



## **The Way the World Is (Olivia, #2)**

*Yael Politis*

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## **The Way the World Is (Olivia, #2) Yael Politis**

*Please note that this is Book 2 of a series. While it can be read on its own, readers who begin with Book 1, Olivia, Mourning, will have a deeper understanding of the characters.*

Detroit Michigan, 1842

After the devastating trauma she suffered in Olivia, Mourning and finally knowing the reality with which she must deal, Olivia strives to rebuild herself – emotionally, socially, and financially.

She starts a new life in Detroit, the young and exciting city on a river where she has come to feel at home. New friends help the healing process, while she continues her search for the two people she loves, who have disappeared from her life. She finds the greatest solace in helping fugitive slaves escape over the river to Canada. She believes, as one of her new friends says, “In this time and place it is the most worthy thing a person can do.”

Olivia remains a compelling protagonist on a journey to find a way to do the right thing in a world in which so much is wrong.

## **The Way the World Is (Olivia, #2) Details**

Date : Published November 30th 2013 by Yael Politis

ISBN :

Author : Yael Politis

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Relationships

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## **From Reader Review The Way the World Is (Olivia, #2) for online ebook**

### **Delena constant says**

#### **The Way**

This series of Books give so much in so Little space, a Book written for Yesterday by Author Yael Politis! You did it, you gave us Yesterday! Life to remember. Was easy to give 5 ? Rating

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### **Patsy says**

Detroit 1841 \_ Book #2 - Olivia Series - After the very emotional drama book one. Olivia realized this was life she decided to strive to better herself emotionally, socially, and financially. She started a new life in Detroit. This book was well written, each character was well described. Olivia took numerous journeys the author did an excellent job on describing the trips. The author did a good job on her research on the underground railroad. A very good plot and very entertaining. The author is writing a third book in the series now. Enjoy.

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### **Wendy T says**

I really loved this book, along with the first one! The characters are well-rounded. I read both of these books within a week, and wanted more. I was not happy with the ending, though. And I've read enough reviews of the 3rd book that makes me not want to rush out to get it :( . I really wish the next volumes followed along on Olivia's adventures.

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### **Sheila says**

This second book in the Olivia series by Yael Politis takes up where the first novel ended, with Olivia Killion's world, like the wider world around her, facing sudden unpredictable change. Dreamer Olivia still imagines a perfect life for herself, sitting on a porch, ignoring slavery, shucking corn, watching her child, and waiting for her husband to come home. But past events have made this difficult. Instead she flees to a dream long gone and ends up in a swiftly changing Detroit.

Chance meetings and honest compassion lead Olivia beyond the selfish naivety of her own desires. Innocent questions—"Do colored children go to school?"—reveal the darkness of a singularly unequal equality, even as colored slaves still struggle to buy their freedom. And the story of one woman's coming of age reveals the coming of age of country and people too.

Well-researched history underlies these pages, painting them with delightful, convincing detail. Well-drawn scenes evoke the world of the time, with winter's snow and ice on the lake, and frantic dashes to freedom. A

town grows up, filled with a wealth of characters and needs, beautiful voices, and thoughtful conversations that draw the reader in. Accents are readable and real—a serious achievement!—and plots and plans come to realistically satisfying conclusions.

The Way the World Is doesn't sugar-coat the world or direct its path, but invites readers to see hope behind pain, and joy in honest acceptance. None of us, not even Olivia, needs to achieve all our dreams to find the power that comes from a worthy peace.

Disclosure: I was lucky enough to find this when it was free and I loved it.

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### **Kathie says**

I enjoy historical fiction and this book and it's predecessor gave me so much to love. Olivia, as the main character, is a strong independent woman for her time. She is the "Scarlett O'Hara" of the North. She doesn't need a man, although she loves one that she cannot have, and you ache for her. At this time period slaves are trying to escape a horrible life in the South, abolitionists are trying to get them out through the Underground Railroad, and Olivia is an important point along the way. She is so brave, helping with this important humanitarian effort. This story holds your attention and is fascinating in its details of the way life was lived then, describing down to small details of how to cook, clean, and run a business. I am from Michigan and adored the details of how lovely the land was. I am about to read the 3rd book in this series and cannot wait to find out what happened. Bravo, Yael Politis. I now have another favorite author.

