



## Finding Elliot

*Serena Yates*

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Book one in the Men of Riverside Series After five years of forced separation David was determined to find Elliot again but what he gets isn't the closure he was hoping for...After yet another unsatisfying one-night stand David Lear decides it's finally time to find his former lover Elliot Watkins. He needs closure before he can move on. He is still angry at the man for never getting in touch after his parents moved away when David and Elliot were caught kissing at age seventeen. Elliot Watkins has never forgotten his first and only lover David but lives under his father's scrutiny, too afraid to come out before he gets access to his trust fund when he turns twenty-five. His fiancee Patricia Hobart constantly nags him and he wants nothing more than to live his own life and to become an architect. Falling back into each other's arms is relatively easy. But will Elliot be able to free himself from his father's influence? Will David be able to forgive his lover and have the patience to wait until Elliot is ready? Reader Advisory: This book is the first in a series linked by theme and characters appearing in more than one book. The stories, while they can be read on their own, are best read in sequence."

## Finding Elliot Details

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## From Reader Review Finding Elliot for online ebook

### Jade Archer says

'Finding Elliot', the first book in Serena Yates new series 'Men of Riverside', is an emotionally engaging reunion story that sucks the reader in right from the very start. With great character development, excellent writing and a plot that keeps you wanting to know more, this book was a thoroughly enjoyable read I recommend you start only when you've finished all other commitments and settled down for an early night of guilt free reading pleasure...because you won't want to put it down!

While the characters, David and Elliot, were very different in almost every respect, I truly wanted their HEA as this story progressed. David - a strong, determined man that has had to make his own way in the world - was very easy to like as he struggles to find closure and move ahead with his life. However, it's Elliot's character that really won my heart. Elliot, who appears to have it all, and yet lives an empty shell of a life tugs at the heartstrings. It would have been so easy for Ms. Yates to write a 'rescue' story, with David riding in on his white charger to 'save' poor Elliot from his pitiful existence. Instead, the reader is taken on a journey that sees Elliot discover his own strength and determination to live his HEA with the man he loves. It made for an excellent and heart warming journey I can definitely recommend.

'Finding Elliot' is a wonderful start to a new series with very nicely choreographed 'teases' to future characters that definitely leaves me wanting more. I look forward to reading about the 'Men of Riverside' in the future.

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### Jennifer says

The story covers a period of 17 days beginning with 1 January 2008 when David Lear has an embarrassing moment with a one-night stand and decides it's time to learn what became of the love of his life after they were parted five years earlier. When David finds Elliot in Boston, Elliot struggles to cope, and David returns home to Riverside, Texas, alone.

While Elliot is twenty-two years old, he seems much younger, which is not surprising given that his parents treat him like a child and are hell bent of keeping him under their control as long as possible. As with Ryan in *To Find and to Keep*, Elliot has suffered at the hands of his parents, and in particular, his overbearing father. Among other things, Elliot has to deny he is gay, is engaged to a woman he feels nothing for, and is in a job he hates. Serena Yates has a real talent for writing emotionally fragile characters that finally show some courage.

I am looking forward to reading *Rediscovering Adrian* (Men of Riverside #2) with Peter, who helps David find Elliot, and his own lost love, Adrian.

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### Arthur says

I always enjoy reading m/m romance between childhood friends. There is a sense of 'innocence' between the characters. In some books, the relationship (either as best friends or lovers) goes on; in others, the relationship is cut off abruptly (usually over family's disapproval). This book is the latter one.

I like this book because the characters decide to pursue the relationship despite being separated for five years. Yes, there are misunderstandings which lead to 'fights', but those are solved in adult, mature ways. After being angry for couple days, they talk. I cannot stand stories where adult men break up completely or being separated for a long period without communication at all (like for more than a year) due to a simple misunderstanding. The typical would be one of the protagonists leaves the city/state without waiting for any explanation from the other one. If one of them needs time to be alone, that's fine, though. I can also accept it if the characters are still young, such as those in high school; but not if they are both adult men. Thanks God this book is not one of those.

Will read the other books in the series. Soon. Unfortunately, they are not in Amazon yet.

