



## **Into My Arms**

*Lia Riley*

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## Into My Arms Lia Riley

You're here because I want to touch you."

Beth Jacobs spends her days slogging away in a corporate "fish bowl," as the hard-working assistant for one of North America's youngest dot-com billionaires. Aleksander "Z" Zavtra is the definition of dark and dangerous with a sexy Eastern European snarl. He's also ruthless. Curt. Exacting. An infuriating man she loves to hate. While Beth hardly sees him, it's as if he's always watching her . . .

Z doesn't do romance. But he never expected to be captivated by a whip-smart, fiery assistant who just so happens to share an uncanny resemblance to the beautiful face that haunts his dreams. He craves Beth. He wants to stroke her skin, to feel her heat beneath him. And what Z wants, he gets. And for one weekend, the lines between employer and employee are blurred as Z and Beth give themselves completely to the dark pleasures they've both been dreaming about.

## Into My Arms Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Lia Riley

Format :

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Novella, Contemporary

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# From Reader Review Into My Arms for online ebook

## Rhea Dsouza says

Talk about a book that ended fast...way too fast. So fast, that I didn't have enough time to connect with it. *This* is precisely why the idea of novellas about secondary characters don't sit too well with me. I'm a fan of the 300 odd page love story—the beginning, the middle, the conflict, the reunion—and I probably always will be. Which is why, for me to accept that a full length's worth of story has been cramped into a 150 page novella, and then to actually *like said novella* is something that causes me a physical ache in my chest.

Keeping all this in mind, I'd say I *liked Into My Arms*. It wasn't a bad book by any means and it made me so, so happy to *finally* see Beth and Z's story. However, I also wouldn't say this was Lia Riley's best work. Maybe I feel this way because it was too short, or because the story itself felt a bit unlike the author's usual MO, but something definitely felt off. And I didn't like that one bit.

The story is about the mysterious hero, Z, owner of Zavtra Tech, surveillance aficionado, and his lady love Beth, whom we know as being one of Talia's best friends, and personal assistant to Z. Except, she hasn't seen him, not really. Sure they talk, a lot, but strictly business and only through messages on a computer. Basically, she works for messages on a screen.

And then, one evening, both their lives are turned upside down when Z invites Beth over to his place for a bit of TLC. As secrets are revealed on both sides and Beth understands why exactly Z cannot stand to be touched, she can't resist falling for this elusive, beautiful man who makes her *feel*. As for their chemistry, they were *okay*. *\*cringes\** I've read better literary couples, I really have, and I found myself boarding the Sunny-Tanner ship. But this one? Yeah...not so much.

Again, I didn't hate the book. In fact, I loved the writing that felt both typically Off The Map but also a thing of its own. But I wouldn't say that I really connected with the characters either. I'm more of a talk-it-out romance lover and this book was basically love-through-sex. I'm not against it, but it just isn't for me. So there was that. Also, Z's history was really fascinating and regardless of whether or not I liked the book, I appreciated a chance to once and for all have a glimpse into the life of this man who essentially solved most of Bran and Talia's problems in Inside Out.

As far as novellas go, I've read better and I've most definitely read worse. I'm a teensy bit disappointed with the lack of *real* chemistry and the length was absurdly short. I can only hope for better if at all the author decides to pursue some other character's story from the series.

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## Kim says

Find this review and more at [kimberlyfaye reads](#) .

As I said in my review for Carry Me Home, I'm sad I didn't read this Off the Map novella sooner. But, I'm still glad I read it now. It was nice to get more from the four major secondary characters in the series all at one time between the two novellas. But again... now I really want to go back and reread the entire series. I

miss Bran and Talia.

Into My Arms, however, is the story of "Z" and Beth. Theirs is an unconventional pairing for sure, as he is her boss and barely looks at her, yet pines for her. He's calm, cool and collected and Beth wants nothing more than to get a reaction from him. Little does she know, she already does... he just hides it. I love a good office romance and that's part of what drew me into Z and Beth's story. This one went pedal to the metal from the first page and I couldn't get enough. I wanted to know Z's secrets. I wanted him and Beth to get together. I couldn't wait for the seriously intense sexual tension to explode. And when it did? Wowza. Hot times.

