



## Out of Control

*Sarah Alderson*

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## **Out of Control** Sarah Alderson

When 17 year old Liva witnesses a brutal murder she's taken into police custody for her own protection. But when the police station is attacked and bullets start flying it becomes clear that Liva is not just a witness, she's a target.

Together with a car thief called Jay, Liva manages to escape the massacre but now the two of them are alone in New York, trying to outrun and outwit two killers who will stop at nothing to find them.

When you live on the edge, there's a long way to fall.

## **Out of Control Details**

Date : Published May 22nd 2014 by Simon & Schuster UK

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Author : Sarah Alderson

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## From Reader Review Out of Control for online ebook

### Booknut says

*'For a moment it's hard to tell what's real and what's not. It's like watching a television show. But I can't tell which side of the screen I'm on any more.'*

Sarah Alderson works her story-telling magic again, in *Out of Control* - a novel that is fast-paced and super-duper addictive. Get caught in the mystery and prepare yourself for the chase of your life!

**WARNING: this book features a guy character that is hotter than a habanero chilli. Ladies, prepare to swoon.**

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### Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

This was my first full length novel by Alderson and to say the least, I was pretty ramped up about it. I was so looking for something action packed and adventures by the time I picked this up and that I was in anticipation to dive into a good solid mystery and was seriously hoping Alderson would deliver in *Out of Control*.

And oh boy did she deliver! This was truly a nonstop action packed thriller with just the right amount of romance to really get your heart pumping.

I adored Jay and Liva both and lately that seems to be rare in books like these, where I like all the main characters but these two were just so fleshed out that it was impossible not to like them.

So many twists, turns, and deceptions that this left me always on my toes flipping the pages eager for more.

This may have been my first Alderson book but it most certainly won't be my last. I loved every single thrill ride moment of it.

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### Jasprit says

3.5 stars

It seems like ages that I last devoured a full length novel by Sarah Alderson. Her novellas from her Lila series have since been keeping me occupied, but I couldn't wait to get my hands on her latest thrilling release.

*Out of Control* was definitely a lot different than what I was expecting it to be; it had a great mystery, lots of suspense and of course swoony characters. Liva finds herself in the wrong place at the wrong time, the Goldman's who were meant to be looking after her ended up dead, Liva barely made it out and to the police station. What is meant to be a secure place, ends up being attacked to with police officers dead all over the place, a suspect who was bought in whilst Liva was sharing her story with a cop, ends up being the one who

helps her to get out on the run from who knows what. Liva had a lot to deal with in a small amount of time, she's only been in New York for a week, her dad is in Ghana and her mum in Oman, and she's all alone and has a mad gunman for who knows what reason chasing her. And she has to trust some guy who she doesn't know and who can be a criminal of all sorts.

I liked how we were thrown into the mix of things right from the beginning, Liva had to rely on a guy she only just met and we were left guessing what was going on right until the very end. Despite things being very tense early on, Alderson was able to infuse some great light hearted scenes through Jay's character (the supposed criminal Liva meets). Liva was quick to make judgements about his character, but he was forever thoughtful risking his and his family's life to help protect Liva, but he also had a cheeky sense of humour too. He could easily lighten a dire situation with his cheeky comments and have your brain getting ahead of itself and thinking things that you wouldn't have considered (I really found myself blushing on so many occasions). Liva and Jay also did end up making an incredible team together, with your life in danger and being thrown together with some random hot guy, could throw anyone off, but Liva and Jay slowly began to trust one another and form a brilliant relationship.

Alderson had a lot going on in this book, but she was able to work it all well together. If you're looking for a fast paced story, with a guy who will create all the swoons with his dimpled grin and a mystery that will keep you continually guessing, I recommend giving Out of Control a go!

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### **April (Aprilius Maximus) says**

SO GOOD. EVERYTHING SHE WRITES IS AMAZING.

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### **Sarah says**

#### **2.5 stars**

This was an okay story, but the main characters were just stupid at times.

Liva and Jay were both okay characters on the surface, and I did like them a little bit, but their poor decisions just really started to annoy me after a while. Even when Jay said something intelligent one moment, he then went and did something that totally went against what he said! Why keep doing things that you know will get you caught?

