



New England Rocks

Christina Courtenay

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When Rain Mackenzie is expelled from her British boarding school, she can't believe her bad luck. Not only is she forced to move to New England, USA, she's also sent to the local high school as a punishment.

Rain makes it her mission to dislike everything about Northbrooke High, but what she doesn't bank on is meeting Jesse Devlin ...

Jesse is the hottest guy Rain's ever seen and he plays guitar in an awesome rock band!

There's just one small problem ... Jesse already has a girlfriend, little miss perfect Amber Lawrence, who looks set to cause trouble as Rain and Jesse grow closer.

But, what does it matter? New England sucks anyway, and Rain doesn't plan on sticking around ...

Does she?

Christina's Highland Storms won the 2012 Historical Romantic Novel of the year award Her novel The Scarlet Kimono won the Big Red Reads Best Historical Fiction Award and was short listed for the Festival of Romance Best Historical Read Award 2011.

New England Rocks Details

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From Reader Review New England Rocks for online ebook

Lucinda says

This is my second time reviewing a book from Choc Lit and I really enjoyed New England Rocks. This was my first Christina Courtenay book, but it definitely won't be my last, as I really found her writing style easy to read and engaging. At first, I wasn't sure how I felt about Rain; she was a little bratty and I wasn't sure if I would warm to her, but after a few chapters I really started to like her and her 'don't care' attitude. I certainly wouldn't be brave enough to join an all-boys sports team like she did.

It was also really fun watching her and the American characters bond, especially with the culture clash, her being from the UK, and the American characters not understanding her British slang most of the time. I also really loved her and Jesse as a couple. He was just so sweet and perfect sounding and their relationship was really fun to read about as they grow closer and begin to fall for each other. I don't think I can find a single fault with Jesse; he was just great in every way!

Although I could tell where the story was heading pretty quickly, I definitely enjoyed the ride and Rain is definitely a fun rebellious character, other girls in YA need to become more like her!
Overall, I look forward to reading more in this series and Christina Courtenay's other novels.

Donna Trinder says

We first meet Rain as she gets expelled from her affluent boarding school in England after being caught in a compromising position with her boyfriend and a lot of Tequila. Her parents, Sir and Lady Mackenzie are unsurprisingly furious and send her to a normal high school in New England, Rain is not impressed!

She tries her hardest to not fit in, not make friends and not comply with her parents wishes for her to just settle down. She finds that increasingly difficult though as with every class she finds herself bumping into the gorgeous Jesse Devlin who she had a confrontation with on her first morning, and was determined to dislike, even though he sets her pulse racing at every given opportunity.

There is a really good storyline that follows Rain through her time at Northbrooke High, the highs and lows of her friendships and run-ins with the acerbic Amber.

Will Rain really learn to like New England?

This is a brilliant YA (or anyone who likes light fiction) read. I absolutely loved it and it left me desperately wanting to read on. I have always been a fan of Christina Courtenay and her crossover to YA fiction is brilliant.

It is well written, with appropriate dialogue to the age group. I was left really needing more at the end, not because it wasn't a great ending - it was, I just felt so connected to the characters I didn't want it to end!

Can't wait for the next one!

Wee Shubba's World says

Originally posted on Totally Bookalicious: <http://totally-bookalicious.blogspot...>

New England Rocks is the first in the new YA trilogy. It follows Rain after she is expelled from her boarding school and is sent to New England USA as punishment. She doesn't plan on being there long so she doesn't plan on making friends or fitting in. But on her first day at her new school she runs into Jesse. The hottest guy at school. As the two grow closer Rain starts to wonder if maybe New England isn't so bad but Jesse has a girlfriend so things don't go smoothly for Rain.

New England was such a quick fun read. I devoured it in about 3 hours. I was in a weird reading mood and needed something light and this was perfect. Rain I instantly liked! She is far from perfect and trouble seems to just follow her around but she is smart and one of those girls who doesn't really care about her appearance. Even though she is pretty she doesn't know that she is. Jesse he is hot and Funny. Oh and he is in a rock band!!! It is torn when it comes to his feelings for Rain because he has a girlfriend but he can't help fall for Rain. Now I did like the two main characters but I found them rather predictable. And with Jesse I would have liked his story to be a bit more in depth just to get inside his head a bit more.

