



Infinite Loop

Meghan O'Brien

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Regan O'Riley has just about given up hope that she will ever find a woman into shy, geeky programmers. She yearns for a connection, but can't seem to make the first move. Mel Raines knows all about making moves. After a childhood under the thumb of her alcoholic father, she avoids intimacy by drowning herself in fiery, fleeting encounters with strangers.

When Regan and Mel meet in a straight bar, of all places, their chemistry is unmistakable. Before they can begin to explore their new relationship, Mel's world is rocked when a close friend is a victim in a shooting. Regan suggests they take a road trip to escape reality for a little while, and Mel is only too ready to shake things up. Together they embark upon a physical and emotional journey where they discover that breaking free of old habits may be the only way to change your life.

Infinite Loop Details

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Luce says

5 Stars for the audio book.

Excellent narrator. I've read this book countless times - first when she first posted it online, then when she published it. I believe this was her first novel. Quality wise it may not be as well written as some of my other 5 star books - but I enjoy it every time I re-read it. So for that it deserves 5 stars. I just love Mel & Regan and the relationship journey they take.

T says

Who doesn't love a geek in an atari ringer shirt?

this will be among my favorites for the characters alone. i LOVE that, instead of all the perfect, beautiful women in skirts with lots of money and wine drinking, this book gave me characters i could relate to. Like the redhead computer geek in glasses and ringer t-shirts that was tormented in high school, but throughout the book is described as beautiful in deep and believable ways. it gives us all hope. and then of course the hot grey-eyed (do people really have grey eyes?) motorcycle riding cop. someone with coolness we all wish we had. you start out thinking reagan the geek is hopelessly shy and socially weak, but by the end of the book, you realize that the superficial coolness of Mel is hiding much more vulnerability. In any case, i loved these two characters, and found many situations and dialog that i could completely relate to.

It's just shy of 5 stars for me,(but close enough to round up), because despite the plot and characters, by the end it was sickeningly sweet which i couldn't really completely buy into. this was a fast paced hook-up, they fell in love right away, and didn't stray from that theme for an instant. So on the positive side, you don't have to wait until the end for the 'hook-up', it happens plenty throughout the book. ;) So it's not a book so much about 'falling' in love and angst, it's about the journey these two women in love take to tie up some lose ends in their lives, and put some demons to rest. They are on a journey to put an end to the 'infinite loop' both of their lives seem to have gotten stuck in. (i loved the explanation of that in the book too)

only minor editing flaws that weren't significant enough to detract from the story.
i highly recommend this book, and it's one that can be read more than once.

Wayne Spiceland says

As I was reading *Infinite Loop*, Meghan O'Brien's immensely enjoyable and very, very sexy first novel, I couldn't imagine not giving it five stars. That it ultimately failed, in my estimation, anyway, to deserve that accolade, in no way detracts from how thoroughly enjoyable it was.

There are many pluses here: Great characters, not just the two principles; realistic growth of both main characters, which adds depth; some gorgeous descriptive passages; a really sweet romance; some off -the-charts sex; plenty of humor and wit; drama -- not exactly cataclysmic, but enough to liven things up, from time to time; intense emotion; believable dialogue, including some totally cute geek-speak; some cool pop

culture references; improbable premise made credible. Oh, and did I mention the totally hot sex...

Characters, and character growth: Mel, street cop, something of a “player,” realizes she’s dissatisfied with her job and her lifestyle; Regan, adorable computer geek beginning to wonder if she’ll ever find “The One.” Regan’s not only a computer geek, but of Irish descent. (Geeky, unrepentant Hibernophile sighs wistfully.) After what Roger Ebert would call a “meet cute” opening, they decide, after only a few week’s acquaintance, but an undeniably strong mutual attraction, to take a mega road trip. Improbable? Sure, but, they’re obviously falling for each other, and, as Buffy told us -- god, was it really sixteen years ago? -- “love makes you do the wacky.” Both characters, despite obvious strengths, exhibit considerable vulnerability. In a sense, though both are adults, you could almost call this a coming-of-age story, as Mel and Regan are ruled by childhood trauma. Mel is still working at the impossible task of trying to live up to her father’s unrealistic expectations, and Regan’s insecurities are the result of high school bullying. How they help each other overcome their individual *bêtes-noires* is the story’s driving force. What’s impressive here is that, despite the intense personal issues involved, Mel and Regan are both completely engaging, likable, and entertaining, the most fun characters I’ve read since Kate Allen’s Alison Kaine and Stacy, in fact.

