



## Meet Me in Outer Space

*Melinda Grace*

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## Meet Me in Outer Space Melinda Grace

Smart and unflinching, this #OwnVoices debut contemporary novel stars an ambitious college student who refuses to be defined by her central auditory processing disorder.

Edie Kits has a learning disability. Well, not a learning disability exactly, but a disability that impacts her learning. It isn't visible, it isn't obvious, and it isn't something she likes to advertise.

And for three semesters of college, her hard work and perseverance have carried her through. Edie thinks she has her disability under control until she meets her match with a French 102 course and a professor unwilling to help her out.

Edie finds herself caught between getting the help she needs and convincing her professor that she isn't looking for an easy out. Luckily for Edie, she has an amazing best friend, Serena, who is willing to stitch together a plan to ensure Edie's success. And then there's Hudson, the badly dressed but undoubtedly adorable TA in her French class who finds himself pulled into her orbit...

Chosen by readers like you for Macmillan's young adult imprint Swoon Reads, Meet Me in Outer Space is a sweet, heartachingly real story of love and college life by debut author Melinda Grace.

## Meet Me in Outer Space Details

Date : Expected publication: March 12th 2019 by Swoon Reads

ISBN : 9781250154330

Author : Melinda Grace

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Genre : Young Adult, Contemporary, Disability

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## From Reader Review Meet Me in Outer Space for online ebook

### Madalyn (Novel Ink) says

This was super cute, but a little bit surface-level. Still, so much love for the existence of this #ownvoices story starring a protagonist with Central Auditory Processing Disorder!

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### rachel says

thank you much to melinda grace for the opportunity to read this book early. the fact that a book with #ownvoices auditory processing disorder rep is is coming out *finally* is to bloody important for me and other people with apd/capd. i hope y'all have it on you 2019 tbrs

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### Jaime says

I love reading books with different themes- learning disabilities, mental health issues, etc. I love seeing the inner workings of someone's mind and thoughts when coping with these things. Unfortunately for me this one fell flat in that regard.

Edie was just so... whiny. She was whiny to the point of feeling more attention seeking than someone who was just frustrated with people's lack of understanding. There was some explanation in the beginning of the book as to how this disability works, but that was it. Edie actually got legitimately angry at Hudson when he asked her to explain it to him. She acted as if he was viewing her as a sideshow and not as a person. Uh no.. he was genuinely curious about it. She complained so much that people weren't understanding and then complained when someone tried to learn about it. She just came across as very juvenile.

I actually liked Hudson. I thought he seemed like a pretty cool guy, but I don't feel like he was developed well. After finishing the book I'm still not positive that I have a grasp on his personality.

The book itself was okay. The biggest issue I had was that It just.. ended. The chapter ends and there is no more. We never get an epilogue involving Paris which was such a huge theme in the book.

This book very much read like a YA novel set in a college atmosphere. It was unbelievably clean. No joke, a 14 year old could read it and aside from very mild cursing and the phrase "sexual tension" they would be just fine.

Overall, this book was just okay. I wouldn't suggest it to someone, but i was able to finish it without any issue.

*ARC provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review*

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## **Sean McMurray says**

There is a moment in this book that is so cinematic in its imagery and the emotions that it invokes that your heart will swell in the best kind of way. For the sake of spoilers, I won't mention it in this review but it encapsulates what I loved about this novel. At the heart of this sweet romance is a story of real life struggle, perseverance and ultimately coming of age in a college setting but told with enough humor and flair that there's an almost magical quality to the text. Like a shooting star that burns bright only for a second but lingers in one's imagination long after one's made their wish, *Meet Me in Outer Space* sticks with you.

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## **Karissa says**

Edie Kits is an early 20-something college student just trying to pass French so she can go to Paris in the summer and study abroad in the Fall. That is her goal: Paris, Paris, Paris. Her French professor, Mr. Clément, and the cute TA, Wes Hudson, make it achieving this goal hard enough without the added complication of her disability. Edie Kits has central auditory processing disorder (CAPD); messages get jumbled up or completely distorted, especially in noisy environments where she can't focus. You know what also makes it hard for her to focus? Wes Hudson. Between her growing infatuation for him and struggling to pass French 102, will she ever make it to Paris?

I wanted to like this book. I really did. It is a #OwnVoices novel for a disability that 1. doesn't have a lot of visibility in fiction and 2. doesn't have a lot of visibility in the real world either. I was also looking forward to a cute, fluffy romance, especially considering my past few reads this month. Unfortunately, by 30 pages in, I wasn't feeling it and by 60, I was ready to DNF this book. However, since the ebook was only 160 pages, I figured I might as well finish it. By 111, I just started skimming the pages to get the gist of what was going on and to find out how it ended.