As I said I read this within about 3 hours. It was a really quick and exciting story. From time to time we all need a light read and this fits the bill. I found the plot very fun and cute but very predictable. I knew how it was going play out but that didn't mean the story wasn't enjoyable. It was really good and there is one small twist that I will admit that I didn't really see coming.

I highly recommend New England Rocks for anyone who likes a quick YA read that has romance and drama but is also very cute and fun but with some serious issues thrown into the mixed! I am really looking forward to the next book with is about Rain's little sister.

Neliey says

Rain is the new girl, in a new school. She is the shiny new toy everyone want to play with. Even in a relationship, Rock band, Bad boy Jessie wants a piece of her. But their attraction has nothing to do with her being something new. Rain and Jessie bond in more than one way, they just understand each other.

Together everything is simple, fun, passionate, and they begin to rely on each other more than they anticipated. How close is too close? How close is enough? Now the only thing that stand in their way is Jessie's girlfriend Amber and Rain's need to go back to the UK. Can they get passed this? Were they meant to last? Or is one semester all they really had?

This book was impossible to put down! Reading the first page is all it took to get hooked. It was a realistic book that highlights the good and bad sides of high school, and the difficulties of falling in love. As always no matter what obstacles stand in the way, Love is something you should always fight for.

GO TO BOOKSESSIONS FOR CHARACTER INTERVIEW

Smurray says

This book was so addictive I read it in one sitting! I love Rain as a character as she is refreshingly different to the heroines in other novels. Rain is not some shy self conscious girl that needs the big strong hero. Rain is confident in herself and she is so cool! I think Rain is a good example of a strong woman. That feminist tidbit aside I also loved Jesse as the lead male and I loved how his story line took a surprising twist that I honestly didn't see coming. The only fault I can find with this book is that I wish it were longer! I am not saying the book needed more but I really want to hear more about Rain and Jesse. I would have loved to hear how Jesse's story line may have developed or how Rain and Jesse's relationship withholds trials and tribulations. I am seriously looking forward to the next installment of the trilogy! Even though it won't follow Jesse and Rain's story. I loved this book and give a well deserved 10/10! The characters were original and the story was very well developed. I cannot wait for the rest of the trilogy.
5 stars!

Blodeuedd Finland says

I do think this was my favorite Courtenay book so far. It was YA with drama, but the kind of drama I can like. My problem with YA books is that they so often are filled with angst and stupid over dramatic drama. Those books make me wanna smack everyone over the head. While this one, well this one felt real.

Rain was, angry yes, but then someone had thrown her to the wolves and she was in a new school where she knew no one. And the most interesting guy, the one who talks to her has a preppy girlfriend. Tough luck. Yes Jesse is a good guy, he plays in a rock band, but that irritating girlfriend of his. Not good.

It was fun to see them together. Two teens finding their way. She has issues, he has issues. Sure the end was a bit too picture perfect, but then it was also an ending that should happen. I liked it, and I can say nothing more about it.

The little drama that worked then, well of course it has to do with that he has a girlfriend and that she is annoying ;) That I can handle.

A nice YA book that was sweet and rocked.

Kimber Wheaton says

I received this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

When I was approached by the publisher to review this book, I jumped on it. After reading the synopsis I thought it sounded like it would be a fun book. I fronted a rock band in high school so maybe I was looking for a trip down memory lane. I just wish Jesse Devlin had been around back when I was a rocker!

The book is written in third person and the point of view shifts between Rain Mackenzie and Jesse Devlin.

Rain is expelled from her boarding school and sent to live with her parents in New England. She is determined to hate everything about her new school and convince her father to send her back to another English boarding school. Jesse plays guitar for a local rock band and has high aspirations to make it big as a rock star.

Characters make or break a book. Rain and Jesse are both intriguing characters. There's so much more to them than meets the eye. Though not in the book as much, the peripheral characters are interesting. I enjoyed reading about Zane, he just sounds adorable. Rain's friends Dakota and Hayley are sweet girls. Brainless, rich guy Cody is good for a few laughs or groans depending on the scene. Beautiful, spoiled rich girl Amber (Jesse's girlfriend) is portrayed as the stereotypical stuck up cheerleader. You won't feel an ounce of sympathy for Jesse's girlfriend, though if you're like me you'll wonder why he puts up with her.

