



## Burning The Map

*Laura Caldwell*

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## Burning The Map Details

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Author : Laura Caldwell

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## From Reader Review Burning The Map for online ebook

### **Kataklicik says**

Started well, but grew persistently ecchhhh.

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### **Cat. says**

Reading this book for me was a case of knowing which side my bread is buttered on. The author is related to [someone important to my job]. So being able to discuss the book coherently is a Good Thing.

Surprisingly, it's not a bad book (although frankly, I'm not sure I could bring myself to discuss much about it with The Relative; it's pretty risque for that kind of conversation). We follow Casey as she hooks up with her Best-Friends-Since-College-Days, Sin (Lindsey) and Kat and heads off to Rome and Greece for one last fling before she settles down at her job in a Big Law Office in the Loop. Which she is dreading.

Before most of us would have recovered from jet lag, the girls pick up 3 Roman guys--may I add stereotypical Roman guys: scooters, gorgeous, etc.. etc. Even though Casey is practically engaged to John back home in Chicago, she has a mild makeout session with one of these guys. Off to Greece where she once again finds herself in lip-lock with someone. And then the worst possible person shows up...

The book is actually pretty chaste, and the descriptions of Italy and the Greek islands are bang-on. The characters themselves are a little cardboard-y, but you can't help but like Casey--even as you want to bash her upside the head for being so dopey through 99% of the book. Having been that dopey oneself at that age, however, keeps one from getting furious at the poor girl.

All in all a nice read, especially for airplanes or beaches. Rather fluffy, but it sure made me want to head back to just about anywhere in the Mediterranean. And be 25ish again. [sigh]

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### **Jennifer says**

It's hard to say if I liked Burning the Map or not. One one hand, I identified with the characters; on the other, they sort of annoyed me and I never really came around to liking the protagonist.

Casey Evers is one of those lucky post-post-grads who gets to take time off between grad school and Starting Real Life to poke around Europe while the rest of us slave away at Corporate America, eking out our livings so we can read about people like her. (I'm not bitter.) She's on this fun jaunt with her two friends, Lindsey and Kat, to rekindle their sort-of crumbling friendship and maybe rediscover herself, too.

But (bitchy) girls will be (bitchy) girls and much of Burning the Map is really about jealousy and the inevitable fallout when you ditch your friends for a boy you meet in Rome (and/or Ios). I'm not saying I didn't like it, because it was overall an interesting okay story, but much of the time was spent going over their same struggles time and again, and after a while, I was able to tune out of the audio and still know where in the story I was. It didn't grab me and I really didn't feel that intimate connection I love to have so much with characters.

The back-and-forth between Casey, Kat and Lindsey got old and fast because it was very repetitive. I found myself thinking that Lindsey was a giant hypocrite and Kat was kind of a whore (no, a slut – whores get paid), and yet both of them openly – and often – criticized Casey for even having feelings for someone other than her longtime boyfriend she isn't even sure she wants. Bitches, please. Aren't you her friend?

Speaking of the boys. Casey meets two. She spends a lot of time thinking and talking about the first one and I felt like as a reader, I was lead to believe that he was who she would end up with, or she would at least go after him. Which doesn't make a lot of sense to me, because more page time and character-building is dedicated to guy #2. Who I actually liked more, so maybe I'm biased. Nah, not me...

I was not a fan of the ending. I think it was a cop-out, because it ties up none of the loose ends Caldwell left dangling throughout the story. I know some authors do this to let readers imagine what comes next, but in chick lit, I don't really think it's necessary. I'm reading this because I want a real happily ever after, I want to know how things work out and in *Burning the Map*, I'm just left wondering what happens to Casey and if she really ever achieves that. I assume she does based on the way it ends, but I can't really know. I only know she likes wine and cheese. WHO DOESN'T LIKE WINE AND CHEESE?

Overall, it's not a terrible book. It's not a great book. I think some readers will adore it and others may absolutely hate it if they are very character-driven.

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### **Lauren says**

I have absolutely no idea how I heard of this book, but I'm glad I did. The author grew up in Crystal Lake, and I'm a librarian at the Crystal Lake Library, so I must have heard of Laura Caldwell via work somehow, but none of my friends have read / reviewed this book, so I'm still clueless where or when I added it to my "to-read" list.

*Burning the Map* is a cute little romance novel that would appeal to any twenty-something woman who's confused about her personal and professional future. The characters were interesting without being caricatures, the situations were realistic, and I was easily able to visualize the setting, based upon their description. I think I would have enjoyed it more 20 years ago, since it's been a long time since I felt confused in my personal relationships, but I agree with Casey's British friend when she advises her that when you've met the person you're supposed to be with forever, you just know. I liked this book.

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### **Alisa says**

I really wanted to like this book. The back cover sold me completely, but the book just never hooked me. I suppose it didn't help that I absolutely loathed the main character, Casey. All her complaints were so trivial and naive that I had a hard time believing she had a brain.

