



Breaking the Rules

Cat Lavoie

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When Roxy Rule's best friend accepts a dream job overseas, she expects their relationship to continue as it's always been—carefree and easy—until they share a heart-stopping kiss right before Ollie leaves for London. While Roxy is sure nothing can come between two lifelong besties, it's hard to ignore the nagging thought that their kiss might have been more than a moment of temporary insanity.

As she tries to come to terms with her feelings for Ollie, Roxy is ambushed by her two sisters—both in full crisis mode. With the Rule siblings living under the same roof again, Roxy's quiet little apartment in the city is anything but peaceful and she can't help getting caught up in her sisters' drama. Add a thankless job with the boss from hell and a fiancé set on planning the wedding of his dreams and Roxy's world quickly starts to spiral.

After discovering that her seemingly solid relationship with Ollie had more than a few cracks long before he left town, Roxy decides it's time to take control of her career, her love life, and her sisters – but can she really handle it all?

And can the Rule family keep it together – or will they break under the pressure?

*Please note that this novel was originally published in August 2012 by MARCHING INK, LLC.

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From Reader Review Breaking the Rules for online ebook

Lucie Simone says

Even before Samantha of Marching Ink offered me a review copy of *Breaking the Rules*, I knew I wanted to read it. The adorable cover, the enticing blurb, and simply knowing that Samantha, who runs the fabulous book blog Chick Lit Plus, was publishing it was enough to land it on my TBR list. So, you can imagine how quickly I jumped at the chance to review it. And I was not disappointed in the least.

Author Cat Lavoie has a wonderful Chick Lit voice and a true gift for humor. I was immediately sucked into Roxy's story, falling head over heels in love with her, her friends, and her family. Actually, it made me nostalgic for the early days of Chick Lit where our fabulously flawed heroines struggled to find their paths in life, were bolstered by their friendships and confounded by their families. In truth, *Roxy Rule* gives Bridget Jones a run for her money.

Every character in *Breaking the Rules* was hilarious in his or her own way. From Roxy's controlling older sister to her overly pragmatic fiancé, Cat Lavoie created a cast of characters that were multi-faceted and ever more fascinating. I loved how supportive her friends were, sometimes even offering up a little tough love to help her achieve her goals. Her sisters added lots of juicy drama to an already soap opera-worthy love triangle between Roxy, her best friend, Ollie, and her fiancé, Ethan. I particularly enjoyed how Lavoie handled what could have been a very predictable storyline, keeping me on my toes and throwing some curve balls into the plot that really had me wondering just how Roxy's tale would wind up. It was fresh, and organically spun, with so much comedy it felt more like nattering with my best friend than reading a book. All in all, it was a brilliant debut, and I can't wait to see what Cat Lavoie creates next!

Kaley says

Prepare yourselves. I am about to make a bold statement. *Breaking the Rules* by Cat Lavoie might be one of the best books I've read this year.

I did not want to put this novel down. I was sucked into Roxy's world and I loved reading about her life. Her life had hit an interesting rough patch and it was a lot of fun to read about what was happening and trying to figure out how she was going to handle everything.

I'm also a bit of a sucker for the "girl and boy are friends and suddenly one realizes they have feelings for the other" stories - as long as they're original in some way or another. Or at least fun and well written. I felt like this novel had both. There was also a crazy twist at the end that I was not at all expecting. Though I'm not entirely sure how I feel about that. It's borderline too strange to wrap my head around but I realize that it's sort of a reflection on families these days and it's really not a deal breaker for me in any way. Yes. That is all very vague. Read the book and you'll understand :)

I loved all the characters that showed up in this book. Except maybe Roxy's boss. Oh, and Ollie's girlfriend. They're both kind of crazy but that just added to the fun! :) Steffy and Izzie, Roxy's sisters, were great and really helped Roxy through everything, just as she was helping them through their issues. She has some awesome friends and, I admit, I may have a little bit of a crush on Ollie!