The storyline in this was book was also annoying for the same reason. Even though this pair were trying to evade whoever was after them, they kept doing things that kept alerting the bad guys to where they were and what they were doing! Why go to somewhere where it is obvious that you will go? Why make phone calls that are traceable?

There was some romance, and there was one particularly steamy scene, which was actually pretty entertaining!

The ending to this did have a bit of a twist that I didn't expect, but it still didn't make me love this book. Overall; okay story, but the characters made some stupid decisions.

## Rashika (is tired) says

### Actual Rating 3.5

\*\*\**This review has also been posted on The Social Potato*

**If nothing else, one can always count on Sarah to deliver a book that is fun.** This book is far from perfect but in spite of all the issues I had, I still ended up enjoying it and I wouldn't expect anything less from Sarah because to this day, I haven't read a single book by her that I didn't enjoy.

**This book, like her Lila series, is full of action and will keep you on your toes and on the edge of your seat trying to figure out what will happen next.**

**Her characters, for the most part, are pretty lovable but Liva could be hard to get behind at times.** I absolutely loved how she was willing to take a lead and while she needed help, and WANTED it too, she could actually take care of herself. Her emotional baggage, however, could at times be tiresome. I felt like if she hadn't been so set against not feeling and constantly feeling guilty, it would have been easier for me to enjoy her character a lot more.

**Jay on the other hand was pretty damn awesome,** like the rest of Sarah's love interests. **He was swoon worthy and oh-so-sweet.** I loved how supportive he was but at the same time I was a little surprised by his willingness to help her. It could just be the cynic in me but I wouldn't usually risk my life to help someone I had just met, but again, had he not helped her the story would have been completely different and most likely not nearly as enjoyable. My only other qualm with him was when he said he was a fast learner and asked Liva to hand him a gun. Yeah.. no. You cannot be a fast learner when it comes to guns because there are so many rules you need to know before you can actually use a gun safely. It bothered me a little when he said that but not nearly enough to take away from my overall love for his character.

The one thing I cannot make up my mind about, even now, is the romance. **It had an insta-love feel to it** especially when Liva went on and on about how he made her feel again after she had forced herself to stop feeling. Add to that the fact that they had barely known each other for a day so I definitely ended up having issues with the romance but at the same time, I enjoyed it. It's probably Sarah working her magic and making me like something that would have usually ended up becoming a huge problem for me and would have ended up taking from my overall experience of the book but Sarah knows how to captivate her readers so that wasn't really a huge problem.

**The plot didn't let me down.** I saw the major plot twist coming from miles away, but even so, when it was finally revealed, my heart was beating erratically and I was biting my fingernails and trying to read as fast as I possibly could to get to the bottom of it. It was just so well done. It was full of action and there wasn't a single minute when I was bored. There were some situations that were probably unrealistic but it just works. Sarah knows how to make it work.

**Even with my problems,** *Out of Control* was a thoroughly entertaining read and it also dealt with an important issue in today's world, **human trafficking.** It was one of my most anticipated reads and while I'll admit to being let down, I still enjoyed it and thought it was totally worth it. Reading it did make me

extremely nostalgic for the Lila series though.

I'd definitely recommend this to anyone who wants a quick read that while is not the best thing ever, will not fail to keep readers on their toes and will grasp their attention and not let go until the end.

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### **Sarah says**

When the people she is staying with are murdered Liva is taken into protective custody while the police try to figure out who was behind their deaths. Before she can even finish giving her statement the police station is attacked and Liva finds herself in the middle of a gun fight. She escapes with the help of a car thief called Jay but now the two of them have to stay one step ahead of the killers who will do whatever it takes to find her. Can Liva and Jay figure out who the killers are before they end up the last in a long line of victims?

It's no secret that **Sarah Alderson** is one of my favourite authors, I've devoured all of her books and loved every one of them so I couldn't wait to get started on **Out of Control**. I think this is her most action-packed book to date, the intensity is high from the very beginning and it doesn't let up until the end, I actually have to thank Sarah for yet another lost night of sleep because I just couldn't put it down!

Liva is a fantastic main character, she is smart and incredibly kick ass. She grew up with bodyguards and has had self defence training since she was a young girl so she knows how to stand up for herself. As a dancer she is physically fit but she is also mentally tough and her ex-military father taught her to use every weapon available to her - not just guns or knives but also her brain. Liva is thrown into a nightmare situation and she comes very close to losing it in the beginning but once her brain has time to catch up with what is going on she really starts to come into her own. She takes control of the situation and starts to make plans to ensure her own safety.