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### **Lauren says**

This is a powerful follow up to the first book in the series. In book one we follow Olivia on her journey to become more independent. Mind you she is a single white female, living in a time of slavery and men ruling the roost. I am blown away by how this author created such a strong independent female. Who doesn't cower down when faced with challenges, or is so cruelly treated. No Olivia stands up and decides to help the underground railroad while following her dreams. This is a powerful read for anyone who values equality among races/sex, or wants a strong lead. I have to admit I was saddened by the ending, but have faith in book 2.

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### **Leslie says**

So much happened and yet nothing happened. I was left really wanting more and felt unsatisfied at the end!

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### **Chelli Lefler says**

#### **More, more!**

Sure want to find out what happens next..my interest is now centered on Mourning and Little Boy. Olivia's life loses believability in this book, but holds my interest enough to want to read the rest of the series.

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### **Barbara says**

This second book in a series, "The Way the World Is," follows the story of Olivia Killion in early 19th century rural Pennsylvania and Detroit, Michigan, addressing the issues of the abolitionist movement, hired slave catchers, and the Underground Railroad. As with the first book, I thought the author often invested the characters with 21st century thinking and manners of speech that seem anachronistic in this time frame. I also find the character of the protagonist to be inconsistent and confusing at times, almost what we would label bipolar, although given a mention that there were rumors that her mother was "not right in the head," perhaps this is deliberate. The story, however, is quite interesting, and I do believe the historical details are accurate. I will continue following the story of this unusual woman.

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### **Chrissy (The Every Free Chance Reader) says**

Did I enjoy this book: Yes.

This is book two in the Olivia series. The first book was entitled, Olivia, Mourning. I loved that story. The cliffhanger in book one made it impossible to skip book two.

The Way the World Is starts off with as much excitement and drama as the first book. I was surprised by the quick turn of events and the path Olivia chooses.

The characters in this novel are rich and engaging. They all have interesting stories and personalities. They work together to move the story along smoothly.

Why 4 stars? If Olivia, Mourning was a grand slam (and in my opinion, it was), then The Way the World Is was more like a double. There's reason to cheer, but no one makes it over home plate. At around 50% through the book, it began to drag on. Even the characters are acknowledging the boredom and tediousness of renovating the boarding house. The everyday chores of painting, learning to cook, and setting up finances made for a long, slow read. I think it's a good clue that if your characters are bored, your readers are bored.

Would I recommend it: Yes, but go ahead and skim or skip from about 50% to about 75%. Just know that they are setting up a boarding house, getting drunk, and talking a lot.

Will I read it again: No. But I will be on the lookout for book three.

As reviewed by Belinda at Every Free Chance Book Reviews.

(I received a copy of this book for review purposes.)

<http://everyfreechance.com/2014/01/re...>

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## **Marilou George says**

Yael Politis seamlessly delivers a sequel to ‘Olivia, Mourning’ that is poignant and stunningly written. We follow the continuation of the life journey of Olivia Killion right where we left off. I couldn’t wait to get my hands on this book, and was totally captivated with the emotion and historical texture of the story.

As the circumstances of Olivia’s life change she is forced to make a grueling decision. As she comes to terms with her situation, Olivia returns to Detroit only to find herself owning and operating a boarding house. She is a strong young woman who is determined to make something of her life. She is against any and all kinds of bigotry and injustice, and is willing to risk her own life to help hide runaway slaves as they make their way to Canada.

Olivia is a young girl that is very insightful and sees the world with a profound sense of right and wrong. She is not ignorant to the racial hatred she sees, and she is also convinced that a woman can make a mark in the world by working hard on her own. She is a strong and beloved character that I felt great empathy for.

This is a remarkably well researched piece of historical fiction. It portrays a real sense of the city of Detroit in the 1940’s, and the social and economic struggles of that time. The realistic portrayal of the dangers of the runaway slaves, and their interactions with white people willing to risk their own lives to help them is remarkable.

This story is written with great compassion and historical detail. Yeal Politis is becoming one of my favorite Authors. She is a talented writer who has that special ability to place the reader into the story, and make them feel as if they are part of it. Her research is so well developed that it shows in every facet of this astounding story. I would highly recommend this book to all readers.

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## **Sheila says**

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Disclosure: I was lucky enough to find this when it was free and I loved it.