This novella was short, but sweet and sexy and thoroughly enjoyable. While it can be read as a standalone, I don't think I would recommend it that way. I think you definitely need to read the series and have some knowledge of the characters, some connection to them, to fully enjoy the experience here. Plus, you know, the Off the Map series is wonderful and you should read it anyhow. Just don't be like me and push the novellas to the side. :)

*I received a copy of this book from the publisher, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.*

### **FAVORITE QUOTES:**

"You kiss me with your eyes every time you look at me."

"Who knows when our chapters will end? None of us know how long our stories will last. All we can do is make sure the pages are filled with life."

"And you think we can write a happy ending?"

"I don't know, but I'd rather try than not."

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### **Asheley says**

This novella is an extra to Lia Riley's *Off The Map Series*. This is the story of one of Talia's best friends, Beth, and one of Bran's friends from a long time ago, Z. (Bran is the male lead in each of the full-length novels in this series.)

Beth works for "Z" at Zavtra Tech. She loves her job and feels fortunate to have it, but she has never seen her boss before - he communicates with Beth via phone messages and the computer only. He spends most days sitting at his desk and watches her on the security camera behind her desk, completely smitten with her. When Bran finds out that he has a huge crush on Beth, he suggests that Z ask her out -- but instead of asking her out, Z plans an elaborate weekend getaway for the two of them, taking Beth to the destination, and then hoping that Beth will want to stay.

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This novella is a little different than the rest of the series. Darker in tone, edgier. I knew Z had a little bit of a

*different* past from his scenes in the last book of the series, but I wasn't expecting Z to be quite so different. For example: Z's tendency to state or assume things instead of ask them could be seen as off-putting if you're bothered by that sort of thing. It doesn't bother Beth, however, because she finds him intriguing and has a crush on him based on their limited interaction. It also does not bother her that she has never seen Z and it doesn't bother her that he is a little socially rough around the edges. Beth is actually very different from Z and complements him nicely in that she is everything he is not, a gentle tone to his abrasive tone, and it is fun to see how the two of them initially interact.

Z's backstory is emotional and heartbreaking, and will strike a chord. He is a little on the slightly-creepy side, though, with a few of his behaviors - but I think that is the point? That he is socially lacking and in need of a human connection and love.

Taking all of that into account: this novella was a good addition because I want to know what Beth is up to since I already know about Talia and Sunny. I very much like the feeling of completion.

Where the Carry Me Home novella had extra plot secrets and character redemption, this story feels like it is tasked more with giving additional information about secondary characters, which it does. This was a fun read, and quick - one sitting. I recommend **Into My Arms** for fans of the *Off The Map Series*. It is not my favorite installment in this series, but it does bring the series full-circle for me and I'm glad that I read it.

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## **Amy says**

Actual Rating: 4.5 Stars!

“I want to tear down his walls, merge reality and fantasy.”

I absolutely adored this book. It was a perfect novella. I've been curious about just who exactly Z is since his character was first introduced. I was really intrigued about reading Z and Beth's story. See Beth is the hard working assistant for Z. She's always been curious about the sexy, mysterious man that she works for. Z is dark, curt, ruthless and has a need for control. He's been dealt a tough hand in his life. He is the guy that she loves to hate. Little does Beth know that Z is attracted to her. Beth captivates him, makes him want to feel, to be touched. And for one weekend, Z decides that he's going to take the plunge; finally make his move on Beth. What will happen when the lines blur between Beth and Z??

Into My Arms was a quick and easy read. It was fast paced, sexy, and intriguing. I loved the chemistry that Z and Beth had. They really challenged one another. It was fun waiting to see if Beth would go with Z's plan. My only complaint was that their story was over. We just barely touched the surface of these two characters. They were very likable and different from the characters in Lia Riley's other stories. They drew me in and left me begging for more!! Overall, I really enjoyed this book. I wished it would have been a little bit longer, but was happy with the way things worked out. Into My Arms is a nice addition to the Off The Map series!

\*I was provided an ARC copy of this book, via the publisher, in exchange for an honest review.\*

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## 1-Click Addict Support Group says

Ugh, I think this is the end of the *Off the Map* series and am pretty much totally bummed by that. Not that this novella isn't fantastic, but...I don't want it to be over yet.