Jay was at the police station after getting arrested for car theft and now they're on the run he's technically a wanted criminal but there is a lot more to him than first meets the eye. I don't want to say too much about his character because it's better for you to discover his secrets for yourself but he was nothing like I imagined he would be and I loved how protective he was of Liva even when she was pretty much a stranger to him. He is the kind of guy who goes out of his way to help others even when that means putting himself at risk and you have to admire that about him.

**Out of Control** is a fast-paced thrill ride that kept me on the edge of my seat and it has some fantastic twists guaranteed to shock you. **Sarah Alderson** touches on some very difficult issues in a way that enhances the story without overwhelming it. There is a hint of romance but since the story happens over such a short period of time the characters don't fall madly in love by the end of the book which is something I found much more realistic. Liva and Jay have been thrown together and they have to learn to trust each other quickly, they share some fantastically intense kisses but the focus of the story isn't on them falling in love. Although this story works well as a stand alone I'd actually love to revisit these characters in the future. If you're looking for a pacey thriller with non-stop action, great characters and a fantastic setting then look no further - I can't recommend this one highly enough!

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### **Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says**

Bailiff: Hear ye, hear ye! Court will now come to order! Please stand for your judge, the Honorable...

\*Khanh beckons, whispers into Bailiff's ears\*

Bailiff: ...make that the Dishonorable Khanh. All rise! Your Dishonor...where's your gavel?

Khanh: Lost it. I'm using this hammer instead. I think it's appropriate. Close enough.

Bailiff: ...

Khanh: We are here in **The Reader's Court** for the pre-trial of **Readers vs. Liva**, the 17-year old main character of *Out of Control*. She stands here accused of being **a dumbass**. What are the detailed charges?

Bailiff: There are 19 charges, your dishonor. She stands accused of racial profiling, slut-shaming, girl-on-girl hate...

Khanh: Ain't nobody got time for that. Make it brief. Keep it to 4.

Bailiff: She stands accused of:

1. Showing all signs of being a **Mary fucking Sue**
2. Falling in love with **complete fucking douchebag** full of...

\*pauses\* Your Dishonor, do I really have to read this?

Khanh: YES

Bailiff: ...full of...UNF...CUBAN MACHEESMO.

Khanh: Attaboy.

Bailiff:

3. Having **the wrong fucking priorities** all the fucking time
4. Having dumb fucking trains of thoughts. \*hesitates\* CHOO CHOO.

\*pauses\* Your Dishonor, are these charges correct? I don't recall so much profanity being used in any of the pleadings that I've...

Khanh: YES THEY ARE. Wait a minute. Did you say racial profiling?

Bailiff: Yes, your Dishonor.

Khanh: Ok, I'm curious now. Go on, man. What's up with that, yo? Let me read through this briefing.

\*pauses\* You gotta be fucking kidding me, girl. Did you really think the guy's a gang member because he's Latin-American looking and **carries a fucking bandana**?

Liva: Um...

Khanh: YEAH, DUDE, NO. LOOK HERE. And I quote:

*It's then that I notice the bandana hanging out the back pocket of his jeans. I know what that little scrap of material signifies. He's a gang member. I shake my head to myself.*

See? What the fuck is that? Racist much?! Guuuuuuurl.

And look here again. A Latin-American woman, of course you think she's fat and speaks with an accent. Of course every Latino and Latina in the book is horribly **stereotypically portrayed**. Look here, did you really think a fucking Latin American woman would talk like this?

*'She'll stand out like a habanero chilli in an ice-cream store if she goes dressed like that,' Marissa snaps back.*

Seriously? **SERIOUSLY?**

Liva: I swear I'm not racist, your honor! I mean, **I went to an international school!** I was born and raised abroad. I lived most of my life in Oman and Nigeria! I've had a great education! I'm really, really smart!

But um, your Dishonor...where's the jury? **Aren't I entitled to a fair jury trial here?**

Khanh: This is 'Murica. Our fair trial is by name only. I am your **judge, jury, and executioner**.