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### **July says**

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### **Larry Fogel says**

“The Way the World Is” is the sequel to “Olivia, Mourning”. Both of them gripped me from the start. As in the first book, the author brilliantly takes us back to a time and place that many have dreamed about, living in the old American mid-west in the 1840’s, exemplifying what feels to be an accurate portrait of the life and hardships in those pioneering days. I can’t tell you who my favorite character was – that would give away too much, but I certainly wouldn’t mind being friends with Jettie! All of the characters are full of life. And even though this book does not end with a cliffhanger, I look forward to the third book hitting the electronic bookstands. I would recommend the series for anyone who enjoys historical fiction brimming with interesting relationships, drama, and human adventure. Excellent!

Larry Fogel

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### **carole says**

#### **GOOD READS and EXCELENT WRITER**

I was raised to believe you should not judge a person by their race, religion or color. I am so glad my mother was so strong with this belief and engrained it into my feelings so strongly. I am now 83 years old and I still feel this way. I feel my life has been much enriched by my black friends. I feel this writer has done a great job in writing with no prejudices at all. We have come a long way down the way but it is not far enough yet. Bless this writer for her broad minded way of writing. This is a good series I have read the first 3 and starting the 4th. Good reading and well written.

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## **Carole Rae says**

Like earlier stated, I was given this book for my honest and unbiased opinion.

This is the second book of the Olivia series, however, it could be read as a stand alone - kind of. There are a lot of references that one would miss, so I highly suggest reading the first one (which was really good by the way).

Poor Olivia. :( She has had a hell of a time over the last two books. However, she keeps being her sweet self and trying to be a better person and make the world a better place. I just feel sooooooooooooo bad for her. I'm so happy things do seem to get better when she goes back to Michigan and decides to make her life there - not as a farmer, but she finds something else (I will not say). She is so ahead of her time, it's tragic. The world is a shitty place sometimes, but with people like her there is hope.

The author is eviiiiiiil. All I wanted was a reunion between Olivia and Mourning. She kept teasing me, because Olivia and Mourning would pretty much JUST miss each other. She would leave Five Rocks and a day later he would arrive. They do finally get their reunion, but it broke my heart, because it was not as I expected it to go. :( I will say no more for it will spoil it.

UGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGH! The ENDING! It wasn't long enough! I need to know more!!!!!!! EVIL, but brilliant author. Honestly, a part of me knew what was going to happen, but I denied it and I was hopeful and begging for it to end a certain way. HOWEVER, that is not the way the world is (haha, see what I did there?). The author is amazing, yet again, because she does not shy away from the truth of the era. Life is not simple and full of rainbows; bad things happen and not everyone get a happily ever after.

I really liked this book. The beginning was a little choppy, but once Olivia got out of her head and began her journey back to Michigan, things got better and more flowy and smooth. I think I liked it, but I liked the first one more. Mainly because Mourning was there and I really liked the two together. This one was still really good, but I was left empty without him. I cannot wait to read the third one to find out more about what happened to Olivia and Mourning. I would recommend this one to historical fiction lovers out there. :) Out of five stars, I grant this one 4 stars.

Favorite Character(s): Olivia, Michelle, Jettie, Mr. Abraham, and Jeremy (yayy! My wish was kinda sorta granted).

Not-so Favorite Character(s): The slave hunter (I can't remember his name tho)

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## **Christoph Fischer says**

"The Way the World Is" by Yael Politis is the second book in a series and it follows on from a somewhat open ending in book one and tells another amazing chapter in the life of Olivia, the main character of both books. The story as it happened in book one is explained in enough detail to understand plot and character development and it works very well as a stand alone opus.

However, the first book is very much worth reading so maybe if you consider doing so watch out for spoilers in this review.

Olivia bears the consequences of her actions in book one and makes a tough decision in order to move on with her life. With sorrow and regret but her usual determination she carries on to make the most of her life and her gifts. She returns home to lay claim to the land she has earned but her emotional ties and her personal convictions lead her on another difficult path; a new life, a new city, a new purpose and another dramatic ending.

Olivia is a great character, her good soul a great tool to reflect on the times of 1842 in terms of racial, gender and religious equality. So much is said within those words, so many of Olivias remarks are truthful and powerful.