Bethany Jacobs works for the most closed-off, controlling, infuriating, brilliant young billionaire in America; one that's solely communicated via electronic means...until now.

Aleksander Zavtra, 'Z' to the world, is fascinated by his executive assistant, a woman that reminds him of a heart-breaking past. A woman he's been watching for months.

He doesn't do love. He doesn't do touch. But for one hot weekend, this employer is going to take his employee into his arms...and his bed.

Well, this story wasn't what I expected, but that's a good, good thing. I really enjoyed this seductive tale; one that's a little dark, and a lot dirty, with a side of 'whoa'.

*Into My Arms* was a fast-paced and extremely quick read, with what I felt was a slightly too abrupt ending, but that didn't take away from my overall love of Beth and Z's story. Because they were good together.

He was demanding, but she wasn't cowed by him, which I loved. She was in too deep in life, but she didn't use him or let him take over, which worked in her favor. He opened up and she listened, despite a plot that many books would likely use to blow everything to shit. Maturity, I like it.

All in all, I closed this one extremely happy with how it played out. But not with the fact this series is over. \*crosses arms\* Humph. ~ Beth, 4 stars

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Aleksander "Z" Zavtra is a rich, reclusive, man of mystery. He's had his eye on his assistant, Beth Jacobs, for ages. Beth has always been curious about the curt, ruthless man with the Eastern European accent, so when he asks to meet her, and then spend time with her in person - she's not sure what to make of it all.

HOT. DAMN. This book was steamy. Z is cool and calculating, and it's fun to watch him warm at Beth's hand. There's a tremendous amount of push-pull in their relationship, but it's written like foreplay. By the time the two figure things out, it's explosive. It's also enough time to develop a real connection. After learning about his past, Beth has real affection and concern for Z. She's willing to fight for him. He, in turn, is willing to let her in. They just...WORK...together.

My ongoing problem with novellas is that they're too short. Just when I felt like things were going to take off, *Into My Arms* wound down. I wanted more! I wanted to watch Beth OWN Z. I wanted to dig deeper into Z's psyche. I wanted more Bran and Z time because that shit is just hilarious.

But...I understand that this is the nature of the novella and I was glad to have met both Beth and Z previously in the series so not much back story was required. They're perfect together. They fire each other up and challenge each other, while also soothing the wounds both have carried around for a lifetime. And the ending, though rather abrupt, is simply adorable. ~ Shelly, 4 stars

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## Ashley says

I'm so sad, everyone! So. Sad. I cannot believe the *Off the Map* series is now officially over. We had three books of Bran and Talia, a novella for Sunny and now there's Beth. If you don't remember Beth, she's one of Talia's best friends, as well as Sunny's. I adored Beth and Z and their story is one that will stay with me for some time.

I adored Beth, so much. Working her butt off because her parents took out thousands of dollars in loans in her name, Beth eats, sleeps, and breaths work as Z's assistant. I understand her motivation for not wanting to press charges against her parents for fraud, but she's a much better person than I am. It wasn't fair for her parents to do something like that and for her to have to pay back what she doesn't even owe. Through all this though, she's Z's assistant working in her "fish bowl." Watched at every moment by a camera she can't help but wonder what and who is on the other side.

I'll be first to admit that Z is a little (maybe a lot?) creepy. He watches Beth all the time and has no shame in it. At all. He's pretty much obsessed with her. She's the spitting image of a girl he knew growing up that he loved and cannot get over. But besides the creepy, I actually enjoyed Z. He knew what he was doing was weird and kind of wrong but he didn't know what to do about it. He obviously adored Beth and wanted what's best for her. His childhood was heartbreaking and made me rage so badly while reading. I just wanted to hug his teenaged self.

Together, I really liked Beth and Z. The attraction was definitely there and I loved how they connected. I felt so much when Z was trying to open up to Beth about touch and what it means to him. It was obviously hard for Z to be open with Beth when he's almost agoraphobic but he did it. Because he wanted her. And not just physically. With the help of Bran he was able to see that he liked Beth for Beth, at least what he knew, and wanted to get to know her more.