This story could have had so much potential. Why did Kat and Sin act the way they did? Why is Casey's mom into plastic surgery? Why is John such a sap (especially when he's portrayed as cold & callous throughout 90% of the book).

Big disappointment.

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## Lauren says

Me esperaba más de todo. Más locuras, más aventuras, más. El libro está bien pero tampoco es para dar saltos de alegría. Nos cuenta la historia de la protagonista y como un viaje con sus amigas marcará el rumbo de sus decisiones.

Las amigas la hacen caso cuando las da la gana y ella aún así "cree" notar que las cosas entre ellas no van bien. No hay que ser un genio con las contestaciones que recibe. Su novio es un aburrido de tomo a lomo y en este viaje se desmelenan, y se da cuenta que aunque hay cosas que le siguen gustando de él, no está contenta ni con él, ni con su futuro trabajo como abogada.

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## Michelle says

If you want to read about people laying on the beach and getting drunk and being dissatisfied with their lives but doing nothing about it, read this book.

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## Elusive says

'Burning The Map' is about Casey who goes on a vacation with her friends Kat and Lindsey. However, not everything is as rosy as it sounds due to their somewhat estranged friendship, her doubts about her relationship with John and her apprehension regarding her new job as a lawyer.

I wanted to like this book as I'd really enjoyed a few books by Caldwell that I've read so far but it was a major disappointment. I didn't like how Casey could cheat on John just like that and despite her internal monologue about missing how they used to be, I just never got the impression that she felt genuinely guilty. However, my dislike for Kat and Lindsey outweighed that. I was frustrated with Casey for giving a damn about her "friends". All Kat does is run around with the next hunk she sees while Lindsey is simply put, a bitch.

To make things worse, the two of them turn against her, saying that she's "not who she used to be". For goodness' sake, she might seem less fun and more stressed out than before but it only makes sense because she has problems of her own yet those two selfish "friends" are too preoccupied to notice. Then whenever Casey decides not to spend time with them going to clubs or whatever, they become hostile. It's ridiculous, coming from Kat who deserts them the moment she finds a guy and from Lindsey who's just snappy all the time – who'd want to be in her company? Besides that, Caldwell alternated between "Lindsey" and "Sin" (her nickname) and that was distracting.

I couldn't even be interested in Casey's romantic developments. She had no chemistry with Francesco or Billy. Caldwell tried to write it like those were genuine interests and they had something deep going on but none of it was convincing. Then there's John who was portrayed as distant but when he finally shows up, he becomes this sentimental guy. In the end, I didn't agree with most of Casey's decisions especially the one pertaining to her job. I understand that the message is about pursuing what you want but it's also important to be logical and plan things, not just make spontaneous decisions that could alter your life.

Overall, it was a dull book filled with unlikeable characters.

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## **Jessica says**

Love, love, loved it! Casey is fresh out of law school, and before starting her career at a big firm, she embarks on a European vacation with 2 of her best friends. She seems to have it all: great friends, loving boyfriend, great job. But Casey isn't happy with her life. This is something she discovers as she and her friends explore Rome and Greece. She has important decisions to make, and this trip seems to be just what she needs to take her life back. This book really spoke to me. We all get a little caught up in life, following the path we think we should follow. But it's not always what will make us happy. This is something I am experiencing in my professional and personal life. I don't love my job...I don't have passion for it anymore. I've grown apart from my friends, and all I do is work and go to the gym. This book inspires me to take control and make changes to make me happy. I don't quite know what that means yet, but I hope I end up as happy as Casey in the end.

Side note- I am so jealous of Casey, Lindsey, and Kat. I dream of being able to travel Europe and see all the places the author describes in this book. Maybe one day...

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## **Lorelei says**

I found this book both enjoyable and frustrating at the same time. I find that I can really relate to the main character Casey as she questions what she wants out of life. Casey just finished law school and has been in a relationship with her boyfriend for 2 years and life seems to be stalling. I felt this way after working at the bank forever. Something needed to change. Casey goes on vacation with her two estranged best friends, bickering for quite a while on their three week vacation between Rome and Greece before things finally cool off. I found this very frustrating to be bickering constantly with friends while on vacation. But finally the air cleared and their friendship strengthened by the return of their honesty towards each other. Casey struggles with some major issues in her life that she needs to face before she move forward with her life. This was relatable for me as well because I didn't want to spend the rest of my life working in a bank in the middle of the country. I just had to escape. The book didn't end at all like I thought it would. I thought the book was going to be very predictable, but I like how in the end, she chose to change herself rather than give into the pressures of what life expects you to do.

I would recommend reading this book if you want to hear about Rome, Italy as well as Ios and Mykonos, Greece. I loved her descriptions about the surroundings and the people, the party scene. You really felt like you were there with Casey and her friends partying it up in Greece and zooming through the streets of Rome on a Vespa. This book has only further enhanced my desire to get to Greece!

