



New Beginnings

Eliza Lentzski

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Book 2 in the Winter Jacket series:

There was something about Hunter Dyson that drew Elle to her. Maybe it was her unwavering eye contact. Maybe it was because she never took off her winter jacket in class. Or maybe it was the taboo of a student-professor relationship.

They'd overcome obstacles to be together, and now with job security and a healthy, happy relationship, life was supposed to get easier – she was supposed to have her happy ending. But for Elle, the complications are only just beginning.

New Beginnings Details

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From Reader Review New Beginnings for online ebook

Starsandsun18 says

After re-reading this I still haven't changed my mind on my rating.

Elle, she's possessive and very insecure. The negativity in her is really annoying. She's also selfish. Yes, she love's Hunter but there's always a but or a what if.

Now I'm interested to read Hunter's POV. What's her say in this? Hunter is the innocent one. She doesn't have a lot of experience but she knows Elle is the one for her. I always feel bad for her. She's too good.

Diane Wallace says

Amazing series! great storytelling with the same adorable characters and the best friends anyone can have for all their support when needed..witty dialogue but also tense at times..highly recommended series to everyone

Rebecca says

A year or two ago I tried reading this book, but only got halfway through before dropping it for some reason. This time around I ended up enjoying it, so I'm slightly confused as to why past-me decided to drop it.

Anyway, I like this book better than *Winter Jacket*, because the plot and characters feel more believable to me. I will say that the writing feels a little too explain-y to me at times, but I'm pretty sure this is the first book sequel Lentzski's ever written, so maybe that's it. Overall I don't have a ton to gripe about, though.

Shit sometimes decides to hit the fan all at once, so this plot and all the various challenges Elle and Hunter have to deal with is plausible to me, even if like last book, problems show up out of nowhere. I'm more forgiving though, because Elle's reactions are more mature.

Elle still reminds me a little of my dad, (which is still kinda weird,) but her personality makes more sense to me in this book. She's quirker and less oblivious, which makes more sense to me altogether with her other traits. I'm not sure why that's how it is, but it's the feeling I get. I'm still not really sure if I like her, though.

Hunter isn't as bland in this book, but I do wonder how someone goes from painfully shy to how she is now. Not that it can't happen, I'm just wondering how.

(view spoiler)

I'm hoping the later books are more like this. Anyway, more notes:

(view spoiler)

Natsu says

Finally finished this after being so rudely interrupted by... work. :D

I really ship these two. They can be hot (le switch) and they can be sweet and sometimes silly.

Hunter's perfect, too perfect that I'm itching for her to do something... un-Hunter (or Ellio-ish if you may). Hunter seems to be someone who makes this fictional world a better place. haha! Anyway, it complements Elle's sometimes cranky personality.

Elle, the ever neurotic one, always thinks the worst of things in terms of her relationship with Hunter. While I wanted to knock her senseless sometimes, it was her craziness and conversations with Troian that mostly made me laugh.

I would've loved to have heard/read more of Hunter's mum, her thoughts about the couple, maybe in the next book? future dinners? :)

Even the supporting characters are lovable, Troian's unstoppable mouth, Nik and her tolerance of the two clowns. Sylvia, the traitor cat. :D

Will probably read this again just to be able to do so without interruptions. ^_^

Kennedy says

Elle Graft and Hunter Dyson, the story continues. Some may be bored with the day-to-day of their relationship but I am not. To me, that is real life and the difference between falling in love and being in love. Although there are some unique dynamics, the premise, characters and story is interesting enough to keep me reading.

Beth Stone says

FANTASTIC SEQUEL!!!!

Even better sex scenes... I mean, wow.

Alex Jo says

This is the third book that I read that lesbian as the main character. One of the things that touched me is that the author left lesbian stereotypes now don't get me wrong I am just a transgender guy but being that I reviewed lgbt+ before I feel that some authors focus on lgbt+ issues to point that they outshine their own characters and in this story that definitely wasn't the case. On the other hand, I felt that Elle couldn't decide on anything and that was a bit annoying, that's why I gave this book a 3 out of 5 stars

Procrastireader says

Even less angst than the first but I liked Elle and Hunter so much I just had to know how it ended.

