



## Alex and Eliza

*Melissa de la Cruz*

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**Alex and Eliza** Melissa de la Cruz

*Their romance shaped a nation. The rest was history.*

1777. Albany, New York.

As battle cries of the American Revolution echo in the distance, servants flutter about preparing for one of New York society's biggest events: the Schuylers' grand ball. Descended from two of the oldest and most distinguished bloodlines in New York, the Schuylers are proud to be one of their fledgling country's founding families, and even prouder still of their three daughters—Angelica, with her razor-sharp wit; Peggy, with her dazzling looks; and Eliza, whose beauty and charm rival that of both her sisters, though she'd rather be aiding the colonists' cause than dressing up for some silly ball.

Still, she can barely contain her excitement when she hears of the arrival of one Alexander Hamilton, a mysterious, rakish young colonel and General George Washington's right-hand man. Though Alex has arrived as the bearer of bad news for the Schuylers, he can't believe his luck—as an orphan, and a bastard one at that—to be in such esteemed company. And when Alex and Eliza meet that fateful night, so begins an epic love story that would forever change the course of American history.

## Alex and Eliza Details

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Author : Melissa de la Cruz

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# From Reader Review Alex and Eliza for online ebook

## Whitney Atkinson says

DNF at 1/3 of the way through.

I think I'll try this one again in the future but I'm really disappointed by this. The writing is not good at all. The inner monologue and explanations of the Revolutionary War is really dry and the dialogue is eye-rolling and vapid. There is absolutely no charm behind Hamilton or Eliza's characters and De La Cruz, so far, has really not fleshed them out at all.

I think my love for the musical is blinding me to enjoying this book because the versions of those characters and the sass and vivid personalities REALLY contrasts with the versions of the people portrayed in this book, and I'm torn.

I thought I would love this because it would be a cute tale of two people who I love, but it's reading more like a textbook than anything else. If I was here for that, I would just pick up Chernow's biography of Hamilton instead.

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## Tweebs♥? (semi-hiatus) says

### BEFORE READING:

? I don't know shit about Hamilton.

? But I'm interested

? SIGN ME UP

### AFTER READING:

? I still don't know shit about Hamilton.

You're probably like, "**Wtf does that make sense?**"

Yes, I don't know shit but you can't blame me. This book was straight up info dump. It just never ended. I found myself fighting off sleep like I couldn't pay attention **AND I JUST**

**SJHJSHJHJABMBMHKHSKJHSJKS**. I was supposed to like this because I wanted to understand the big hype over this Hamilton dude????? I ended up skimming majority of this book because my brain was like *"Nope, NOT TODAY!! We're not reading this."* . The only info I know about this Hamilton dude was that he was an aide-de-camp of George Washington. Now, I don't know what the fuck an aide-de-camp is and I'm 9000000% sure that somewhere within the info dump, it was explained **BUT** nah man I ended up relying on my dear buddy: **Google**.

**Aide-de-camp: a military officer acting as a confidential assistant to a senior officer.**

What else do I know???? Oh, he's young, handsome, a smart cookie, poor, handsome, young, and head over heels over this chick named Eliza.

That's all I know.

I think everyone's obsession with this Hamilton dude is his love for Eliza. I don't know like that's what I think. Don't shoot me for saying this but like, the romance was cute but annoying. It was beyond cheesy. I don't mind cheesy books but I swear, I couldn't let this one go. It was a bit too much. There were moments that had me like "*awwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww*" and then "*.....The fuck.*"

The plot was boring like.....I don't even know what the plot was. I just know this book was set in the time of war between the British and Americans. That's all.

For real, the only thing I learned from this book is that If I was born in the 1700s, I would've had such a wonderful life.....**in jail**. Nah, I'm serious. I literally imagined myself in this time period and I know 100000% sure I'm going to jail. The amount of times I found myself eye rolling at some scenes like jheeeeeez. I was like, "**I'm probably going to be the reason why that trend of growing old, single and with a million cats was created.**"

I'm such a sassy, sarcastic human being that I'd feel like if someone pointed a gun at me; I'd just say "*What you going to do???? Shoot me???*"

or this

I bet y'all \$500 that If I somehow stumble across a time machine, I'm going to end up on some floor of a jail. At least make my cell mate Chris hemsworth or something. I'd willingly go to jail. Hell, I'll walk myself in and volunteer to lock the door.