I thought the concept was cute and like I said, I was excited to read it. It wasn't a /bad/ book, in my opinion, but it was not the book for me. However... it just..... annoyed me more than anything and that is incredibly disappointing. Edie was whiny and the hot, then cold, then lukewarm, then tundra aspect of her relationship with Hudson was just ridiculous. At many points in the book it felt like she was overreacting and because she wanted to be upset, or wanted to find some... flaw in Hudson to be like "See! Paris," she would twist things to be offended. All of the characters, even Edie, were quite flat and one dimensional and I really just didn't understand Hudson. One moment he was all "I can't do this; you can't have it both ways," and then quite literally in the same breath said, "Let's overanalyze this later and kiss for now." It made no sense. His reactions-- their entire relationship-- did not make sense to me, at all. And part of me thought that maybe things that he was doing-- the constant apologizing, the biting at his nail beds, the bouncing knees-- were pointing to an anxiety disorder and that would maybe explain things, but.... no, that was never even suggested. Edie was just as bad; she wanted to say she wasn't leading the boy on, that he knew what he was getting into, but just as often as she was like, "Nooooo, Paris. None of this," her actions contradicted her words and she continued to pursue a relationship with him-- even if she didn't want to admit to herself that it was a relationship (if you're not in a relationship with someone and you're sure that they know that they're "just your tutor," then why do you feel the need to preemptively break up with them, hm?)

I am very proud of the author for writing a book that sheds light on her own disability, one that we don't hear or see in the real world or fiction that often. And like I said, it's not a -bad- book and I'm sure that there are many with tastes different than mine that might love this book. However, I just... really did not like it.

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## Kath says

This book was so freaking cute, I can't even deal. Like, don't even look at me, I am still double heart eyes over Hudson and literally everything he says in this entire book.

It was totally refreshing reading a book which could probably be considered 'new adult' based on the age of the characters and not have it entirely focused on the love story. I feel like sometimes that 'new adult' categorization is just an excuse to have the two leads have sex in every possible place on a college campus which gets old quick. I loved that this was just as much about Edie - her day to day struggles with doing her best in school while working with her APD, focusing on her goals while also trying to maintain relationships with her friends, all the wonderful fashion elements - as it was about Edie and Hudson together.

And Hudson... LISTEN, don't even get me started because that little french-speaking, space obsessed, totally abrupt and honest mega-nerd with his stupid maroon beanie and his stupid 'whispering the cutest shit into the transmitter for Edie's earpiece to make her smile' is basically my whole life now and I'm okay with it.

Also, I actually knew most of the french in this and was so proud of myself that after 8 years of studying french I could translate what is considered level 2 basic french, tres bien Katharine, you've done your hs french teachers proud.

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## Lydia Albano says

okay okay okay. lots of thoughts. I'm just gonna list them in no particular order and try not to forget things!

1. my favorite thing about this book was that it was Edie's story. the romance was great, but it's a story about Edie and I love the author of that. it's about college, about her struggle to maintain normalcy despite a disability that many people don't even validate, her fashion dreams and her work ethic and her drive for Paris against all odds, and her friendships (of which there were plenty so it felt totally real but not so many that you didn't actually get to know them - the perfect balance). I just loved that it followed every aspect of Edie's life and as a result I was cheering her on.

2. Hudson is super cute, duh. I like that he was flawed- he did mess up sometimes, and he acted like a normal person and wasn't perfect but as a result, he was so real and I loved him.

3. the french! ahh! makes me want to take it up again so I can reread and understand more of it! also makes me want to go back to Paris soooo badly. also makes me want to take up fashion design again and learn to sew... okay I'll stop.

4. umm I'm back to the supporting characters; I don't even want to call them that. they fleshed the whole thing out so well, from friends to family to school faculty.

5. I loved learning about APD which I was quite unaware of until this author brought it to my attention. also,

Melinda Grace writes so casually that this was a really easy read, so what a lovely way to digest new information!

6. that last scene. another reviewer already said “cinematic” and that’s the best word for it. I won’t spoil it, but yeah- let’s just say if anyone ever wants to set that up for me, consider me swooning.

4.

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### **Kristen says**

3.5 stars

Super readable and cute but I sort of got annoyed with how the main character kept pushing Wes away.

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### **Bre says**

I received an advanced copy of the book via NetGalley. Meet Me in Outer Space is a cute, light read. It is a young adult romance. Edie has an auditory processing disorder which causes her to struggle in a French college course. She has dreams of working in the fashion industry, and has plans to go to Paris, France during the summer. Therefore, passing her French class is her biggest priority. However, she soon finds herself distracted by the Teaching Assistant/Tutor.

I had a few issues, personally, with Edie’s character. She manipulates the relationships with her male friends. She knows how they feel about her, yet she continues to string them along and hold them responsible for how things end up. She also reacts in ways that are not typical of someone who is feeling the emotions that she is feeling. I felt that the ending of the book was a little rushed.

