

The Falling in Love Montage

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Saoirse has a set of rules when it comes to relationships - no getting attached and no getting too close. After all, there's no point when she's likely to meet the same fate as her mother, who lives in a care home with early onset dementia. But when she meets Ruby, a confident and irresistibly mischievous girl, at a party, they agree to a single summer, casual relationship, with no strings attached. Together, they set out to recreate all the scenes from Ruby's favourite rom-coms, from ferris wheel rides to midnight boating on the water. As long as they don't fall in love... everything should be fine, right?

I absolutely loved *The Falling in Love Montage*, as it had the perfect balance of different emotions and action. Sweet and funny at the surface but mixed with complex emotional problems, the story tugs on your heart strings at every corner. The characters were complex and fully fleshed out, with varied backstories and interesting personalities. Saoirse, the main character, deals with several challenging family problems, which bring up important points and discussion topics for coming of age teens and young adults. Her lighthearted demeanour gives way to thoughtful maturity at several areas in the book, revealing inner depth and character. While her story was filled with heavy topics, it never felt burdensome or slow paced. Instead, the plot carried itself forward with sprinkles of humour and lightheartedness.

Another aspect that I enjoyed reading about were the dynamic, evolving relationships between characters. Saoirse's interactions with her dad hold a truthful and raw quality, as the flaws and mistakes in their relationship are not glossed over. However, the love, hope and pain beneath their words is always clear and apparent, in a way that is both beautiful and tender to read about. This theme of authenticity and clarity resonates throughout the rest of the story as well, creating a bittersweet but unique atmosphere. *The Falling in Love Montage* carries a deep message and meaning through insightful characters and dynamic, evolving relationships. This story is best suited to readers ages 12+, due to challenging ideas and material.

Recommended Titles:

Late to the Party by Kelly Quindlen

Stay Gold by Toby McSmith

The Grace Year by Kim Ligget

Perfectly Preventable Deaths by Deirdre Sullivan

I'll Be the One by Lyla Lee