



Althea & Oliver

By Cristina Moracho

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"The bittersweet romance, Oliver's battle with his illness, and Althea's coming-of-age struggle should appeal to fans of John Green and Sarah Dessen who are looking for something new." —VOYA

Althea Carter and Oliver McKinley have been best friends since they were six. Now, as their junior year of high school comes to a close, Althea has begun to want something more. Oliver simply wants life to go back to normal, but when he wakes up one morning with no memory of the past three weeks, he can't deny any longer that something is seriously wrong with him. Then Althea makes the worst decision ever, and her relationship with Oliver is shattered. When he leaves town for a clinical study in New York, she drives up the coast after him, determined to make up for what she's done.

Cristina Moracho's extraordinary debut is an achingly real story about identity, illness, and love—and how one decision can change everything.

**A *TIME* Magazine Top 10 YA of 2014 ~ An *SLJ* Best Books of the Year
~ A *Booklist* Editor's Choice 2014 ~ A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Books of 2014**

"Fans of Rainbow Rowell's *Eleanor and Park* will enjoy debut author Cristina Moracho's trip back to the 1990s in *Althea and Oliver*." —CNN.com

"A gut-wrenching tale." —*People*

*** "Moracho's coming-of-age story carries rare insight and a keen understanding of those verging on adulthood." —*Booklist*, starred review**

*** "Mesmerizing." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review**

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Download and Read Free Online *Althea & Oliver* By Cristina Moracho

Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—This richly satisfying debut defies simple description. On its surface, it is about teenage best friends, a boy and a girl, who have complicated and messy feelings. Friends since they were six, the teens have grown up doors apart, both in single-parent families in Wilmington, North Carolina. What sets this novel apart is the way the youth are allowed to speak for themselves in all their chaotic, exciting complexity. Althea, who has anger issues, is in love with Oliver, which would be complicated enough even if Oliver didn't seem to be a modern-day Rip Van Winkle, falling into a strange, deep sleep at random moments and not waking up for weeks or months. Oliver's mom, Nicky, finds a doctor in her home city of New York who is conducting a study of this disorder, called Kleine-Levin Syndrome, and Oliver grudgingly agrees to participate. While he navigates the strange world of a hospital ward filled with other teenage boys with KLS, Althea tells her dad that she's taking a road trip to visit her mom in New Mexico, but then heads to New York City to find Oliver. Instead, she falls in with a collective house of crusty punks in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn, who are perfectly described with deep familiarity instead of exotic detachment. Oliver's medical condition functions as both an interesting narrative quirk and a deeper metaphor, and the resolution is satisfactorily uncertain. The novel is set in the mid-1990s, which is vividly re-created with plenty of drinking, sex, and rock and roll, but it is the exquisitely created and painfully real, pitch-perfect characters who make it so memorable.—Kyle Lukoff, Corlears School, New York City

Review

Praise for *Althea & Oliver*:

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"It is the exquisitely created and painfully real, pitch-perfect characters who make it so memorable." —SLJ, starred review

"At turns gritty and gooey, Oliver and Althea's evolving relationship unfolds in a warts-and-all narration that alternates between the two, deftly capturing the purgatorial crossroads between youth and adulthood . . . Mesmerizing." —Kirkus Reviews, starred review

"Can boys and girls really be just friends? This endearing novel explores that, and a whole lot of other things including but not limited to: falling in love, punk rock, circa-'90s NYC, and a very complicated sleep disorder that causes those afflicted to fall asleep for days, weeks, even months at a time." —TeenVogue.com

"A gorgeous, glorious, unforgettable novel about punk rock, bad decisions, falling in love, and the messy beauty of growing up. *Althea and Oliver* is a flawlessly-crafted straight shot to the heart." —Sarah McCARRY,

author of *All Our Pretty Songs*

"Marrying dazzling prose and sharp-eyed realism, *Althea & Oliver* is a gritty, sparkling triumph. It's everything a novel is meant to be." —Bennett Madison, author of *September Girls*

"With beautiful language and wrenching, complicated relationship dynamics, *Althea & Oliver* captures the painful state of longing that is adolescence perfectly." —Corey Ann Haydu, author of *OCD Love Story*

It's very rare to come across either a book or two young protagonists as appealing and insightful as *Althea & Oliver*. Big-hearted and wiseass and penetratingly smart, they experience growing up as a time machine that's whisked them into a future they don't want, even as they're dying to know what's out there." —Jim Shepard, author of *Project X* and *You Think That's Bad*

"I can't wait to tell people about this one. It's mind-blowingly good." —Molly Templeton, WORD Books

"Even if the book weren't eloquent and hilarious, it'd be a must-read for all children of the '90s. But thankfully, it is, and if you're smart, you'll run out and grab a copy." —*Bustle*

"Go buy this book! Read it now!" —*Hello Giggles*

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One of *CNN.com*'s 40 New Titles to Feed Your YA Book Addiction

About the Author

This is **Cristina Moracho**'s first novel. She lives in Brooklyn, New York and tweets at @cherielecrivain.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Geraldine Bagley:

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