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## **Merredith says**

On my last day of vacation, I read two books, and this was the second one. When my first chick lit vacation book ran out right after I got to the airport to go home, I started this one. It lasted my whole long airport wait, my short little more than an hour flight, and getting ready for bed. In the morning, I finished up the last chapter before work. Yup, it was THAT quick. This is a junk food type chick lit book, about three friends on a trip to rome and Greece, and one of them learning about herself. I thought it was just ok, because I'm not a total fan of those books/movies about women traveling to Italy and Greece and the like. Plus, not much happened in it. They go out and party. I do that in real life, I don't need to read about it. Still, not bad for an airplane book, go ahead and read it. :)

## Patrice M. says

Quick read - 20 something college grad on summer trip with girlfriends before she starts working for a living. Spoiler ALERT.. she doesn't - stupid ending- she stays in Greece with NO money ( on credit) , owing her law school loans but happy to find her real self. YEP

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## Kristyn says

Now if you know me, you know I love to travel - so this book was right up my alley (even my friend noticed)! Even if I haven't been to Rome or Greece, or anywhere international (aside from a few islands), after reading this book, I felt like I was there. Immediately, I was able to identify with Casey, feeling like an outsider with friends, in her case with Kat and Sin; fortunately for me, I never went on vacation with friends that made me feel like that. However, this book helped me see both sides, and helped me feel how my friends might've felt when I ditched them for a guy (yes, I'm sure we're all guilty of that).

Their first stop was Italy, and the details Caldwell included made me want to go there... travel the world, taste different food, learn multiple languages. Next up was Greece, another country I've wanted to travel to - it was amazing how much I was able to identify with not only this book, but with Casey. She panics at the smallest of changes in their travel plans - like leaving Ios to go to Mykonos earlier. She likes the "ease of simplicity and repetition" (pg 180). However, as time passes, I've learned to welcome changes - as does Casey - eventually.

As I flip page after page, I grow accustomed to Casey and her friends, and I even think that their vacation is becoming simple, too simple, until Caldwell throws a twist into the mix - and I am shocked, literally shocked. I hoped it would end in a certain way, and it did; while it was shocking to say the least, I half expected it, and I'm happy with Casey and the choices she made. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and I hope that Caldwell writes more books filled with passion and traveling to find oneself. Now who wants to travel the world with me?

"While the possibilities may seem endless, the time sure isn't" (pg 273).

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## Georgia Bell says

\*audiobook review\*

One of the best things about Burning the Map is that it surprised me. I was expecting something that fell neatly into the Chicklit genre, and instead I found a story about real friendship, self-identity, and travel.

Casey Evans is a refreshing protagonist. Smart, gutsy, and refreshingly indecisive about her future, Casey is the proverbial dog who caught the bus. On a European trip to celebrate the completion of law school and her bar exam, Casey realizes that getting everything she wanted is a lot less satisfying than she imagined it would be. And as her future looms before her, her anxiety about what she wants and who she is intensifies.

Burning the Map is filled with descriptions of great destinations. Embedded within the story were authentic details about European locales that had me yearning for my own holiday. But ultimately, Burning the Map is really a story about friendships. It can be so hard to find a book about women that focuses on the importance of friendship (rather than romantic attachment) and showcases them in a positive light. The relationship between Casey and her best friends isn't perfect; there are disagreements and hurt feelings and disconnection. But the message, both explicit and implicit, is that Casey's friendships are important enough to prioritize over her romantic relationships.

I particularly enjoyed the fact that Casey and her friends had fully realized sex lives that were not used as barometers of their worth or value as human beings. Instead, these women were allowed to have sex without (or only a little) slut shaming. Caldwell does a nice job of capturing the breathless intensity of a new romance and there are a lot of funny and believable interactions as these young women meet people in their travels.

Despite being published twelve years ago, there were only a few moments when I was bumped out of the story with outdated technology. Notably, at one point, Casey pulls out her palm pilot to check her calendar (google it, young 'uns) and there's a distinct lack of cell phones and texting that is a bit jarring. But overall, I wasn't particularly aware of the date or the lack of social media.

As this was an audiobook review, I will note that I didn't think the narration was great. The narrator's voice was often overly articulate and stilted. And there were inflections on some words that had me re-interpreting the text or the storyline. I'd also say that the plot may have been a bit too weight conscious for my liking. I could have done without knowing about Casey's eggs whites on toast every morning and how much weight she'd lost on holiday (and really, who LOSES weight on holiday?) as some barometer of her search for meaning. But these were small points in an overall fun reading experience.

Burning the Map is about relationships that are messy and sometimes difficult, it's about loving someone without knowing if they are the right person for you, and about finding out about you are, even if you don't know what you want.

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## **Kristal says**

Typical, yet enjoyable. I whipped through it very quickly and love the idea of just jetting off to Greece like the main character. Fun escapist fiction.

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