I wish there was more to the story though. I felt like we got much more out of Sunny's story than we did for Beth. I would have loved to have seen where the couple end up in a few months. I mean, I know they got their HEA but there wasn't really any drama. And I can't believe I'm saying that because I'm definitely one of those "just stop with all the angst already!" kind of people. But like I said, I just wish there was more of a conflict for the two. But I do have to admit, there was something I absolutely adored about *Into My Arms*, and that is there was no love declaration. Seriously. I cannot tell you how much I abhor insta-love. It's one of my biggest pet peeves. So thank you, Lia. Thank you so much for not having them love each other like that. Lust is always good and I find insta-lust totally plausible, even for these two.

In the end, while there were some creepy aspects of Z and his desire for Beth, I found *Into My Arms* a worthy ending for the *Off the Map* series. Beth and Z obviously adore each other like all the couples in the past stories and I loved learning more about them. Z's learning to be able to touch again hit me with a lot of feels and I'm glad Beth was the one who was able to help him. I'm only hoping that maybe (please, Lia!) that we can get an update on these two at some point.

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## **Samantha says**

I had been waiting for this book for what seemed like forever and a day but in the end Beth and Z's story was definitely worth the wait! Despite being a novella it was just as good as Riley's other novels and surprisingly super intense and emotional. Granted because it was a novella everything happened super fast but that pace gave their story this desperate and passionate feel that seemed fitting for these characters. The only complaint I had about this final book in Riley's Off the Map series is that it ended. I still want to see much more of Beth and Z and with them Bran, Talia, Sunny, and Tanner. But that's a me problem not a book problem. Overall, I really enjoyed this short, emotional read as much as it pained me to say goodbye to all of these awesome characters and I see a lot of re-reads of this amazing series in my future.

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## **Lacey (Booklovers For Life) says**

Originally posted at Booklovers For Life

I LOVE office romances, so that's why I was really looking forward to reading Into My Arms even though I haven't had the chance to read the Off the Map series. Thankfully, this story can be read as a standalone. While I liked this novella, it just wasn't fleshed out enough for me – I didn't have enough time to become fully invested in Beth and Z's story.

Beth is up to her eyeballs in debt thanks to her parents, and so she can't quite leave her tiresome job as the assistant for slave driver Aleksander "Z" Zavtra, billionaire and CEO of Zavtra Tech. She's never even met her boss, as he only communicates with her through email and phone, so it's a huge surprise when Z invites her to his home one evening.

Z has always been intrigued by Beth since the second he saw her. He comes off as a cold and unfeeling man, but deep down, he has scars that prevent him from reaching out to Beth – until now. Now, he opens up his home and his secrets to her, hoping that she won't turn away from him once she knows the darkness he carries inside him.

"You kiss me with your eyes every time you look at me."

Z and Beth's novella was... okay. I liked reading it, but it could've been better. I never got the chance to connect with either characters, and there was a lot of info dumping with Z and Beth's backstories. What I really enjoyed was the hot chemistry between them, and the deep bond they form during that one weekend at Z's home.

"Who knows when our chapters will end? None of us know how long our stories will last. All we can do is make sure the pages are filled with life."

"And you think we can write a happy ending?"



“I don’t know, but I’d rather try than not.”

I’m sure if you’re a fan of the Off the Map series, you’ll want to read Z and Beth’s novella, but reading as someone new to the series and with no previous knowledge of who Z and Beth are, Into My Arms wasn’t quite what I’d hoped it would be. There wasn’t really any forbidden-ness or excitement in this novella that I expect there to be in an office romance. Still, the characters were intriguing enough to keep me reading. I highly enjoyed the writing, so I’m definitely open to reading Lia Riley’s other books.

*Quotes are taken from the ARC and are subject to change in the final version.*

*Thanks to the publisher for generously providing me an ARC to review.*

Amazon Ebook: <http://amzn.to/1hOQq0t>

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### **A.J. Pine says**

I love Beth and Z! Review to come next week!

