



Sleeping Tigers

Holly Robinson

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Jordan O'Malley has everything she ever wanted: a job she loves, a beautiful home, and a dependable boyfriend. When her life unravels after a breast cancer scare, Jordan decides to join her wildest childhood friend in San Francisco and track down her drifter brother, Cam, who harbors secrets of his own. When Cam suddenly flees the country, Jordan follows, determined to bring him home. Her journey takes her to the farthest reaches of majestic Nepal, where she encounters tests-and truths-about love and family that she never could have imagined. Funny, heartbreaking, and suspenseful, *Sleeping Tigers* reminds us all that sometimes it's better to follow your heart instead of a plan. "Sleeping Tigers is the kind of book you wish didn't have to end. Fast-moving and funny, loaded with sex, adventure, and characters who feel like your oldest friends, it takes the reader through fabulous, keenly-observed settings as it follows one woman on a brave journey of self-discovery. Robinson's prose crackles with wit and humanity - it brims with all the energy that's released when life and love are unleashed and allowed to roam. With wisdom to spare, Robinson shows how being honest and brave today can bring healing to the past and a new shape to the future. You won't be able to read this book without imagining all your favorite actors in the roles." Elisabeth Brink, author of *Save Your Own*

Sleeping Tigers Details

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From Reader Review *Sleeping Tigers* for online ebook

Kathleen says

"Each of us carries a sleeping tiger inside, and we can't predict when that cat will wake, stretch, and sharpen its claws. It is best to see the beast, acknowledge it and let it roam where it might, because only then will you know what you are truly capable of doing."

After thirty-three year old Boston school teacher Jordan O'Malley had a serious health scare, it made her reexamine her life and decide to face the tiger's presence within her, and make changes that would reconnect her with her family and live boldly in the moment, instead of the orderly and carefully planned life she had been leading.

After breaking off the engagement with Peter, her boyfriend of three years, Jordan moves into with her parents' home and takes off to California to spend the summer in San Francisco. When she gets to San Fran, she reconnects with her childhood best friend Karin, an operating room nurse, who tries to get Jordan to open up, live in the moment, and embrace new possibilities in her life. Jordan's younger brother Cameron, a drifter who had been incommunicado from the family since moving to Berkeley, California two years ago, has been on her mind but she is unable to get a hold off him. Jordan and Cameron finally reconnect, and she learns that her younger brother has some issues that he has a hard time dealing with: a drug habit, a drug addicted stalker ex-girlfriend, a baby daughter who he refuses to acknowledge, and a troubled past relationship with their father. When Jordan attempts to help Cameron, he once again disappears and Jordan embarks on a personal journey to Nepal in search of her brother, and it is in this mystical Himalayan mountain country that both Jordan and Cameron will find the answers to their issues and learn how to move forward in their lives.

Every once in a while a book will come along and weave a story that will simply captivate you and make you sit up and ponder your own life, for me, *Sleeping Tigers* is that book. This poignant and thoughtfully crafted story is told in the first person narrative by Jordan O'Malley, who takes the readers along for the ride on her personal journey to discover who she really is and what life really means to her, in addition to sharing her younger brother Cameron's story. This amazing and very moving story draws the reader in and takes them on a roller coaster ride, you can't help but feel the emotional pull as Jordan and Cameron learn to reconnect and deal with life's circumstances and what matters most in life.

Rich in detail and vivid descriptions, the author transports the reader around the globe to such beautiful settings as Boston, San Francisco, Berkeley, Hong Kong and Nepal. The author's attention to detail draws the reader in, just by closing your eyes you can visualize these locations lush with scenic views, sights, sounds and well-known landmarks. The author also provides the reader with wonderful flashback memories of Jordan and Cameron's childhood memories which enables the reader to understand the real issues that lies beneath the surface, and the reasoning for the personal soul-searching journey that the siblings embark upon.