Liva: THIS ISN'T FAI---

Khanh: \*loudly interrupts\* SO HERE ARE THE CONTEXT OF YOUR CHARGES. You are a **17 year old beauty who is being pursued by people wanting to kill you**. Naturally, you run away with a guy you thought **might be a potential murderer**, since the first time you saw him, **he was in handcuffs in the Homicide Department**. Is that correct?

Liva: \*gulps\* Yes, your Dishonor...but---

Khanh: NO BUTS. See **Exhibit 1**. You **thought he was a killer**. And you **ran away with him anyway**.

*I contemplate for the first time the fact that I'm sitting in a stolen unmarked police car with a murderer who I just helped escape from custody.*

Where's your fucking fancy international education now? Did it serve you well? I WENT TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL WITH 2000 STUDENTS.

Liva: You're sounding rather angry. I can't help it if my parents are rich.

Khanh: I'm not angry because you're rich. I'm angry because you're **a Mary Sue**.

Live: \*splutters\* Your Dishonor, please! I am not!

Khanh: You're not, eh? \*leans off her podium and glares\* ARE YOU DENYING THE FACT THAT YOU'RE AS GOOD AS AN ORPHAN, WITH BOTH PARENTS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES?

Liva: No, your Dishonor...

Khanh: ARE YOU DENYING THE FACT THAT YOU'VE ALWAYS FELT DIFFERENT, THAT NOBODY CAN EVER UNDERSTAND YOUR HEART AND SOUL?

Liva: No, your Dishonor...

Khanh: ARE YOU DENYING THE FACT THAT YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL, WITH A BALLET DANCER'S FIGURE THAT'S FUCKING FLAWED. FLAWED!!!!!!!!!!!! BECAUSE IT'S TOO THIN, YET TOO CURVY? LOOK AT FUCKING **EXHIBIT 2!!!!!!**

*'You got what my mum would call good posture. And your legs. You have a dancer's legs.'  
I don't naturally have a ballet dancer's build. I've got boobs and hips for a start, long legs but also a long torso.*

Liva: I really am not beautiful, I mean **I have all these freakish red hair and stupid slanted, exotic eyes inherited from my Slavic mother.**

Khanh: SAVE IT, BITCH. ONTO THE NEXT CHARGE. You **fell in love with an asshole.** Is that correct?

Live: No, your Dishonor! I would never!!!!

Khanh: LIAR! LIAR!!!! LOOK AT THIS!!!! Throughout the entire fucking book, **he ogles you like a fucking douche.** Not once. Not twice, a million times over. Exhibit 3!!!!!!

*I feel his eyes skimming the top of my breasts.*

And Exhibits 3A-3ZZZZZZZ. All examples of him **ogling you like a fucking jailbird who hasn't seen a woman in 30 years of solitary confinement.** Then there are examples of him **acting like a fucking asshat and commenting about other women's weight.** EXHIBIT 4.

*'You got no worries there. You should see my cousin Maria. She's one Krispy Kreme away from having her own zip code.'*

Liva: But your honor! He's in love with me! He respects me!

Khanh: WRONG AGAIN! SEE EXHIBIT 5!

*'You don't drink coffee, don't take sugar, don't eat cream. What are you,' he asks through his mouthful, 'anorexic?'*

RESPECTING YOU DOESN'T MEAN HE SIMULTANEOUSLY ACCUSES YOU OF BEING ANOREXIC WHILE CALLING ANOTHER GIRL FAT.

Speaking of which...**your fucking priorities.** Where the fuck are they? You are being chased by god knows how many people. **All of whom want to murder you or kidnap you.** Where the fuck is your head concentrated?

I'll tell you where. **Jaime's muscles.** Pronounced HIIIIIIII-MEEEEEEEEE. HI! ME! LOOK AT ME! LOOK AT HIM! THAT'S ALL YOU FUCKING DO.

Right after you just witnessed a multiple homicide. You notice his fucking good looks. Exhibit 6.

*I could easily imagine him gracing a billboard advertising some hipster fashion brand. Instead, I think to myself, he's posing for mug shots.*

Right after you almost got murdered again. Exhibit 7.

*I note the strips of muscle running the length of his arms and the fact that they are trembling ever so slightly.*

As you're about to break and enter. Exhibit 8.

