesn't mean I have to like it.
I seriously regret reading this.

Rejane says

Cheaters... cheaters everywhere. Cheating 101. How to be cheated on and cheated with. Everything you need to know on the subject cheating you'll find in this book.
With a dash of THAT disease we should not say aloud . ??? And a daughter and a son's death (not from the same parents). ?

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Dinjolina says

You know those movies where some journalist, writer, reviewer or critiq stares at the blank screen trying to write something, but can not? That little line is just blinking at you and nothing else is happening? Your fingers are suspended over the keyboard not because you do not have anything to write but because you have TOO MUCH and you have no idea where to start?
I am there now. I am in that scene. And I am loosing my mind!

Let me tell you...this is chick lit, in a way. And it is also a cheater romance.
And when I say cheater, I am not sure I can stress the **cheater** part enough.
Me being a universal 'cheater, cheater, pumpkin eater' hater you would think I could not stomach to read this book trough!
I could, and, strangely, I did not dislike it.
I did not love it. I did not feel right about it. I was profoundly unsettled by all the bad karma going around in there, but it was still a good book.
A really really good book. And here I can not stress the word 'really' enough!

Somehow, this author started with a already controversial story...and then she threw in death, jealousy, villainess that are never evil enough for you to point a finger at them, pregnancies , and paternities (I think I was actually covered in sweat when those were questioned. Both times!), adultery, love, brake downs, cancer...I would say 'and the kitchen sink' but it would sound offensive. This whole tsunami of plots and plot devices...WORKED! I am not able to say how, but it did. And that makes this author one heck of a writer.

Plot flow, actions, consequence discussion and the general feel of the things I liked or disliked are ahead. Those of you who do not want to know what I am talking about-do not click on this spoiler:
(view spoiler)

Do I recommend this book? Yes. But to specific masses.

Who?

Cheater romance lovers that want to see something different.

People that love angsty drama that is never over the top,but is still gut wrenching.

To those that want to cry their eyes out over their novels.

Do I like this book?

Maybe. Maybe not. Mostly not. It depends on the second and the first thing that comes to my mind about it. As a whole I RESPECT this book. But it is still not my kind of 'romance'.

Bonus time

My play list for this book:

(view spoiler)

Katie says

I began reading this but I just can't continue. The premise of this book is excellent but the more and more time I invest in it the angrier I get. I understand every individual is different and people deal with stress, loss, sickness and tragedy in their own unique way, but I just don't find this believable at all. I have intimate knowledge of the hardships Ellie faced and how she reacts to her cancer and to her husband and best friend's betrayal just pissed me off.

Just about every line written was off putting for me. The writing is choppy and I felt like I was reading the monotonous voice of a robot. There was very little dialogue between the characters and the way each sentence was written was the classic "telling not showing" type of writing. I can't get emotionally involved in a "romance" that is not only written with the same characteristic form as a text book, but the main character is demonstrated as an extremely unrealistic portrayal of what one's reactions would be if put in Ellie's shoes.

I read every book I come across that has a main heroine tackle breast cancer. I am thirsty to have the emotions put on paper, both the fight with the sickness and the triumph of being cancer free, but this was almost insulting in its simplicity.

Shari Kay says

Um...what?

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Angieleigh says

To be honest, the premise of this book is really far-fetched even for a fictional account. BUT...I really liked the gist of it anyway.

Ellie married Bobby. Carrie, Ellie's best friend from college, married Michael. They've been friends forever and Michael is Ellie's doctor. On the day he tells her she has cancer, she tells him...well, you soon find out.

I cried a good portion of the way through this book once I got to Chapter 14, which I did NOT SEE COMING AT ALL, MS. OWEN. If you can make your way through the first 13 chapters, I promise you that after chapter 14 they speed by and you're left wondering if you really just read all that.

{I was pleasantly surprised to see Kimberly from Seeing Julia in this book.}

Dilek VT says

Never no way because it is a cheating fest with some unbearable characters.

See for yourselves in the following review:

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Cathy says

With friends like this, who needs enemies? Apparently this woman did as I'm sure they would have treated her better than her supposed best friend. Hell, even better than her husbands, first AND second.

This book left me drained and depressed. For a h touted as being so strong and extraordinary, I wished she had even more backbone to walk away.

Seriously. If I was surrounded by only these people, death would have been merciful.

The writing was actually good; but the storyline was unbelievable... at least in my mind it was. It would send me spiraling downward to realize this really does happen.

Michelle says

I received the book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

“Not To Us” by Katherine Clare Owen is unquestionably a roller coaster ride. The reader goes on this ride with Ellen Kay “Ellie” Bradford as she discovers that her husband Robert is having an affair with her best friend Carrie. Shortly after this discovery, Ellie, mother of three children, is diagnosed with breast cancer. Carrie’s husband Michael, an accomplished surgeon, is determined to save Ellie’s life in view of the fact that

he's loved her since college.

I really enjoyed this book as painful as it was to read. I am sure that Chapter 14 was the most difficult part of this book to write because it was definitely the most difficult part to read. It was certainly a turning point that I was not prepared for. This is where the story really picks up speed. I could not put the book down. Just when you think that things are going to get better for Ellie... bam... more pain and heartache. So much for a person to endure. A great unpredictable book with astonishing surprises.

Romancing the Book says

Review by Judy: crafted flawlessly in first-person present tense, a difficult mechanism. Ellie's emotional journey is explored in depth; readers will recognize and identify with many of her thoughts and feelings. However, the overall plot strains belief.

Ms Owen writes well. The story has tremendous possibilities, but in the opinion of this reviewer the characters' actions and reactions to the situations in which they find themselves seem unrealistic. The topics of surviving cancer, divorce, and personal tragedy are certainly relevant but call for a more balanced approach by mature adults. While people may feel they are on a rollercoaster, as rational (or even irrational) human beings, they are well aware of the necessity to traverse the ground below with some plan and purpose.

At this writing, the novel has received four five-star reviews at Amazon.com, so readers considering the book might want to check there for another insight.