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### **Heartless Queen says**

Me \*in denial\*: Nope, this story is not over, I'm sure we will get 10 or 100 more following books about Edie and Hudson. I won't say goodbye to them!! Or at least one more chapter, pretty please? \*puppy eyes\*

*Meet Me in Outer Space* is a book written by a debut author, so before I started reading it, I didn't know what to expect, what was the author's writing style. I had only the goodreads' plot that got me curious right away, an interesting title that ended up having a lovely meaning, and the luck and chance to win an ARC (and a special gift from the writer) on a giveaway held by Melinda Grace's friend Jessika Fleck on Twitter. (By the way, Jessika has a debut book too, *Beware the night*)

I'm so glad I didn't have to wait until on March 12th 2019 to have such a delightful reading experience. And why is that? Here is a list:

- every chapter has an awesome title (such a nice surprise! I love that in a book!)
- relatable, easy to connect with, strong heroine (I wasn't diagnosed with a disability, but when studying a foreign language, the hearing part is the most difficult for me, and I get distracted easily, too. Also, Edie's perseverance and ambition!)
- full of purpose and heartwarming story and message

- own voices
- sweet cute college romance
- strong friendship (Serena! We need more books where girls support each other)
- amazing chemistry between the main characters
- book-boyfriend-caring-supportive-understanding-I-need-him-in-my-life Hudson
- lots of smiling and swooning
- no unnecessary drama or crazy unbelievable situations
- no cheating
- lines in French and other foreign languages
- studying foreign languages
- fashion and style (THE DRESS!!)
- fighting for your dreams
- Paris talking
- pizza cheering (Always!)
- photography
- volleyball and how to be a proper supporter
- stars and outer space
- dates you'll want to have in real life

I loved Melinda Grace's writing. This book has so much heart, so much real emotion. I read that she has the same disability like her character Edie and I think she is so brave and strong to talk about it through this book and especially through Edie, encouraging others to open up too. If this is her first book, well YA and Contemporary fans and not only, prepare yourself for a starry future ensured by her books.

I'm so grateful to have gotten an early copy of this, and I'm excited for others to get to read it, too. Thank you, Melinda Grace, Jessika Fleck and Swoon Reads!!!!

Guess what: You don't have to wait until 2019, because it is available for request on Netgalley!

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### **Romantic Intentions Quarterly says**

Edie has an audio processing disorder, which means that she needs to pay very close attention, at all times, to understand what people are saying. This, of course, does not make learning a second language easy, especially when her professor speaks with a heavy French accent. Seeking help – Edie really wants to learn French; she has plans to enter the fashion world (but... has she never heard of Duolingo?) – she gets the handsome Hudson as a tutor, and while he is not always as sensitive to her privacy as she would like, and she is pretty sure he just feels sorry for her, he slowly comes to win her trust—and more. Meanwhile, Edie's circle of friends is just *the best*, and there is enough beautiful, if unexplained, French in here that you will probably want to learn that mellifluous language immediately. Funny and sweet but also authentic to the college experience in so many ways – and especially feeling very real when discussing Edie's learning difficulties (this is an #ownvoices novel) – *Meet Me in Outer Space* is a stunning debut novel from a very talented young author. – Clara Shipman

This review appears in Romantic Intentions Quarterly #4.

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### **Samantha Hastings says**

From the first line to the finish, this New Adult story had me completely charmed. The romance is like a French pastry, delicate, a little flaky, beautiful, and ultimately delicious.

What I loved ???:

1. Edie might have an auditory disability which causes her to mishear what people say, but that doesn't stop her from going to college and pursuing her fashion dreams. Dreams that will hopefully lead her to Paris if she can just pass her French class.
2. Hudson, the beanie wearing and fashion clueless French TA, offers to tutor her. His humor, his kindness, and ultimately his charm completely won me over.
3. Supportive friends. Give me a cheer for Serena!
4. "Meet me in outer space" ...isn't exactly what Hudson said, but it's what Edie heard and a delightful gag throughout the story.
5. All the foreign language lines! Most I understood from the context, a few I looked up. French is truly the language of love.
6. The ending is truly out of this world, but not perfectly tidy and I loved that about it.

J'ai adore ce livre!

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### **Laura says**

I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

This is a short book with a lot of impact, especially as it adds to an area of published books: Disability Own Voices.

Edie has Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD), which makes French class difficult with the professor's accent and his firm refusal to allow Edie to use the tools she normally uses to succeed. Fashion student Edie needs to pass this class, because--in addition to her language requirement--she's going to France that summer, possibly longer. Enter Wes Hudson, ridiculously attractive TA and fashion disaster, who offers to tutor her...

This is a fantastic story, full of cute interactions and opportunities to learn about life with CAPD.

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### **Liza says**

This book was too cute! I really loved the twist that sets it apart from other contemporary novels out there!

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### **Lydia says**

This is a book that handles disability in such a respectful and lovely way. Kudos to the author for that! Plus, the friendship between Edie and Serena is fabulous!! The only issue I had with it was the relationship between Edie and Hudson. I love that they support each other. I love their chemistry, but she just kept

forgiving him because of his smirk? I'm sure there were missing moments between the pair that resolved these issues, I just wish we as the readers were privy to them.

Overall a great story, fabulous voice and a really quick and easy read :)

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