The road trip, and the instant romance: As I said, improbable, but somehow, O’Brien makes it all work. Also, the frequent and effusive professions of undying love, which potentially could be cloying and hokey, even in a romance, don’t seem at all out of place, here. I think that’s largely because the intensity of feeling results from the character growth that both women are experiencing, and it seems perfectly natural

Some have referred to this as an erotic romance, but, I prefer the word sexy. Did I point out, very sexy? To me, erotica’s primary *raison d’être* is to titillate, to arouse. In *Infinite Loop*, the focus is the characters and the romance; the sex is just (very enjoyable) *lagniappe*. I’m reminded of Katherine V. Forrest’s comments about sex scenes as a unique means of developing character, displaying facets of the characters you wouldn’t see in more mundane scenes. I think that’s well demonstrated in O’Brien’s tale. Of course, these scenes are one helluva lotta fun, too.

So, why only four stars? What’s unsatisfying to me, despite how much I enjoyed the book, is that it really isn’t a novel, but a string of, admittedly quite enjoyable, individual vignettes. Though there are several dramatic incidents throughout, there’s not enough sustained conflict to lead us to a satisfying climax, though there are plenty of other climaxes. (Wink-wink, nudge-nudge.) Since this one structural defect is the only issue I have with Ms. O’Brien’s book, still I highly recommend it. It’s fault is in the area of serious lit-crit, but as sheer entertainment, it’s a complete success.

Ted says

Obviously the voice actress can make or break a listening experience. In this case, Eva Christensen did an amazing job. Of course her source material was brilliant to start with, I really felt she got the emotion and nuance down very well. Especially with Regan.

As far as the book itself goes, it was an amazing ride for Regan and Mel. A cleansing and emotionally satisfying journey really. I’d have to put it on the top of my favorite O’Brien’s books.

Crys Harris says

This is a decent story, but it is entirely too long. So much of the conflict happens early on and the middle and end just DRAG.

That said, the characters are reasonably likable.

lov2laf says

3.4 stars.

I thought this was okay. The author herself admits this book is less polished since it's her first. The main lead, Mel, is an interesting character at first but her issues get resolved way too easily...that's the cynic in me, I guess...so this makes for a syrupy romance with a handful of erotica thrown in. Most of this occurs on a road trip after a life changing event. It was refreshing to see the other lead, Regan, as a completely unconventional love interest...geeky, curvy, glasses, socially awkward...I'm a sucker for imperfect (aka more real to life) protagonists. If you're in the mood for a somewhat darker toned yet feel good romance that is on the "everything falls into place perfectly" side, this will do.

M says

Nice but not her best. Clearly first novel, and working through some issues and wish fulfilment. Interesting plot line, the digressions into geek talk were really funny and added some levity to the proceedings, particularly in comparison to the hard drinking and unreformed father figure. Sex was hot, and I will re-read at some point.

Nikki says

When Mel's partner gets shot in front of her, she turns to her new friend Regan, who welcomes her with open arms and suggests an old fashioned American road trip to help Mel sort out what she wants out of life.

Doesn't that sound like a horrible idea? These two are barely dating and decide to take off together on a very long road trip while dealing with some rather impressive insecurities and baggage. It really should be a bad idea. And it should really bother me that they get together so quickly, as that usually drives me batty in other books. Somehow, the relationship in this book comes across as sweet instead of clingy, and O'Brien does such a good job of letting us in, that you really do want this couple to work.

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Christie says

Beautiful story

The characters were well developed, easy to relate to and very likeable. You fall in love with them as they work through their journey to accept their imperfections and discover their perfection for each other.

Book Worm says

I liked this a lot. Can the heart of the reader beat as hard as the protagonists when there is about to happen something? This happened to me when Regan got cornered by three teenage boys in Dave and Busters and she is about to face her social anxiety.