Diane says

Amazing series! great storytelling as usual with adorable characters and the best friends one can have for support..witty dialogue but tense at times also..highly recommended series to everyone

Megzz says

2.5

I feel kind of guilty for not being able to finish this one. I tried, and tried, and tried, but 3/4 in and I just couldn't anymore. That says something! so close to the end and... nope.

I re-read Winter Jacket before reading New Beginnings. It was okay, as okay as an already okay book could be on second read. I was hoping the sequel would be better, since I really loved the more recent novels by Lentzski. But it only confirmed my dislike of the series.

I just don't feel the love. It's not a very romantic story, really.

I think the main problem is the characters. Hunter is way too vanilla, and Elle is way too self-centered. I just could not care for them. The story is written from Elle's POV and it's really frustrating to be in the head of someone so pessimistic, and negative all the time. I was filled with this sense of foreboding the whole time I was reading: it is NOT a lovely feeling. And I like to feel good when I read a romance novel.

Oh and also, the plot is boring as hell. Nothing happens.

Nic says

I was looking so forward to reading this series as the don't call me hero series is one of my favourites, this series I'm not enjoying as much. I did overall enjoy the book and read it in a day, however I thought that the drama/angst was a bit much as sometimes for the sake of it, I also didn't enjoy the switch scene, under other circumstances it could have been good but with Hunter's anger and upset at Elle as the drive for this scene left me uncomfortable. I have book 3 and 4 to read but having read others reviews for the next book I'm not sure I want to if I thought about the amount of angst in this book.

Penny says

Of the whole list of independent lesfic authors, Eliza Lentzski is one of my favorites. There's flaws, but she can entertain me with her writing style. And with her characters. What's not to like about Elle's quiriness? What's not to like about Hunter's loveliness? And Troian, the hilarious best friend? Even Sylvia, the cat, has a likeable personality (and I'm a dog person). The descriptions are good, the dialogues even better. Also, Lentzski can write great sex scenes (true story!).

Now, although *Winter Jacket: New Beginnings* is meant to be the sequel of *Winter Jacket*, it seemed to me more like a prequel to *something* else, *something* that might still happen. Everything that occurred during this story felt like a preparation. Not that the issues proposed weren't credible enough to stand on their own. They were! The age difference, Elle's mother, Hunter's new roommate, the career choices, etc, they were all well developed issues. But I can't shake the feeling that this books is, indeed, *an in-between*, a preparation for a possible third book. And that's fine with me. I was still able to enjoy it.

And since we are talking about the possibility of a third book, I have only one teeny tiny request: that Hunter makes a mistake. At first, I was uncomfortable by how perfect Hunter is. For a second, she did not seem realistic enough. But then I realized I was looking at it the wrong way: is not that Hunter isn't real, is that Elle's view of Hunter is completely idealized. And the paradox, my friends, is that this is very realistic - every single person who's in love idealizes their loved ones.

But now, assuming there's going to be a third book, I think it would be pretty interesting if Hunter made a mistake. And of course, if Elle dealt with it. As once said portuguese poet Fernando Pessoa: *Argh! - I'm sick of demigods! Where are the real people in this world?*

Eliza Lentzski is a skillful writer. I'm sure she could handle this scenario brilliantly! So I, *often vulgar, often obscene, often vile, so grotesque and mean, submissive and insolent*, I want to see Hunter making a mistake.

Jem says

More Elle/Hunter loveliness and hotness!

Trish says

One character keeps showing that she is not a nice person. She's unnecessarily cruel to people who think that they are her friends. Other characters keep overlooking this bad behavior or if they do notice it, they dismiss it. As much as I love the two stars of this show, I'm not going to open another book in this series. I don't want to see how the villain is going to hurt the normal characters and continue to get away with it.

Drama calls for conflict and often for villains. Unless the story is set in a dark universe, though, the villain should face their comeuppance or the reader should be given some promise that eventually they will. After two books, I don't see that happening in this case, so I no longer trust the author to balance the scale of justice in this instance. I'm disappointed because in all other aspects, this author is tremendous -- character definition and development, dialogue, dramatic and romantic situations, pacing, everything except this one annoying character.

Happily for me, the author is prolific, so I will start reading her other works!

<3

Samantha says

Does the fact that in every book the word taunt shows up where the word taut should be bother anyone else? Or that in this one one character said she was prepositioned instead of propositioned? Other than that the stories are easy to read and pretty entertaining.