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### **Neilliza Swaffar says**

**\*\*ARC provided by netgalley, in return for an honest review.\*\***

**Into My Arms** is what happens when you finally let yourself go and get what you have been dreaming of. Short, sweet and sexy romance, that will leave any reader wanting more.

In this brief romance we find that both Z and Beth have been watching each other from afar, not knowing what the other feels about them. When Z finally listens to his friend Bran’s advice, he takes his advice a step further. He ordered Beth to join him for a weekend, she never knew was a weekend they would both never forget. Z intimacy issues, that he never let a woman touch him. But when he finally let Beth have him, his heart opens further and let her in without even realizing in. In the night of passion they both never thought they would get, both their feelings intertwine into so much more. Will Z finally let himself fall for the woman he has been watching and wanting from afar? Read and find out.

Just like all novella's this one ended way too quickly. This sexy read will leave you breathless and wanting another story of Beth and Z.

**:::REVIEW IS ALSO ON FOUR CHICKS FLIPPING PAGES:::**

<http://fourchicksflippingpages.weebly...>

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## **RentasticReads says**

Abrupt. That ending was too freaking abrupt. I understand that this is just a novella, but it was just like an introduction to Bethanny Jacobs and Aleksander Zavtra's story—a glimpse into their world, how they came to be together. I need more. Again. This just made me yearn to know what obstacles this couple would go through and how they would make it. It was okay, the story was complete, but I was left hanging.

After reading *Inside Out*, where Z was first introduced, I would've never thought this is how tainted and troubled he actually is. He exudes this darkness and mysteriousness. But nothing could've prepared me when he started letting Beth in on his jaded past. What Bethanny went through now pales so much in comparison to his history.

In this book, you will see clearly how much it takes one broken soul to know another. Yes, the connection between these two was scalding hot, knowing that they've never even saw each other physically. They always interacted through media at work. Z was the only one who watched Beth through the lenses of that security camera all the time. But what happened that weekend when Z finally mustered up the courage to take Bethanny out? It was mind blowing. It was hot and totally heavy—as in heavy with a shit ton of emotions. At first, I didn't know whether I wanted to slap Z for being such an asshole, or climb his bones. But when he finally opened himself up, I wanted to comfort and cuddle with him forever.

So now, the million dollar question is—will these two (*Into My Arms* and *Carry Me Home*) stay as novellas, Lia? Or will you give us more of Sunny & Tanner and Beth & Z? Because I know in my heart these two couples deserve more than just a novella each. They deserve to get what Talia & Bran had. Please? Pretty please with a cherry on top?

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## **Marla Mei says**

What a weird story. I skimmed this book even though it's only less than a hundred pages. Heh. Just goes to show how much I really didn't like it. I don't want to say it's horrible just that the guy MC is so creepy and the chemistry between him and the girl MC is passionless and basically inexistent.

The story is about Z who watches Bethanny, his assistant, everyday through a security camera without ever talking to her in real life not even once. Okay so I get why he would watch her, you know, to make sure she does her duties well. But the way he watches her is so creepy. He claims he loves the girl--he knew this just by watching her, mind you--so with his best friend's advice, he finally decided to whisk away the girl to his mansion. Definitely not what I expected. I would've thought that he would ask the girl on a date first but no--he takes her to his mansion and just drops the bomb that he wants to touch her and he craves her physically. Weird? Yes. Creepy? Totally! And the girl wasn't even that bothered!!!! Sure she had a few moments of hesitation but she caved in eventually. **THEY'VE NEVER EVEN CONVERSED IN REAL LIFE** outside of their boss and assistant roles!!! One night of heartfelt conversations, shared secrets and orgasms and suddenly they're in love? They didn't explicitly state that but you get the point. I certainly did and I wasn't pleased. Puke.

I didn't know what to make of the story so even though the novella is so short I still skimmed it and I am

proud to say that I regret nothing.

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### **Roxanne says**

Full review to come

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### **Lia Riley says**

Beth and Z's story! So excited <3

Stay current with all the haps by signing up to the Lia Riley Super Official Newsletter:

<http://liariley.us7.list-manage.com/s...> or joining my FaceBook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ourso....>

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### **Eye in Bookland says**

Sexy, romántica y ligera, los personajes y la historia daban para un libro mucho más largo!

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