I don't know if I can really put my finger on what I loved so much about this book. The writing was good, the story was great, the characters were fun. I guess the main thing is that everything worked well together. Sometimes I pay too much attention to the way things are worded, the writing style of the author, and so on. Usually I know a book is great when I don't necessarily pay attention to those things. It means I've gotten sucked into the story and that's what I love about reading. I want to be 100% involved in the story and the character's life. If I feel too disconnected or if I'm thinking too much about how I'd edit or change the book then I'm not loving it. I didn't find myself critiquing anything with this novel. I was able to become completely immersed in Roxy's life without worrying about anything else.

And can I just say how much I love the cover? So cute and fun and bright and wonderful! :)

Like I said earlier in this post, I'm so glad that I was able to take part in the blog tour for Cat Lavoie's debut novel *Breaking the Rules*. I think that any chick lit lover would love it just as much as I did and I can't recommend it enough. I can't wait to see what Cat comes out with next!

Susan Buchanan says

Shopaholic meets Bridget Jones

I loved this book and found it very refreshing. Characters were well-rounded and I loved the dynamic between the three sisters and found it completely believable. The bossy older sister, the ditzy younger sister and then Roxy, the middle one and protagonist. Any girl having a male best friend and a fiancé is asking for trouble and Roxy certainly seems to bear this theory out. Each of the sisters has secrets. Roxy's indiscretion with a celeb and prospects of career progression looking as if they were going down the pan were favourite parts of the novel for me. But Ollie, Roxy's best friend, who couldn't love Ollie, and of course, the novel wouldn't be complete without a superbitch of a girlfriend, who hated his female best friend, would it?! The friends are parted in quite an extreme way and the bitch girlfriend does her best to keep them even further apart, but whose fault is it really and why? The drunken phone call made my day, as who hasn't done it and regretted it next morning. The twist in the tale re the child's father I hadn't seen coming either. Naturally Roxy's financial adviser fiancé got the thumbs down from me for his controlling and patronising behaviour.

The hands-on, overbearing, anxious parents whom everyone was hiding secrets from and physically hiding from (in Roxy's apartment) had me in stitches. Imagine your parents turning up at 2am!

A well-written, wonderfully funny chicklit novel. Cat Lavoie's new novel, *Zoey And The Moment Of Zen* is just out and I will definitely be buying it. A new name on the chicklit scene and one to watch. An easy 5 stars from me.

Sarah Smith says

I get through a lot of "chick-lit" and I must say this is one of the best I've ever had the pleasure of reading. The heroine, Roxy, is loveable, realistic, and the type of girl I'd like as my friend. I loved getting to know her and her sisters and friends and suspect I'm going to miss them!

This story is written in the first person (which I always prefer anyway) so you really get a grasp of what Roxy is thinking and feeling... There are twists and turns - at one point I actually said "oh wow" outloud! It's funny, it's romantic (lots of feel-good moments), it's fast-paced, and, in case you can't tell, I loved it.

I can't recommend it enough.

Lisa says

A wonderful debut novel from an incredible new author that speaks chick lit perfectly! This story will have you laughing out loud one minute, then it's pulling at your heartstrings the next. It was a pure joy to read. Cat has a uniquely incredible writing style that I think many will enjoy as much as I did.

The characters are remarkable. Roxy is immediately lovable, and the cast of characters with her are equally amazing. They are developed to a "T" and all loose ends are tied at the end. This story had me continuously flipping pages as fast as I could, dying to see what would happen next. Breaking the Rules is the true definition of "chick lit" at its best. Family, friends, love, hope, joy, heartache... it's got it all!

And of course I have to mention the cover. It's adorable! Simple, silly, and fun... the perfect cover to go with this book. Breaking the Rules is a gem. I definitely recommend it and truly believe if you enjoy this genre, you will not be disappointed with this book one bit. I'm excited to see what Cat will come out with next! :)

Libby Mercer says

A thoroughly enjoyable read, Breaking the Rules is complex but also so much fun. Speaking as someone with sisters, I thought the relationships between the sisters were VERY believable, and the tangled web of love relationships was handled really well. Another thing I wanted to point out was how nicely Cat Lavoie handled Roxy's friends. Often times when stories have a group of friends the protagonist leans on, they tend to blend together a little (I find) but the members of Roxy's posse all had very distinctive personalities. A wowzer of a debut!

Autumn Review says

When I first read the synopsis of this book, I thought it sounded really cute. What I wasn't expecting was to stay up until 2am reading it. Once I started, I didn't want to put it down.