*He headed on around to the front modelling the NYPD sweater and a swagger straight out of Miami Vice.*

Wondering what to do and where to go next. Exhibit 9.

*I notice the beads of water still clinging to his hair and the fact that his T-shirt is sticking to him like a second layer of skin, revealing every line of muscle.*

FINDING OUT THAT JAAAAAAAAAAAAAIME IS IN DEEP DEEP SHIT. Exhibit 10.

*I put a hand on his forearm, feeling the hardness of muscle, rigid with anger.*

It's like every single fucking action you made has to emphasize **his hard fucking muscles**. He has muscles! I GET IT! I DO, TOO. WE ALL DO. GET THE FUCK OVER IT. PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO KILL YOU!!!!!!

\*hyperventilates\*

Liva: Your dishonor! I swear it wasn't my fault. I didn't mean to fall in love with him! Look at Exhibit 11!

*I don't fall for guys. I don't fall. Period.*

Khanh: BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU FUCKING DID. FOR THE ENTIRE FUCKING NOVEL YOU FALL INTO INSTA-LOVE WITH A DOUCHEBAG/CRIMINAL WITH A HEART OF GOLD. CAN YOU BE ANY MORE FUCKING CLICHÉD?!

Liva: I'm a teenager, your Dishonor! I can't help it if my hormones get the better of me!

Khanh: Fine, you can't be blamed for your emotions, BUT HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN YOUR TERRIBLE WAY OF THINKING? My god, girl, your **metaphors and similes are straight out of bullshit university**. EXHIBIT 12 AND 13!!!!

*He's watching me with a mixture of wariness and worry, as though I'm an unexploded landmine.*

*He's staring at me fiercely, his jaw clenching and unclenching as though he's trying to dislodge a tooth.*

Khanh: ENOUGH! ENOUGH! BURN HER! BURN HER!!!!

\*Khanh jumps off her podium and begins to chase Liva\*

Liva: Your Dishonor! This is really quite uncalled---

\*Khanh smashes Liva into oblivion\*

Khanh: Hmm. Interesting. She survived countless murderers, but not one lonely book reviewer. Whatever. I did you all a favor anyway.

Bailiff: \*splattered with blood\* **C...c...court a--adjourned.**

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### **Nereyda (Nick & Nereyda's Infinite Booklist) says**

Bad guys, hoy guy, Kick ass girl, danger, being on the run and so much action and chemistry, I swear this book was made especially for me. I'll just pretend it was. These are some of my favorite kind of storylines and I was so excited when I first heard about this book on Sara's (@ Forever 17 Books) WOW post. Then I saw that this book was inspired was inspired by Ryan Gosling in Drive and I immediately added it to my 'OMG I want it now!' shelf on Goodreads. I was shocked and excited when I got an email from the author asking me if I wanted a review copy. It felt like a trick question. After politely replying 'hell yes!' I added this to the top of my TBR and read it as soon as I was finished reading my current book. This book and I, it was like love at first sight.

The book starts with a bang when the family friends that Liva is staying with at in New York are murdered and she witnesses the murderers. She's taken to the police station to give her statement where she meets Jay, who is also there under arrest. In the middle of her statement, the police station is attacked and after witnessing several police officers getting shot or killed, Liva help Jay out of his cuffs and they make a run for it. When they are attacked again, it becomes clear that someone is after Liva. Instead of leaving Liva on her own, Jay stays with Liva since he helped him from escaping the police station and getting shot. On their own in New York City and on the run, Jay and Liva must stay one step ahead from the killers who will stop at nothing to catch them. With no one to trust, they have to learn to trust each other if they plan on making it out alive.

I love action in my books, but I sometimes feel bored just 'reading' about the action going on. Sarah Alderson truly has a gift because I could almost visualize all the action scenes and car speed chases. The action was intense and on-the-edge-of-your-seat-exciting! I also loved the vivid way New York City was described. I ended up Googling some of the places and loved being able to have a picture to put with setting. The plot had some pretty shocking twists and turns that had me addicted. I loved the chemistry between Liva and Jay and how it slowly progressed from barely tolerating each other to trusting each other. The chemistry between them was yummy and I loved how it slowly grew, even though they hadn't known each other that long. One of my favorite scenes involved kissing and guns. See, I told you this book was made for me :)

He shifts his weight slightly and his thigh presses against my hip. I draw in a breath. My free hand- the one not holding the gun, rests on his upper chest. I slide it up and over his shoulder and with my eyes still on him I pull him even closer, until he's pressed completely against me and I can feel the hardness of muscle through his T-shirt and his jeans. My heart explodes in my chest as I tilt my head back further, reaching on tiptoe, and his mouth finds mine in the darkness.