Well, I thought I'd jump in and become Hamilton trash but that's not happening. I seriously would've liked this book but I guess it's not meant. I really loved Melissa De La Cruz's other works, like I'm still not over the fact that they cancelled "*A witches of east end*". That show was amazing like who allowed it to discontinue??? Fight me ok.

I don't discourage anyone from reading this like it wasn't my cup of tea but hey, it might suit your taste. If anyone is like me then y'all should just avoid it. Or you know what, I need a cell mate because my dreams of getting Chris Hemsworth ain't going to happen so pls read this ;p

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**katwiththehat** says

Absolutely adorable YA historical fiction about Alexander Hamilton and Eliza Schuyler, who had a whirlwind romance back during the American Civil War. This was swoony and sweet with lots of chemistry

between the two leads, and I enjoyed the cute old-fashioned courtship, historical details, and Eliza's sass. Really looking forward to the sequel, which is coming out soon!

Please excuse typos/name misspellings. Entered on screen reader.

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### **Cait • A Page with a View says**

Ok, I should probably preface this by saying that I have never seen/heard that Hamilton musical...

*But* that also means I was able to approach this as a regular historical YA romance and just look at the story as it is. I didn't have any preconceived ideas about how the characters should be, so my take on it might be slightly different.

I ended up really enjoying this book! The author had to take some creative freedom with Alex and Eliza's lives, but I liked what she came up with. The story mostly spans the time between their meeting and marriage (this should not be a spoiler). There were certain areas I wanted to see *more* of in order to get more into the story, buuuut I get that it's probably hard when you have to work around real events. It was mostly just fun to see someone else's take on well-known historical figures.

I liked that we got to see the perspectives of both Alex & Eliza, too. Sometimes the dialogue was a bit cheesy, but the characters themselves still fit their age and era. The setting felt realistic as well!

My favorite part was actually the minimal stuff between Hamilton and the other soldiers. I know this is a love story (and I DID like that part), but I was more interested in Washington and the troops at times.

Mostly, I just love this time period and was thrilled to find a story that got right to the plot. Nothing is overly complex, but it also never lost my interest. It's a fast read that would probably still be fun even if you don't know a ton about American history!

Thank you to the publisher for sending me an ARC.

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### **Jessica says**

I just saw the tagline for this, and now I'm annoyed:

...the rest was history...

No, this is not history. This is make believe.

I was excited about this because, after becoming obsessed with the musical, I went on to read the Ron Chernow biography of Alexander Hamilton last summer. Chernow is clearly a great admirer of Eliza as well Alexander, and the introduction is all about her in her final years. Eliza was an amazing woman, but she did in fact destroy most of her letters and any diaries prior to his affair with Maria Reynolds, so there is no information from her end about what she felt or thought during their courtship and early marriage.

Okay, fine, we do have to speculate about what she said and thought.

We don't have to speculate, or invent, however, things like dates. Dates when they met. When they married. When Angelica and John Church eloped. So why play fast and loose with the things that are ACTUAL FACTS? This was driving me wild. Eliza was the only Schuyler who did not elope. THE ONLY ONE. Because her father and mother LOVED Alexander and thought he was the finest young man they had ever met. The second he showed interest in Eliza they were like, "Welcome to the family, my boy!" This book turns her mom into kind of a crazy, I'll-go-you-one-better-Mrs-Bennet type who writes scathing letters frankly assessing her children's looks and arranging marriages for them from across the state. There is no evidence of that, and it is just . . . weird.

I feel like this is another book, a book that de la Cruz already had an idea for and decided to rework into Eliza and Alex's story due to her own love of the musical. (There are chapter headings and even lines of dialogue that are taken from the musical, which I thought was fun.) For instance, there is no indication in anything I've read about Eliza that she liked dressing plainly and modestly. In every portrait of her, she is fully powdered and painted, and in the one her family considered the best likeness, she is not only grandly dressed and made up, but wearing a gown so low that . . . well, it's pretty low. So I feel like de la Cruz had this other girl in mind and then changed her name to Eliza. Ditto Alexander, who was known as a total player (fun fact: Martha Washington did indeed name her tom cat after him!), here coming off as shy and uncertain and just mooning around Eliza for years, rather than flirting with everything in a skirt.