I felt like I connected with Roxy pretty quickly. Not because we have similar personalities, but because of her friendship with Ollie. I had a guy best friend like that. We shared everything and there was always something that was silently underneath the friendship. In my case, our timing never worked out. For Roxy and Ollie, it takes Ollie moving for those feelings to come to the surface. Roxy feels like she's a bit lost and frustrated. She begins doubting her career and her relationship with her fiancé (who I couldn't stand). I found that I was really pulling for Roxy to make the right choice and end up, not only with Ollie, but make a break in her career and follow her dreams. And Ollie....I loved Ollie. He truly was a gem of a guy. There was only ONE part that upset me about him and it was something I wasn't expecting AT ALL. That said, he does redeem himself in my eyes. I was pulling for him to win Roxy's heart.

Then to make things more hectic for Roxy, both of her sister's move in. One sister is unexpectedly pregnant

and the other has just broken up with her long-term boyfriend. The family dynamic cracked me up.

This was a really great story about a woman trying to find her way. She has career choices to make, family issues to deal with, and she needs to be true to her heart. These issues are things we can all relate too. Cat Lavoie makes a great debut. I look forward to reading more from this new author!

Rubysbooks says

This is one of those books that remind me why I love a certain genre (in this case, chick lit). It has everything I could wish for, and then some: humor, drama, romance, family crisis, surprising twists and turns... Like I said, everything.

Roxy Rule is one of those impossible-not-to-love characters. She's funny, she's friendly, she has an amazing family and a hot best friend. I really loved Roxy. I was rooting for her the entire novel and I was wishing she'd end up with the love of her life, Ollie. Just when things get complicated and she starts to doubt everything in her life, from her job, to her boyfriend, her two sisters knock on her door, needing some time off from their own lives. Her younger sister is pregnant with an unknown man and her older sister just broke up with her boyfriend. I liked how Roxy tries to protect her sisters and hide the fact that they moved in with her from her parents. And I liked that out of all the sisters, she was the least judgmental one, the one that just listens and waits for things to unfold, the one that doesn't try to pry.

Ollie is Roxy's best friend since infancy. I liked him, even though he gave me a big surprise near the end of the book. I don't know how I would've reacted if I were Roxy, but I liked the fact that in the end Ollie makes things right and he makes the right decision. He's been in love with Roxy for a long time, but he doesn't act on it. I liked that he doesn't force things, though I would've expected more resistance towards all the crap his girlfriend was throwing his way.

I think the subject of love between two best friends is a dangerous subject, but Cat Lavoie wrote a beautiful story and I had a lot of fun reading it. For me, it was one of those books that you start reading and the next thing you know, it's a few hours later and you are reading the last page.

If you love chick lit, you definitely need to read *Breaking The Rules*.

Meredith Schorr says

4.5 stars!

When Ollie, Roxy Rule's best friend forever and roommate for the past several years moves from NYC to London for his dream job, Roxy is beyond sad but ever certain that their friendship can withstand the distance until he plants a knee wobbling kiss on her right before heading to the airport leaving her stunned and speechless. Deciding a kiss is just a kiss, Roxy tries to move on. She is engaged to Ethan and Ollie is moving to London with his perfect yet bitchy girlfriend Rachel. Everything is how it should be, so why can't Roxy stop thinking about Ollie and why is their friendship suddenly strained? While Roxy is trying to figure out her own life, her younger sister Steffi and older sister Izzy both show up at her apartment in the midst of their own personal crisis expecting Roxy to be their rock. As the middle sister stuck between gorgeous yet

impulsive Steffi and brilliant overworked Izzy, it's always been Roxy job's to maintain the sanity. This time, however, it will take everything Roxy has to not lose her mind as secrets are revealed and her life spirals out of control.