I applaud Politis for a great second book that really isn't just a sequel or a simple continuation. The events are plausible, logical yet not predictable. I enjoyed this book even more than the first for that reason.

Well written, evenly paced and with a cast of great supporting characters this truly is a good read.

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### **Wanda says**

This is really a story of new beginnings for Olivia. She had been violated, humiliated, and tortured and now she finds herself alone and very vulnerable. Olivia Killion, a 19 year old woman, with her whole life ahead of her, is living with a lot of anger. She realizes she needs to move on with her life and make the best of her past decisions, one of which she is feeling a grand betrayal of an innocent life.

Jettie Place, a strong and rather feisty character, had been Olivia's father's mistress, but now showed Olivia nothing but kindness and love. Jettie has a strong influence on Olivia, and helps her to make some heart-wrenching and unbearable decisions. They were decisions that changed Olivia's life drastically and the story unfolds in the 1840's as Olivia leaves Five Rocks, Pennsylvania and makes her home in Detroit, Michigan.

Olivia becomes involved with runaway slaves and the Underground Railroad when she comes to the aid of slaves trying to make their way to Canada. Jarad Dansbury has intruded in Olivia's life, but she finds him attractive despite his shameful profession. He has the power to search all establishments suspected of harboring fugitives or slaves. He had been commissioned by the state of Kentucky to return fugitive slaves to their owners. I hope we'll be reading more about this interesting character in the next book of the series.

Olivia buys a property and soon takes out a mortgage through a bank. At first she finds the idea distasteful, but there simply was no other way.

I felt connected immediately to the vibrant and well developed characters, including the minor ones - Mr. Abraham,

Michelle, and Mr. Wentworth, three characters that Olivia wasn't sure if they were trustworthy. Were they in cahoots, trying to cheat her? It seems that Olivia became suspicious of everyone because of her tragic past. Did they really have hidden motives or were their intentions honorable?

Yail Politis does it again! I was immediately drawn into the storyline from beginning to end. The great attention to detail makes this a great read as the setting becomes alive with the beautiful descriptive writing.

The novel builds to a rather poignant ending, but still with unresolved issues. I'm looking forward to the final installment of this series. There could be some interesting revelations to unfold. Yael Politis is fast becoming a favorite author of mine and definitely this book is deserving of a 5 star rating. Don't miss this series.

I recommend first reading *Olivia, Mourning*, the first book in the series, to have a better understanding of the characters.

Thank you to the author for giving me a complimentary copy of this book.

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### **Yael Politis says**

From the author:

I would like to share with you an extract of the review of *The Way the World Is* that will appear in the February 2014 Issue of Midwest Book Review:

”... Fans of *Olivia, Mourning* will find this sequel no less engrossing, with its gritty protagonist who is determined to forge her own unique path in life ... *The Way the World Is* covers a variety of themes: personal growth, change, destiny, responsibility and, ultimately, the costs of love ... Perhaps the most powerful passage of all sums up in a nutshell what motivates Olivia to keep hope and determination alive, even in the face of despair: ‘As long as we draw breath, nothing in this life is final.’ Some books stand alone and require no prior familiarity with others in their series ... but don’t miss *Olivia, Mourning*. It sets the stage for an ongoing saga rich in detail, history, and perspective. Together, the two books offer a powerful saga that makes for thoroughly engrossing, compelling historical fiction at its best.”

– D. Donovan, Senior eBook Reviewer, Midwest Book Review

Ms. Donovan also reviewed *Olivia, Mourning* in the January 2014 Issue of MBR.

The full text of both reviews is available on my blog. However, be warned that the review of *The Way the World Is* contains spoilers. It is a very difficult book to review without giving things away.

Review of *Olivia, Mourning* (Book 1): <http://yaelpolitis.wordpress.com/oliv...>

Review of *The Way the World Is* (Book 2): <http://yaelpolitis.wordpress.com/the-...>

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### **Marcia Cook says**

#### **More history of early years in Michigan**

There is so much rich history in this novel. Growing up in southern Michigan, I learned from an uncle, who was a self employed carpenter, that there many towns in our area that had been part of the "under ground railroad". I was fascinated and he described some homes in our little town that he had worked in and discovered.

Hiding places for the people being assisted in escaping slavery. I am always looking for learning history through these wonderful novels.