The author has created a large variety of cast of characters who are realistic, complex and easy for the reader to relate to. These larger than life quirky characters each play a significant role that intertwines in Jordan's journey to discover who she is and what matters most in her life. I admired Jordan's strength, sense of responsibility and determination; I absolutely loved the free spirited best friend Karin, her antics kept me in stitches; I wanted to shake Cameron and tell him to just grow up; I loved Grace, Jordan and Cameron's mom, her visit to Cali reawakened her true self; and of course baby Paris simply stole my heart. I also really enjoyed the development of Jordan and David's relationship. There are so many supporting cast of characters that were equally engaging: I would be remiss if I didn't mention Cameron's quirky holy roller housemates:

Shepherd Jon, Valerie, Melody and Domingo, their antics were very entertaining.

With crazy antics, engaging dialogue and interactions, really wonderful settings, and a thought provoking storyline, *Sleeping Tigers* is a powerfully compelling and entertaining read. Author Holly Robinson provides the reader with a beautifully descriptive story that will engage the reader to embrace Jordan and Cameron's emotional soul-searching journey. *Sleeping Tigers* is simply an amazing story that will resonate with you long after the last word has been read.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

Christina says

Well written and thought provoking. How would I handle the challenges thrown into this young woman's life?

Enjoy!

Mandy says

Excellent read!

The only reason this well plotted, well written, well developed story didn't earn a higher rating from me was the totally unnecessary sexual hot spring description between the mc and a char she didn't care much for. I felt that was unlikely, overdescriptive and overreaching--same kind of turning point could have been achieved in a less disgusting way. Otherwise excellent read. I will definitely be seeking this author out in the future.

Lisa says

This was the perfect vacation read. Jordan is a little lost in life. She had a major medical scare and now wants to make sure her life means something. Jordan is a very likable character. She's down-to-earth and very easy to relate to. She's responsible and even though she wants to get away from it all and live a little carefree, she still is grounded in reality and willing to except what comes her way.

My favorite thing about this novel is that I felt like I was soul searching right along with Jordan. Everything in this novel could happen to any of us at any time and that made it real for me. Also I had just recently visited San Francisco so a lot of the settings were still vivid pictures in my mind. The scenes set in Nepal were descriptively breathtaking and made me a bit envious of Jordan's journey.

Another aspect of this novel that I really loved was the strong connection of family. Even though both Jordan and Cam are grown, they come to realize how much they still need each other in their life. It's too bad that it took some extreme circumstances for both of them to realise that, but sometimes people need a big "push" to make things happen. It also gave hope that people can change over time. This is something that I think we all hold on to, so it was nice to have it "proven" in a novel.

Overall I really enjoyed this novel. It made me feel happy and content while reading it and I look forward to reading more from this author.

Geri Ahearn says

"A COMPLETE TRIUMPH!"

Jordan O'Malley thought she had everything in her safe world, her career as a teacher, her boyfriend, and a lovely home. However, after a breast cancer scare, she begins to realize that in reality, there was a void in her life. What she had was nice, but what she really wanted she longed for, and her picture on life began to change drastically. She realized that her boyfriend wasn't Mr. Right, her parents were smothering her, and she missed her brother and a very close friend. Her New England life was about to be left behind as she sets out on a mission, determined to find her hero and her very dear friend. As Jordan travels cross-country to find Cam and reunite with Karin, along the way, she finds passion and happiness within herself. Her life began to change for the better as she followed her heart. Was Jordan selfish, what kind of childhood did she have, and did her boyfriend from back home ever give her support? Jordan gave up social ties and material possessions, but did she ever break the bond with her brother? I highly recommend this incredible novel to all contemporary fiction lovers, who enjoy suspenseful stories, with a blend of romance. Holly Robinson delivers a mesmerizing page-turner with colorful characters that will make you laugh and cry, steamy romance, and an intriguing story made for the Movie screen! The author conveys that the greatest risk in life is not taking one, and the results of venturing out without any plans can indeed be extremely rewarding. The fabulous adventure is a journey of discovery, a reawakening of one brave woman, who is filled with courage and love. The addicting story is powerfully moving as the reader takes an emotional roller-coaster ride through the life of the main character. Each life-changing page of Jordan's journey portrays humanity, wit, sadness, and the importance of family and friendship. "SLEEPING TIGERS" is as touching as STEPMOM, as entertaining as NORMA RAE, and as dramatic as ERIN BROCKOVICH.