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### **Elizabeth Besenfelder says**

I loved this story. I always cry a little when reading one of Serena's stories, and not in a bad way. Her characters always have their obstacles to overcome, some more heart breaking than others. But witnessing the characters coming together in a story that is well written, makes for a compelling read that will be re-read many times over. I cannot wait for the next story in the series.

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### **Ami says**

#### **3.5 stars**

I am contemplating between 3.5 and 4 stars for this. On the plus side, this is probably my favorite story of Serena Yates yet (duly noted, I have only read 4 books so far, including this one) because (1) It deals with the "one who gets away" theme -- which always guarantee a more intense emotion and (2) There an actual build up towards the love making. I love those two factors. Because of their 'history' David and Elliot's love making becomes more emotional manifestation than just mutual physical attraction.

BUT, I'm contemplating of reducing the stars because of one simple reason, I think David is an idiot! I know, I know, he says that he misses Elliot and he cannot forget him, but he is too condescending to see what Elliot has been going through. He easily judges that Elliot is a coward and doesn't understand why Elliot seems unable to stand up on his own against his tyrant father.

Well, David, THERE ARE people like that, you know. You can't just judge everyone else SIMPLY because they don't follow your standard of an independent man. Jeez!! There are several times I want to smack David in the head for what he does ... maybe because my heart goes for Elliot so bad, reading how he struggles to stay strong under his father's rigid rules. When Elliot finally spines up and tells his parents, enough is enough, I feel so happy for him.

There, I know it's subjective, but it's hard for me to give 4 stars if I don't find both guys likeable ...

I can't wait to read Peter's story and find out what actually happen to Adrian ...

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### **Justina Johnson says**

Right from the opening paragraph, we are drawn into David's need, desire and passion to find Elliot and not just fantasize about him. I was captivated right from the start.

David is totally committed to this quest. It is not until he hears about Elliot's engagement to the daughter of his father's partner and tries to grasp why Elliot never left his oppressive family after he turned eighteen, that David's determination wavers a bit.

This is such a wonderful opening book to a series that promises to be amazing, compelling and quite satisfying I'm sure.

I loved David and Elliot became a dear, too. Plus, several other folks from Riverside appear along the way. I anticipate that this will be quite an interesting community.

Another tremendous read from Serena Yates. "Finding Elliot" is a wonderful foundation for the upcoming sequels.

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### **Arzu says**

5 years ago David and Elliot were separated in a very aggressive way, leaving the teenagers hurt and alone, without giving them the chance to say goodbye. Now, 5 years later, David decides to find Elliot, so he can go on with his life. The whole finding, meeting, making love, and again the brutal interference of Elliot's father is beautiful but heartbreaking at the same time.

To rate this one is difficult. I love Serena Yates' books and her books always make me smile. **Finding Elliot** is not different. The problem I have is with the pace of the romance. It is somewhat unbelievable to me that after all these years of separation; the couple comes together and acknowledges their love within 48 hours. Especially the fact that Elliot wasn't able to go against his father all these years and now he can do just like that.

Nevertheless I can't wait to read more of the series and the young gay men of Riverside Serena introduced in this book.

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### **Lena Grey says**

While 'Finding Elliot' by Serena Yates is a touching and romantic love story, it is also a study of David's and Elliot's character. One of the biggest factors determining behavior is how a person perceives himself. It helps define how one interacts in any given situation.

In David's case, he's strong, self-assured and determined to live life on his own terms. He doesn't give up even when the odds are against him. Whatever the consequences, David is prepared to deal with them.

Elliot, on the other hand, is undermined at every step, causing him to become 'emotionally stunted'; he ends up unable to think for himself. Unfortunately, he becomes accustomed to relying on other people to tell him what to do and how to feel. When David presents him with an opportunity which requires him to make a decision on his own, he is lost. He has no idea how to do so and ends up shutting down.

David recognizes this, however he's wise enough to know that Elliot is the only one who can change it. As much as they both want to be together, they can't succeed unless they meet on level ground. Once Elliot realizes how much his father's negativity and control had influenced his life, he fights his way out of it and against all odds, changes his life for the better.

I loved the characters, the progression of the story and its timeless message. 'Finding Elliot' is not only a heart-warming, passionate romance, it is also a glowing example of the tenacity of the human spirit.