Speaking of flirting, both the Marquis de Lafayette and John Laurens flirt with Eliza in this book, and talk like they are fancy free bachelors. At the time both were married and fathers. The Marquis was sent to America as punishment for eloping with his 15yo betrothed and getting her pregnant immediately instead of waiting a few years, and Laurens had just had a shotgun wedding after knocking up his father's best friend's teen daughter. Fun facts!

The book is not terrible. If I didn't know anything about Alexander and Eliza Hamilton, I would have loved it. But I spent last summer reading copious amounts of nonfiction about them, and so I could not put that aside. If you love the musical, by all means, read this. Just don't use it as a source for a history report, kids!

ps- I noticed a lot of people marking this as to-read but commenting that they hope Maria Reynolds isn't in it, because they couldn't handle that. Why would she be? Were you even paying attention to the musical?! His affair with her happened after like, fifteen years of marriage, and as far as anyone can tell was the only time he was unfaithful. Why would she be in a book about their courtship? That was just such a weird reaction. Anyway.

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## Hailey (HaileyinBookland) says

This is honestly a really hard book for me to rate and review. I have a lot of mixed feelings so it's hard for me to decide on a solid rating.

Now first off to clarify, **this is not a rip off of Hamilton the musical**. The inspiration for this came from the author seeing the musical, but it tells an entirely different story. This is just what the title says, a love story. However, it's a different love story than the one we see in Hamilton the musical (which I will be just referring to as Hamilton from here on). I'm going to take some time compare the two because really the comparisons are inevitable. In Hamilton Eliza is definitely a primary character, but in my opinion she takes a

back seat to Alexander himself and Aaron Burr, even Angelica sometimes. Love plays a key role in Hamilton but it is largely about politics, and really the story of Hamilton himself. This book on the other hand, gives Eliza more of a voice and it shows more of the struggles at the beginning of their love story. I'm not an American historian by any means, I'm not even an American, so I can't attest to the historical accuracy of the novel. From my understanding so little is known about the Eliza/Alex romance that most of the novel is just creative liberties taken on part of the author. If that is the case, I wasn't a huge fan of the route she decided to take.

I'm going to abruptly end this here because I want to do a full video review for this, I will link it once I do. But basically I liked it but I did have some real issues with it which I will delve deeper into in a video review.

*\*I received an advanced finished copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review\**

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## **Juliet-Camille says**

Wow! I really enjoyed this!

I'm a huge Hamilton fan, and let me be clear this is completely different than the musical, but still really enjoyable.

Full review to come.

PRE-READING THOUGHTS:

**Alexander Hamilton**

**His name is Alexander Hamilton**

**And there's a million things he hasn't done**

**But just you wait**

**Just you wait!!!!**

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## Romie says

Disclaimer : this review was written while listening to Hamilton. Of course. Who do you think I am?

Trigger warnings : sexual assault, forced marriage, 'she asked for it'

I really liked it?! I had read so many mix reviews, I didn't expect to actually enjoy the book, enjoy at the point of giving it at least 4 stars. But I did.

Though I thought the story would cover more of their time together, I enjoyed seeing they came to fall in love.

So I checked, and the infos in this book are pretty accurate - well history speaking, no one really knows what happened between these two during February 1780, and the conversations are work of fiction - like it's said in the acknowledgment.

Okay, let's admit, I read this book simply because I love the Hamilton musical and just needed more content . . . also I love Eliza and Alex's story - well the beginning at least, not the past where he cheated on her . . . but this isn't the subject of this review.

Do you know how hard it is to imagine Alexander Hamilton as this young ginger dude when you have Lin-Manuel Miranda in your head? The struggle was real, but in the end I SUCCEEDED!

I love me some deep blushing Alex Hamilton when he sees/talks to Eliza. I forgot they were my age when they met! - which means they were babies -

It's hard to talk about him as a character when he really existed, but for the sake of this review we'll do as if he's fictional, okay? Otherwise I'll never be able to write something. Same goes for all the other characters. Alex has no title, a name that means nearly nothing compared to some others, close to no money. His only way to shine in this life, is to fight in the war and win glory through his actions. But for the old aristocracy, glory means scarcely anything. When he meets Eliza, though he loves her, he doesn't think he deserves her, doesn't think he's enough because somehow his lack of name and money defines his worth. He's fighting against his own mind during the entirety of the book. People keep telling him he's not even American because he comes from the Caribbean Islands, that he'll always be a low born with no worth. How nice. Yet he's more brilliant than all of these people reunited, more resourceful, and is actively working for their freedom and slaves' freedom.