Myfanwy says

After a terrifying cancer scare, Jordan O'Malley leaves behind everything she has always relied upon for comfort and security (her parents, her boyfriend, her job) to go clear her head in San Francisco for a few months. There, she reconnects with her best friend and her brother. Though she goes there believing that she is going to, for once in her life, be irresponsible and free-wheeling, what she finds instead is what she never knew was a missing: the necessity of letting go of control and joy of finding the love of her life and a family of her own.

This deftly-told book, will take you from San Francisco to Nepal, from childhood through adulthood, and beyond. Robinson is a master of dialogue and in laying out scenes and scenarios that will have you laughing one minute and crying the next.

It's a fast-paced, fun book which isn't afraid to peer into the dark places of the human heart. It would make a great beach read or discussion-starter for your book club. Read it.

Lee says

Liked it a lot, though not a genre I typically read. What I liked about the book is the squalor is shown as an obstacle to surmount rather than ignored -- too many journeys into the third world, especially Nepal, gloss over the abject poverty and difficulties of living conditions. Nothing is glamorized. Growth is insight born out of caring for others and seeing the real world and not some mystical revelation. I believed the characters were real people.

This book is nothing like Eat Pray Love, by the way. It's not some self-centered, navel-gazing escape by a rich woman taken for no discernible reason. Not at all. My only real quibble with it is I would've liked it to go on longer.

I downloaded this book because it was free and I was getting tired of my usual fare (science fiction) and gave it a shot. I would've gladly paid for it. But not too much.

Natalie says

There was one word that put me off Robinson's Bay Area - 'subway'? Also no one ever seems to worry about parking.

This didn't feel like my Bay Area or my San Francisco even though the neighborhoods are familiar.

But don't let that put you off the story itself - it didn't stop me from enjoying what Robinson knows best and that is the words of women - what they say to each other, how they observe each other, how they can begin to learn to see each other, maybe even help each other.

Michelle says

Sleeping Tigers follows Jordan as she builds a new life for herself. After surviving breast cancer and breaking up from her boyfriend, she goes to San Francisco, tracks down her brother and finds things she never expected to find.

When the author contacted me regarding a review I happily accepted. When she sent me the cover in an email I fell in love with it. It's so bright and colourful and definitely stands out.

From the moment I opened Sleeping Tigers I fell in love with the writing and after we get to hear Jordan's story I really felt sorry for her, but thought she was so brave for ending the life she knew to start afresh by herself. I would never have the courage to do what she did.

I admire her for how she takes in Cam's child and cares for her like she was her own and the bravery it took to travel across the world alone to find Cam and get custody is something I really would not have been able to do.

I loved the descriptive writing used to describe not only the beauty of the places Jordan visits, but also the devastation of the state of her brother when she finds him. It was easy to feel the emotions being portrayed in *Sleeping Tigers* and I look forward to seeing what else Holly offers us in the future.

Domonique says

Really good book

I really enjoyed this book, reading one woman's journey of starting over and learning her place in life and in her family.

tbears says

My very first Kindle book and a very good choice especially since it was free. Glad I discovered it. I found the book hard to put down. The journey to Nepal was quite an eye-opening experience to a third world country with no sugarcoating the poverty and filth. I was disappointed when I came to the end and wanted more.