I must say, I could relate to Regan's character very much. The fear of the geek to bore people with deep philosophical thoughts, the inability for meaningless small talk and the difficulty to open up to strangers in contrast to the ability for frank openness with a select group of friends. On the other hand as a counterpart, but actually as part of a perfect symmetry Mel, who seems perfectly social but keeps other people at arm's length for fear of getting hurt. This is the constellation we have in this book and it makes an interesting read. Throughout the whole book, both characters are in a seesawing motion of insecurity and overcoming insecurity. When Mel feels inadequate it is quickly resolved by Regan's sincere and unreserved way to act. When Regan feels imperfect Mel shows an inner strength and devotion that belies her fears.

Even though one might argue that Mel overcomes her fears much too quickly, it seems believable if we take into account that another person can act as a catalyst and that when one has broken through some invisible barrier the dam is broken and everything moves very quickly almost rushing along in an unstoppable motion. I especially liked about the book that we do not have the typical "too afraid to talk to each other and resolve problems" pattern.

What can we learn from this? Friendship is a big part of love. Trust and openness are an integral part of friendship. The fear of being hurt causes more pain than the hurt itself.

Lex Kent says

4 1/2 stars. I Loved this! I believe this is the third book I have read by O'Brien, and by far my favorite. Was this an exciting book? No, but a few parts sprinkled in had excitement. Is this book too long? Yeah, a little bit. It could be cut down a few pages. But so what! I loved it anyway! This was a book about a romantic relationship from start to HEA. It was so nice to read a book that wasn't about two characters meet, but don't really like each other even as sparks fly. It wasn't about Characters getting together then the floor falls apart because of a miscommunication, lie, etc.. Then as readers we have to see how long it will take to fix the stupid miscommunication. No, this was a story about two very likable characters falling in love, and helping each other deal with painful pasts as their connection grew stronger. This is what I want to read about when I pick up a F/F romance. Don't pass this one up!

Wolgan says

Good, but this was one of her first published novels and it shows. Her later books are much more polished and well written. For a first novel though it's pretty great and you can already see her signature blend of erotica and soulful romance developing.

The obvious self insertion (Regan O'Reilly > Meghan O'Brien) pulled me out of the story a bit, but it was more amusing than irritating.

Charlie Avocado says

I didn't find the book too long at all, but I enjoy very long and immersive books. Almost wish it had been longer, the beginning definitely could have been stretched out. Enjoyed beyond measure the depth of geekdom and its representation.

Betty says

Infinite Loop by Meghan O'Brien is one of my absolute favorite books. I actually bought this book about six months ago, and as I was reading it again (for the third time) I realized I had never reviewed it. That was a serious lapse that had to be rectified.

The story is about two people who are beautiful inside and out, but who have demons from their pasts that are still affecting them to this day. The story is about them meeting, coming together as a couple and growing closer as they learn to love, help, and trust each other. It is the perfect example of a feel good romance.

I love this story (as you can tell from my reading the book over and over). It is just such a lovely romance. There are some steamy sex scenes throughout the novel. Meghan O'Brien is an expert at writing steamy sex scenes, but these are more than just sex. They are love scenes and you can feel it as you read the story. Infinite Loop has my highest recommendation and is worth at least five stars. Make sure you read this one.

Hadleigh says

If you're after a simple romance, Infinite Loop is pretty good. I totally fell in love with Regan, she's sensitive, shy, geeky, ginger, and she's a programmer (we need more programmers in fiction :)). I loved the way she was portrayed, but also the development of both characters throughout the story. Mel from untrusting and detached, and Regan from shy and self-deprecating. They're complete opposites, but emotionally perfect for each other, and in other ways too...

if Mel was lucky, she'd turn out to be one of those shy girls who were amazing in bed

If you're expecting any big twists you might be disappointed, although there were plenty of opportunities for O'Brien to make the story kick-off. Some minor gripes - a little bit cliché in places, and the first couple of chapters felt a bit robotic (it is written by a programmer after all, so I think we can let that slide).