Wow. Usually I write my reviews immediately after finishing a book, but I had to wait on this one for a bit because I wasn't entirely sure how I felt about it. While I was drawn into the story of Roxy and Ollie immediately and really liked the character of Roxy, I kind of hated her sisters. I did not like the way they barged in on Roxy's life and did not seem the least bit appreciative of her hospitality. They assumed it was completely ok to relegate Roxy to the couch while they took over her two bedrooms - and we're not talking for just one or two nights. As the youngest of three girls, I would never treat my sisters this way and so I was a bit taken aback and a bit angry by Roxy's casual acceptance of this behavior. However, once I got about half-way through, I moved on from my annoyance at the Rule sister's treatment of the middle sister and I couldn't put the book down. And after the twist, holy crap, I finished the book in an hour! The twist both angered and saddened me but WOW, I did not see it coming. I really wish I could say more without giving anything away but the twist had such an effect on me, I was crying. I really liked the way the author tied things up to make everything OK but even hours after finishing the book, I was still saddened and a bit angry about the twist.

The second half of this book is amazing. I think the author took quite a risk and, in my opinion, it paid off. It's not often that I am still thinking about a chick lit book 24 hours after I finish reading and so my hat goes off to Cat Lavoie.

Savanes says

[except the ending maybe but I like my happy endings => (hide spoiler)]

Becky Monson says

Now, I consider myself a bit of a sleuth. Especially when it comes to endings for movies and books. I have to say, the twist in this book actually threw me for a loop! Like, big time! That alone is worth five stars. However, there was so much more to this book than that. Cat Lavoie has written such a fun story, one that was hard for me to put down. It was well written and she did a fantastic job of developing all of the characters. I actually really missed them when I was done reading. The relationship between the sisters was so realistic to me. I love how they talked to each other - it made me miss my own sisters. All in all it was a great read and I look forward to reading Cat's next book!

Tracie Banister says

I fell in love with Cat Lavoie's breezy and engaging writing style on the first page of *Breaking the Rules*. As I read more, I was impressed by how beautifully crafted this book was (the blending of humor and angst was done perfectly) and how well-developed the characters and their relationships were. Roxy Rule (best heroine name ever!), her friends, her family, and her men were multi-dimensional and very compelling with all of their foibles. I rooted for sweet, confused Roxy to get her life together, to quit the job where she was underappreciated and have the bravery to follow her dream of cooking for a living, and to make the right

choice in her love life (Work things out with her perfect-on-paper fiancé? Take a romantic risk on best friend Ollie? Forget men for a while and embrace her independence? They were all viable and complication-fraught options for Roxy.)

One of the best things about *Breaking the Rules* is that it wasn't predictable. Several times throughout the story the author zigged when I thought she was going to zag and that really kept me on my toes. There was a shocking reveal in the last quarter of the book that actually made me gasp aloud (I scared my dog!) I really didn't see that plot twist coming at all and I loved being surprised by the author. It was a gutsy move on her part, and I give her credit for thinking outside the box. After that game-changing turn of events, I wasn't sure how the story would be resolved, but it was done so in a really lovely and believable way. I was actually misty-eyed during the final scenes of the book.

I give this book my top recommendation and think it's a must-read for all Chick Lit lovers. I'm excited to see what this inventive author comes up with next!

Tanya says

Chick lit with depth! More than a fluffy read, *Roxy Rule* is a likeable character and one you'll laugh, cry, and root for throughout the story. Her sisters are a mess but families are never perfect and that's why we love them! Ollie, Roxy's BFF, (since the crib!) isn't perfect either ... fun chick lit genre where perfect, tidy endings aren't always the norm. Loved this book!!

Canadian Author, Cat Lavoie, has a wonderful writing style. I look forward to her future books.

Samantha Bailey says

Oh, *Roxy Rule*, I think I love you. *Breaking the Rules* made me laugh out loud, cry and gasp in shock. From the food and love stories to the family dynamics and incredible twist, I couldn't put this book down. It is a fantastic read!

Jackie Bouchard says

There are 2 main types of books I enjoy - literary dramas and light, fun reads. But I don't enjoy literary works that have no story, and I don't like fun reads that aren't well written. Well, "*Breaking the Rules*" is a fun read that is very well written. As a writer, it can sometimes be hard for me to take off my writer hat and just wear my reader hat, but I never felt my reader hat slipping off while I enjoyed this book. The writing is fun and fresh, the characters are believable, and the plot twist was a good one that I didn't see coming.

I laughed, I teared up a little, I even got goose bumps at one point! I gotta give 5 stars for goosebumps!