Jamee Pritchard says

I really enjoyed *Sleeping Tigers*. Although I would not strictly describe it as a chick-lit novel, it does contain many of the genre's elements. It's the story of a woman starting over. After having a health scare, she decides to move to San Francisco in search of her brother, excitement, and possibly love. She finds not only her brother but an array of problems that are sure to add excitement to her life.

I was gently tugged into this story. There wasn't a specific hook that grabbed me and demanded me to read on, yet I was easily wrapped up in the unfolding of the story. I was intrigued with the main character and how she interacted with the other characters and also how she dealt with the the major issues that arose. For me, this book is a bit reminiscent of *Eat, Pray, Love*, but at the same time, completely different, following its own path.

There's a personal journey that the main character has to go through to discover her own potential. Instead of the story being solely about that journey, we see part of her brother's journey and how two people of the same genetics deal with societal pressures and family roles.

Like many readers, I wish all good books had a sequel or a follow-up, a brief glimpse into the ever after. I always wonder what happens to the characters after that last chapter. Are the promises made in the end of the story kept? Here's hoping that the characters in *Sleeping Tigers* get their happy ending.

Morrigan says

It befuddles me why it took me so long to write this review. I think the reason was that I got to know the author through email exchanges and I just couldn't be that impartial in paper (i.e. the internet). So, after the months brought back my impartiality, I am all good to go.

Jordan has a breast cancer scare and although she gets through it ok, she is quite shaken by the experience. Her tranquil and safe life soon comes unraveling as she leaves her boyfriend and her sedentary life. She travels to San Francisco for the summer to spend some time experiencing life and hanging out with her wild best friend. She is also trying to track down her brother, Cam, who is a drifter and...well, you will find out when you read the book.

For a character who is described as always playing it safe and never taking any risks, Jordan is really gun-ho about getting in the action, taking risks (including risking her life) and just going full throttle as she deals with the challenges that life throws her way. I liked Jordan. Her actions and the narration describing her do not match. It is also as if the author imagined her one way, and Jordan came to life and decided on her own her own actions. She is a bit idealistic (and perhaps unrealistic) but, she is a bit relatable.

The plot occurs quickly, all the events occurring and developing quickly. From San Francisco to Nepal in no time. And this is the aspect of the book that makes it a bit unrealistic and hurried. But, it is entertaining and a quick read.

The writing, well, it was quite excellent. Holly Robinson is definitely a good writer. The narration flowed perfectly. The book was well edited (except for a few minor typos). Overall, I enjoyed this book and I would recommend it. It is great for a summer read.

Jo says

I really enjoyed this book. Jordan is in her early 30s and having a bit of a mid-life crisis. Her long term relationship has recently ended. She's had a health scare. She decides to drive across the country from Boston to San Francisco and spend the summer in the city where her best friend and her brother live. There is no neat and tidy ending that resolves the mid-life crisis. By the end of the book, we aren't exactly sure what her long term plan is and neither is she. Perhaps this is one of her big lessons -- to live in the present and trust a bit more. Her summer is mainly spent figuring out family in all it's complexity. Reconnecting with long standing relationships in new ways. Developing new relationships. Questioning what makes a family. Well written with complex characters the lack of a neat resolution gives the book depth without forsaking the sense that things will work out in the end.

Stacey Donaldson says

Jordan O'Malley survived a cancer scare, but now what? On a whim she decides to travel cross country to visit a childhood friend and reconnect with her estranged brother. Jordan discovers that she's a lot tougher than she ever imagined, finds passion in unexpected places, and travels to a far away land. This unplanned

future fulfills her in a way that she never thought possible.

Sleeping Tigers is a beautiful journey of discovery. The characters are three-dimensional, brave, scared, and complex. Holly Robinson was born to write, not because she can put words on page, but because she injects the words with emotion. She understands that the human experience is not linear, it bends, curves, winds, and weaves - sometimes all at once. Sleeping Tigers illustrates how life can take you completely by surprise and stretch you to your limits as well.

I enjoyed this book immensely! It's the type of book you share with your friends, just so that you can talk about it together!