Rain's attitude and her thoughts kept me laughing throughout the story. She has backbone, which I always appreciate in a female protagonist. But she also knows when not to fight or bother, which shows a level of maturity you don't see as much in high school. Forced to choose an extracurricular activity, Rain plays soccer on the boys' team. I like the fact that not only can she keep up with them, she's better than some.

Jesse comes from a poor, loveless household. His father at best is an uncaring jerk. Part of why he's with Amber is that she's so self absorbed she never asks about his life. Jesse plays on the soccer team with Rain, writes music and plays guitar with his rock band, and works part time at a garage. Oh, yeah, he's also tall, dark, and handsome. It's clear early on that Rain and Jesse belong together. I cheered for them the entire novel.

New England Rocks rocks, literally and figuratively. One thing I really loved were the song lyrics Rain wrote for Jesse's band. They were awesome. I can't help but wish this book included a soundtrack.

I highly recommend this novel to everyone high school and up. It's a fun, lighthearted read that will leave you smiling throughout. The ending is so sweet, it was like a 10 on the 'aww' factor scale. Really, I dare you not to say 'aww' when you read the ending!

Laura says

I do like to indulge in the occasional Young Adult novel and this is the first novel I have read by Christina Coutenay and it was honestly great!

We first meet Rain when she is expelled from her Boarding School in England and I thought, oh no another young troublemaker. Her parents, who are obviously furious with her send her to Northbrook High in New England USA, where she is to spend a term, until they find her another school in England.

Rain is determined not to make any effort at this school and doesn't bother making friends, but she didn't plan on meeting the gorgeous Jesse Delvin! But despite his gorgeousness, Rain says she's had it with guys- they are nothing but trouble- but maybe Jesse is different?

Rain is just the kind of girl I would have loved to have been at sixth form. She's gorgeous, confident and doesn't particularly care what anyone else thinks.

Jesse is also the kind of guy I would have loved to date- even now! He is caring, kind and cool- he's even in a band! The only thing that annoyed me about Jesse was that for some stupid reason he is dating the ever annoying Amber. Amber is your stereotypical popular US high school girl- always worrying about her weight and what she looks like- and is quick to bitch about people she doesn't like or feels threatened by. Throughout the novel you just hope that Jesse sees sense and dumps her!

This was a really great, easy read and all the characters in this story were really well thought out and the storyline wasn't something that I have come across before, so was absorbed from the start. It's really nice sometimes to have a light read, as it can be quite refreshing and really enjoyable.

The USA/UK culture differences in the novel was really well written. I think that there is a misconception that the UK and the USA are really similar, but we really aren't. Even though we speak the same language- we still have different slang and meanings for things. I actually learnt a bit from this, e.g. I didn't know Americans did not use the word bugger- lol!

The dialogue was also really well written and definitely age appropriate. Even though I am sadly not a young adult anymore, it was still really nice to read and I actually had fun reading it. There is just the right amount of romance and drama to keep you hooked and I am really looking forward to the next one.

This was a great first YA novel from Christina and am so thrilled that it is going to be a series about teenagers that move from the UK and end up at Northbrook High.

Agi says

"New England Rocks" is Chock Lit's first YA, and also the first book in the series of three. I know, and I have already stated before that I am more adult than young but I'm young at heart and soul, I think working with children does this to you, and YA book from time to time is absolutely OK.

It was really a funny, light - hearted, quick read. It concentrates mainly on Rain which I liked from the beginning. She is a typical teenager, prone to accident and causing troubles but she's also very clever and fair and has a lot of respect for her parents and friends. This I liked.

Of course there is everything that we can expect in YA book: teenager love, the most handsome boy in the school and his most desired girlfriend, rock band, borrowing cars etc but it suits this book, point. It is relatively predictable, yes, but it doesn't mean that the plot is not interesting. No, I was really curious what is Rain going to do again and what kind of troubles she's going to put herself in. The author brilliantly writes about the character of American High School and perfectly describes the nature of teenagers, their thoughts and feelings, all of it age appropriate and real. I guess it reminds us all about our school years, doesn't matter where, the school gangs, the popular and not so popular people...

And actually I would say it is a great read for YA readers because it has everything. The above mentioned characters and situations, a little drama, a little romance, some important issues and moral and it is not some kind of un - engaging read where we just turn the pages and enjoy the reading without thinking. No, it in some good way forces us to think.