His kiss is hard, full of heat, uncontrolled.

I've heard so many great things about Alderson's Losing Lila series and after reading this, I'm really excited to read the series. She is also releasing a New Adult book, Come Back To Me under the pen name Mila Gray, which I'm also excited to read. It's no surprise that I loved this book and I'm bummed that Amazon doesn't carry a print copy so that I can buy one for my shelves. I'll definitely be keeping an eye out for it though. While the ending wrapped up nicely, it left an opening for a possible sequel. I'm really hoping that there will be a sequel because I can't get enough of Jay and Liva and I want more! If you like action, romance and a some danger thrown into the mix, you won't want to miss out on Out of Control!

## **5 out of 5 stars!**

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## **Kaya says**

I don't understand what kind of editor would let this book to be published. The plot is full of holes, the protagonist is plainly stupid and the romantic relationship is so forced and without any basis, that my head hurts from constantly rolling my eyes. The book is a complete waste of time and I recommend it to no one.

Olivia is being hunted and her guardians are killed, which is why she is taken to the police station where all police station gets killed by a supposed hitman. Therefore, Olivia escapes with the guy who he is handcuffed next table in the homicide department. Wise, right? When she runs away and has the chance to stay as far as possible from the possible murderer, she doesn't, of course. She starts to have feelings for him, because he's hot.

Honestly, nothing about this book seems realistic. Why would I care about the stupid twist with her father when I know nothing about him nor their relationship. Since the central plot is whether the protagonist lives or dies, how am I supposed to care about her destiny if the author didn't dedicate any time to make me empathize with her? This book is just horrible. Where is the tension? Where is the fear for their lives? Where is the action? Where is anything else besides sitting in a cozy apartment and eating pasta? The entire story lacks of consistency and validity and nothing makes much sense.

Olivia constantly had the wrong priorities. Being an angsty rich girl with her frequent waves of racism, shallowness, absence of logic and shots of nebulous stereotypes, it was really hard for me to believe how she escaped trained and experienced assassins. If anything, I was cheering for them to get to her.

Both Olivia and Jay were idiots. Honestly, I lost count on how many stupid ideas they had and how many times they backfired. Also, I'm not sure that Olivia respects him much since she thought he's a gang member just because he's a Latin American and carries a bandana. Of course, it didn't ring any bell that she found him in a homicide department. His only purpose in the book was to be a love interest, and even that wasn't particularly praiseworthy. Near the end, there was a cheap use of suicide attempt as a plot device to bring protagonist and love interest closer., which made me really angry.

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## **Sarah Alderson says**

US BLOGGERS! I have ARCS to give away so if you want one send me a message or leave a comment!

The idea for the book came from a few things - Ryan Gosling in Drive ;) and the opening scene, which is a massacre in a police station, is a homage to one of my favorite movies growing up - Terminator!

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## **Anna Luce says**

★★★★★

Holy shit,  
that was intense!

Out of Control is a page-turner! From the first chapter I was instantly sucked into the story.

### Story/Plot

The action starts off immediately, Liva flees the police station with Jay and from there it just keeps getting better. **The growing danger kept me at the edge of my seat!**

But it's not all action, Out of Control is also about the quickly developing **relationship** between Liva and Jay, two young people who come from very different places and have to work together to **survive**.

Liva life changes dramatically in the course of a night, every emotion, thought, need she has seems more *intense* because of the **life&death** situation she's in.

Between the action and the romance there is also a spark of **humor** and **tragedy**, more than once Liva questions everything she knows making her situation even more believable.

Out of Control has also a few **plot-twists** that made me very **emotionally unstable emotional...**

(view spoiler)

The ending left me **wanting more** but overall it fitted **perfectly** with the story.

Also kudos for **diversity** and **accents!**

### Characters

#### **Liva**

One of my **favorite** contemporary **MC**.