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NOTE: This book was provided by Total-E-Bound for the purpose of a review on Queer Magazine Online

### **Ana says**

well, I tried to read the book and... I couldn't finish it. My computer shut down and I was like "thank god I love u, love u, love u with all my heart". I was so set to read it till the end 'cause I've been putting too much books down lately and i was so relieve that I wouldn't have to finish it. The story isn't bad, I have no big complain about it. It's just that for a book under 100 pages it was long. Yep, don't know how to explain that one but it was too long, too slow, too whatever... At page 10 I was like "am I going to finish this book anytime in this century?". At page 20, I was starting to get kinda desperate, a lot excuses to put the book down came to mind and I was like "no, no, bad girl, do not put this one down too, u're going to pick another one not even five minutes later so finish this one". and finally my computer shut down (happy me!! first time ever i'm happy about something like that).

And so I didn't finish the book (if u didn't understand from my slightly exaggerated rant). Nevertheless, Serena Yates is a good author I liked several of her other books. The plot sounds rather good so I'll try to read this book again in a few weeks maybe I'll finish it then and I'll write a review worthy of this name.

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### **Serena Yates says**

This is the first book in my new Men of Riverside series, and the tenth book I have published.

Finding Elliot kicks off the adventures of a group of men who all went to the same high school in the fictional town of Riverside, Texas. Not all of them know they are destined to be couples. Some of them believe they are only friends. Circumstances and life separate them, sometimes for several years. But luck, determination and love will help them get the reunions they deserve.

This first volume is about David, who is determined to find Elliot again after five years of forced separation - except what he gets isn't the closure he was hoping for...

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## **Jess says**

3.5% from me

Hard to rate as I have mixed reactions to the book.

On one hand it was sweet and a fairly simple plot. I really liked David and the other secondary characters at Riverside. I even want to read the second book in the series to see how his friend works out his past tragedy.

But on the other hand I couldn't bring myself to like Elliot.

The author gave plenty of reasons for why Elliot was spineless for 5 years. But I felt that Elliot lacked an element of emotional pain that kept me from truly understanding how he could be such a pushover for years.

I still think this story is worth reading and I hope it leads to a great sequel. Sometime the first in a series is a bit bland.

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## **Nic says**

I enjoyed this story which tells the tale of David finding Elliot. David and Elliot were in love as teenagers but separated when Elliot's father catches them kissing and moves Elliot away. Years later, David decides to find the man that he has never stopped loving. He is looking for answers and closure.

I found Elliot a little hard to warm to. I thought him cowardly and his explanations for the separation didn't seem to justify his actions. It is only further into the story that his behaviour becomes better understood and more acceptable.

The only element of the book that I didn't really like was the level of power wielded by Elliot's father. (view spoiler) seemed a bit overdone and had a lack of realism.

On a side note, usually you get a bit into a book before encountering the first sex scene. Not in this book! This one launches straight in and the first line is David coming! No build up here!

3.5 stars

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## **Aeren says**

Esta review es por casi toda la serie, digo casi porque no he sido capaz de finalizar los ocho títulos. En lugar de llamarse los hombres de Riverside debería llevar el título de cómo convertir la idiotez en un arte, ya las he leido porque creo que en el fondo soy masoquista. En fin.

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### **Yvonne says**

It was so mind numbingly cliche ridden it was almost painful to get through this one. YMMV

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### **Karen K says**

What a sweet couple - even after five years apart they still seem completely suited and devoted to each other. David faired a little better than Elliot in the time they were apart, but he still longed for his first love, and Elliot, engaged to someone picked out by his family, working a job to suit his family, waiting in limbo for a real life that he feared would never happen - heart-breaking. I have to admit I loved the angst and sadness, at least for a little while, especially when it was followed by a tender and hot reunion. The appearance of Elliot's father and his goons was both startling and infuriating, but the aftermath when Elliot finally stood up for himself and what he wanted, was truly wonderful.

Great beginning to a series that I'm looking forward to reading more of, especially since a few of the other gay residents of Riverside have already been partially introduced. I do have to say that this is the third book of Serena's that I wanted to run one of the main character's parents over with my truck though - hmm, either there's a pattern here or I may have some issues to deal with. :)

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