The writing is nice and engaging, and the story is really enjoyable. The characters are likeable and interesting. It makes a perfect summer evening read.

It was my first Christina Courtenay's book but as it was really great I am sure not the last one. And I am

waiting for the second book in the series.

I received a copy of this book from a publisher for review.

Sandy says

It was supposed to be a punishment, a consequence for being expelled from boarding school in the UK but for Rain entering the front doors of Northbrooke High School in the U.S. of A, it was a monumental moment with phenomenal effects. Rain doesn't want to be away from England, so she refuses to meet anyone or feel any connection to anything while she is here, she just want to do her "time" and get back home, that is until she meets Jesse. Having issues with her boyfriend in England, Rain says she has had enough with boys but has she? Jesse is one gorgeous guy which is something that Rain was not ready for or expecting to find when she entered the school. Jesse is also taken back at the likes of Rain and a flirtatious friendship emerges. Danger surfaces when Amber, Jesse's girlfriend enters the scene and like a snake, her tongue is sharp and she strikes violently. Rain is quick too and does not back down so you can just imagine what happens between these two females. Amber claims Jesse like a prize and Jesse is confused at their relationship as he loves the comfort of having Amber on his arm but that is about as far as the relationship goes. Jesses realizes he has more in common with Rain as their friendship continues as they are both on the same soccer team and are in a lot of the same classes at school. So much happens in this part of the story as the characters are trying to juggle who they are, where they fit into each other's lives and what they actually stand for. My favorite parts were reading about Jesse's past and his parents, the class trip, and there is an incident with Rain and the girls in the bathroom where Rain finally meets some girls who she can actually call friends. Rain gets her moment when she speaks wholeheartedly to her male teammates on the bus as they are trying to come up with lyrics to a song for Jesse's rock band. They love her suggestion but that is only the beginning for what's in store for her. Jesse needs to decide what is right for him, the comforts of Amber or Rain, for which he will need to put some effort into the relationship? The future for Rain was short term in the states, now that she is making some connections, will she change her mind?

I have to say I loved the trio of Jesse, Amber and Rain. Amber was the girl that everyone wanted to date in high school and was the trophy and Jesse was comfortable until Rain came into the picture and then he started to have second thoughts. What would have happened if Rain had not arrived? Would he have continued with their relationship since she was the prized object at the school? I had to wonder this since Jesse's eyes jumped so quickly to Rain. Jesse's life was far from heartwarming and his determination to put it all behind him and move forward was motivating but he was so confused about love. His trip to the attic and his own revelation of his past put things into perspective and that gave him more determination instead of bitterness and anger, which made the book so enjoyable and excellent. As others bullied Rain, and eventually beat her up, I got angry at the consequences that they paid for their actions as I thought something else was warranted. This was a great, enjoyable read with realistic characters and a remarkable storyline, now if I can just get those song lyrics out of my head.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Jules says

I really enjoyed this story of a young teenage finding her way in the word on her own terms. It was great to

see a YA where the heroine has a positive relationship with her parents for a change.

Lucinda says

Deliciously dramatic and exciting this fantastic Young Adult romance is a rockin' read!

The gorgeous pink cover was what initially caught my eye, as too did the intriguing blurb and mention of a rock band. The author captures perfectly High School life in America, adding splashes of inspiration and flair. I simply loved the main protagonist and found her to be not only spunky, but a fantastic heroine who isn't perfect or without flaws. With a touch of nostalgia I was transported back to teenage years, with cliché reminders; such as the 'popular' people, Barbie-doll girls and cool guitar players. This character-driven story of two star-crossed lovers brought together by fate tugged at the heartstrings and left me feeling warm and fuzzy inside. I don't normally read romance but I do enjoy Young Adult, and I was so delighted by how this book exceeded and surpassed all expectations! Filled with characters you care about and scenarios that remain etched within your mind forever, 'New England Rocks' is an amazing read.