She has always lived *differently* from most people her age, she has just moved to New York and while her father is out of the country she stays with some of his friends. Then her world is completely and irrevocably changed.

She knows that there are people coming after her and without any time to waste she has to **outwit** them. **She's clever, determined, resolute, kick-ass, funny I loved her from the very start -she's more than the rich well spoken girl people may initially think of. I mean she knows self-defense and how to charge an M4 -the assault rifle!**

#### **Jay**

Holy mother of **swoons**.

He's just...

Like Liva he's so much more than what he appears to be. His character development is one of the best parts of the book.

**He's flirty, sweet, funny, brave...what more do you need?**

### Romance

I'm *usually* not a huge fan of **fast** growing romances but in this case I was **all for it**.

Like I've already said/written they come from two completely different worlds yet they are similar to each other in their bravery and strong will.

Their **bond was a joy** to read, they have to rely and trust each other.

And the *sexual tension* between them was the cherry on the cake.

**Overall Out of Control was absolutely freaking brilliant!**

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### **Jen Ryland says**

I love thrillers. As I've said many times, teen thrillers often have (inevitable) believability issues. While

this book was able to convince me that a teenage girl *could* be a gun-wielding badass, the overall plot was a little sketchy. Though I admired that the book tried to highlight the problem of human trafficking, that part of the plot wasn't terribly convincing. Ditto for a gang subplot that made the gang members (the Latin Blades) seem like something out of West Side Story.

The book featured one of those "thrown together and might die so let's get it on" insta-relationships, but the romance had its sweet moments, with Liva being more of the pursuer and Jay more reluctant. (Liva's continued obsession with her tantalizing glimpse of Jay's man parts at a time when they were running for their lives did make me snort a few times.) There was a twist that most readers will see a mile away. It seemed obvious that Jay's gang plot and Liva's narrow escapes from death had to have a connection, and there was really only one thing that made sense.

And yet, I enjoyed this. It was a fast-paced piece of brain candy with a surprisingly sweet romance (if you don't mind a little narrow-escape-from-death induced insta-lust) and some funny banter between Liva and Jay. I also loved the part about Liva's former bodyguard.

P.S. I do not accept Liva as a nickname for Olivia. Livvie? Liv? Livia? Ollie? Why was this so distracting to me?

*Thanks to the publisher for providing an advance copy for review!*

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### **Abbie says**

(I received a copy from Edelweiss, in exchange for an honest review.)

#### **Actual rating - 2.25**

This started out alright, but it went downhill.

I felt sorry for Liva, as she went through quite a bit in this. Other than feeling sorry for her though, i thought she was an idiot, and so was Jay. I lost count on how many stupid ideas they had.

The first few chapters of this were good, but after that it went downhill. I was bored, I had a headache because Liva and Jay's stupidity was annoying me so much, and i just wanted the book to be over.

Overall, Not a very enjoyable read for me.

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### **Shannon (Once Upon a Twilight) says**

Sarah Alderson has done it again! Out of Control had my mind reeling, jaw dropping and loving the blossoming romance. I loved every second of it. Time flew by when I was reading this. One minute I was at

3% and the next it was 97%, I had to double take because I couldn't believe how fast time had gone by!

Liva (Olivia), a girl traumatized as a murder witness, meets Jay who's also at the police station, though his reasons are vastly different to hers. She's a witness to a murder; he's getting done for grand theft auto. Then dangerous circumstances bring them together and the find themselves running for their lives, and not fully understanding why.

The action gets your heart pumping- even if action isn't your thing- and routing for Liva and Jay. Speaking of Liva.. bad ass female, anyone? She sure can kick ass. What I loved about her is she starts off as being portrayed as this innocent, naïve girl but blossoms into an independent, smart, looks-can-be-deceiving woman. What does that tell you? Don't judge a book by its cover, people! And Jay, I loved his humour. More than once I found myself smiling away at what he'd said. Typical double meaning/dirty minded teenager.

As the story gets on things start to unravel, things start clicking into place. If there's one thing Sarah's good at, it's the plot twists. Never, in any of her books, do I expect what I get. I gasp (and curse a little) with a "did not expect that one coming" when all is revealed. My heart broke a little for Olivia, then swelled for Jay. But the ending was perfect. This is definitely one of my 2014 favourites!

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