Eliza is my hero? I want to be her when I grow up?! I love how strong-minded she is, she doesn't let people tell her what she should do, she leads her life the way she wants it . . . she's someone I admire for her strength. Eliza is my favourite sister - Angelica is hitting on my nerves, and Peggy is cute but she is 'and Peggy' . . . which means we don't know much about her unfortunately - even the face of adversity she stays true to herself and fight for what she thinks is the right thing to do. She's conflicted between marrying someone she actually loves, or marrying a rich guy to help her family, conflicted between doing what's best for her and her loyalty to her family, conflicted between what she thinks is her duty as her daughter and her duty to herself.

She's my fave because she's complex, she's flawed - her pride knows no equal - but she's deeply kind-hearted and generous . . . she's someone you recognize yourself in.

The relationship between Eliza and Alex was cute, but you could see it was a YA Romance, you could all the tropes - it wouldn't have been fun otherwise - but I didn't really mind. I loved how Eliza always put herself first, and how Alex treated her as an equal. I loved their friendship, their playfulness, you could see they were made to be together.



One more thing I loved about this book, was the friendships! I loved the friendship between Lafayette, Laurens and Hamilton! They're troublemakers together, you can see how deep their friendship is and how much they mean to each other! I also like the friendship between Eliza and her aunt. It was something I wasn't expecting but I liked it! Her aunt was a true force of nature and I liked how unafraid she was when she had to protect Eliza.

Overall, I had a GREAT time reading this book! It was heavily romanticized but I didn't really care because I liked what I read and had a great time!

*"I meant does it hurt when you hide every last shred of your individuality and self worth behind acres of silk and cups of powder and smiles that never, no matter how hard you try, reach your eyes?"*

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### **Bookgirl says**

11/2/16:

I WILL NEVER BE SATISFIED UNTIL I READ THIS BOOK

NO, I'M NOT WILLING TO WAIT FOR IT

WHEN I TALK ABOUT WANTING THIS BOOK NONSTOP, EVERYONE WILL SAY, "WE KNOW"

I HOPE I CAN STAY ALIVE AFTER FINISHING IT

I JUST WANT TO READ THIS BOOK; THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH

WHEN DID THIS NEWS COME OUT? WHAT'D I MISS?

AFTER THIS BOOK, WHAT COMES NEXT?

I WON'T BE ABLE TO SAY NO TO (BUYING) THIS BOOK

I WON'T TAKE A BREAK WHILE READING THIS BOOK

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### **Ryan says**

WOAH, WOAH, WOAH. HOLD UP. IS THIS WHAT I THINK IT IS? A YA RETELLING OF **HAMILTON**? FUCK YES, I NEEDED THIS YESTERDAY.

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### **Kimi says**

HOW DID I NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS!!!!

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### **\*TANYA\* says**

Exquisite!!!! A truly great and very endearing love story. The honor, self sacrifice, and era are reminiscent of Pride and Prejudice. I was not expecting to love it so much. A must read if you're a Jane Austen fan!!!

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## Stacee says

I will admit that everything I know about Hamilton I've learned from LMM, and perhaps that's my own downfall going into this book. I wanted to love this so much.

I wanted to see the delicious banter that is hinted at in the musical. Instead, Angelica comes across as bitter, Peggy insipid, and Eliza naive. I saw nothing of the smart, charismatic girls I was expecting. Yes, the moments between Alex and Eliza are eventually sweet, there is a lot of book to get through before those moments happen.

The history side of the story is dull, dense, and info dumpy. I skimmed through a lot of it because I was bored. I kept reading because I expected something amazing to happen and yet I never found it. Oh and FYI: (view spoiler)

I'm sure people will love it, it just wasn't for me.

**\*\*Huge thanks to G.P. Putnam and Sons for providing the arc free of charge\*\***

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## may ❀ says

i don't know anything about Hamilton™ the musical ~~OOOPS~~ but i'm still hella interested in this book

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## emi says

### *2.5/5 stars*

I would be giving this book two stars, as it was so incredibly boring, but it was full of Hamilton references and that alone bumps it up a star.

Overall, this book almost put me asleep multiple times. This was not written by Lin-Manuel Miranda, and, for some reason, my heart was expecting it was. In other words, this is nothing like Hamilton. If you hope to enjoy it, then I would suggest should disconnecting both stories from your mind and see them as separate entities. I didn't. I should have known better.

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