Rain Mackenzie is expelled from a British boarding school and is forced to move to New England, USA to attend a local high school: Nothbrooke high. She meets Jesse Devlin, a handsome dark haired guy who plays in a totally awesome rock band called 'Escape from Hell'. Instantly they connect, but unfortunately Jesse's girlfriend Amber Lawrence is stuck in-between them and being the prima donna that she is, she makes it her ultimate mission to keep them apart. Stephanie Meyer's Twilight was brought to mind, for Rain left Blakeborough just as Bella left home to move to Forks ~ both high school romances?! Rain and Jesse are brought closer together during Home Ed. Classes and after school soccer, but despite both having feelings for each other they are stuck. Despite Rain planning on not sticking around she does make some great friends like Zane, Dakota and Hayley. It is clear that Jesse is not with Amber for the right reasons, but how will he and the one person he truly cares about ever be together?

There are so many elements to this story that make it more than just a good read but an exceptional one. From the awkward shower incident to Amber getting punched in the nose, there are so many moments that stay in your mind long after finishing reading this book. The likable characters are all equally interesting and quirky, adding such vibrancy and color alongside the harsh realities (i.e Jessie's complex home life). * Truth-drawing and sincere, Christina Courtenay also highlights some important issues within this story that many younger readers should take note of ~ bullying and abuse, as well as what inside of you matters more than one's outer shell. 'Temptation' sums up Jesse and Rain's feelings perfectly for each other...

*'You tempt me, you tease me, when I look into your eyes
but you belong to her – something inside me dies'*

*I won a copy of Christina Courtenay's "New England Rocks" through a Goodreads, first-read giveaway. *

Bookread2day says

New England Rocks is a very entertaining story, with lots of fun and laughs. It is ever so easy to read and to follow. The chapters are very sweet and short. New England Rocks is a trilogy, which I personally think this

could be adapted in to a mini TV series or a set of short films.

Megan Readinginthesunshine says

Rain McKenzie is not only expelled from her British boarding school, but then has to move to New England, USA...and she's not looking forward to it one bit. To make it worse she finds herself being sent to the local high school there. Having already decided that she hates her new school, she is determined to make no effort...however Jesse Devlin catches her eye. As much as she's trying to dislike her new surroundings, she can't deny that Jesse is the hottest guy she's ever laid eyes on, and he's in a rock band too! Unfortunately, Jesse has a girlfriend in the form of Amber Lawrence. But Rain and Jesse continue to cross paths, and will Rain grow to like New England?...

I absolutely LOVED New England Rocks! This is the type of book where once you have picked it up, you won't want to put it down! I started it on a morning and I finished it in only a few hours...I was so gripped to the drama and events in the story that nothing could tear me away from this brilliant novel.

The characters were PERFECTLY written. Rain is now one of my favourite characters that I have read about in a long time! Not only does she have an amazing name, but her character and personality is fantastic. Rain is a girl who has her own ideas and her own mind, and I instantly liked her from the beginning. She is feisty, she has attitude, she is very relateable and I would love to be her friend – I found myself really getting behind her and cheering her on throughout the book. Jesse is quite an attractive character – he has a great personality, he's handsome and he has the added bonus of playing guitar in a rock band! I can see many readers falling helplessly in love with him!

I don't want to say too much about this story because I don't want to spoil what is a fantastic read but the romantic in me was excitedly racing through the pages desperate to get to the next part! The entire story was BRILLIANT and I couldn't put it down.

New England Rocks was a sheer delight to read! This novel is one of my top reads of the year – I enjoyed it so much I already can't wait to read it again. There is drama, romance and so much more in this addictive novel!

Robert Sylwery says

Really? How cliché can it be?

I **have not read** the book so I can't really be a judge (therefore I'm not rating), but from the synopsis and reviews I can **guess** what is this book about:

1. A bratty, spoiled, selfish, trouble-maker girl is forced to go to an ordinary school.
2. She meets **the hottest guy** that she's ever seen. Plus, he plays guitar. Here fly the panties.
3. The guy (aka main love interest) is a jerk but, you know, he has a **SECRET, very Secret golden heart**.
4. The guy has a girlfriend who is a complete **slut with the bitchiest attitude ever**.

5. The same guy will dump his girlfriend for the main character, because you know, **lurve** and **they were made for each other**. (I cannot be sure that one day he will not dump the main character because of someone else.)

6. In the end they will **ride a unicorn and go off into the sunset**.

Sorry if I'm too critical, I had a hard time with stupid characters and senseless plots lately, especially within this genre.

P.S. If I am mistaken and it is not as horrible as I think it is, please let me know and I may consider reading this (or not).
