



# Overboard

*Elizabeth Fama*

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## **Overboard** Elizabeth Fama

One moment of rashness, and fourteen-year-old Emily Slake finds herself amid hundreds of panicked and drowning people in the dark ocean waters off Sumatra. Miles from shore without a life vest, she resolves to survive. But in facing the dangers of the ocean, the desperation of her fellow survivors, and her own growing exhaustion, Emily must summon wits and endurance she's not sure she has.

Striking out on her own, Emily encounters Isman, a frightened young Muslim boy, floating in a life vest. Together they swim for their lives, relying on Emily's physical strength and Isman's quiet faith.

Based on a true story, *Overboard* is both a riveting tale of survival and a sensitive portrayal of cross-cultural understanding in a time of crisis.

## **Overboard Details**

Date : Published February 8th 2005 by Laurel Leaf (first published January 1st 2002)

ISBN : 9780553494365

Author : Elizabeth Fama

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Genre : Young Adult, Adventure, Survival, Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Contemporary, Childrens, Middle Grade

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# From Reader Review Overboard for online ebook

## Ryan DellaPenna says

Overboard by Elizabeth Fama was a short and exciting novel. After being forced to move to Samatra with her parents, Emily is also forced to work in a hospital with her parents. When a patient dies from something that could potentially be blamed on her and her parents tell her to take it as a learning experience, she had taken enough to push her over the edge to run away. Without her parents knowing, Emily gets on an overcrowded tilting boat. After the sinking of the boat she goes through many struggles of fatigue and hunger, and meets a few people including a tourist couple, and a young boy Isman who she saves and befriends. The book teaches a lot about friendship, and how running away can be very bad.

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## Jaclyn says

The book Overboard is based around a girl named Emily and a major event that happened in her life. At the beginning the author writes about what her family was like and how she grew up. She lives in Sumatra with her parents. Emily's parents are doctor's and she often has to help out at the clinic they work at. One day she had a patient die and nothing was going right so she was going to run-off to her uncle. She was going to take a ferry to where he lived and then call her parents when she got there. The ferry sunk on there way there. The story is based on the hardships she goes through and the friend she makes, Isman. You learn about how the become friends and what they go through. I felt as if the author was good at giving good imagery to paint a picture what was happening. Even though I liked how the author described things, I felt as if the book dragged on. Also there was a lot of life lessons in the book. I thought the book was okay and would recommend to someone who needs a short read with adventure.

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## Dessie V says

I loved the book! I wish that they would make a second one.

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## Allie says

I think I was expecting a lot more. It wasn't as good as I thought it would be.

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## Miguel says

Elizabeth Fama's books have made me terrified, flabbergasted, swoon, happy, and amazed. But never pensive like this. Overboard is a well-realised tale of the ugliness and the untimeliness of life.

Overboard is set in Indonesia and for once, it was refreshing not to read anything Westernised or so modern.

I could identify with what Fama was describing because the Indonesian culture doesn't differ that much of those from us here in the Philippines. I'm happy that Fama presented nothing but the truth of this world.

Seeing through Emily Slake's eyes was a wholly illuminating experience for me. She's a foreigner in this nation and it was fascinating to read about her honest observations. Everything from the poverty to religion to racial discrimination. Another point for Fama here.

And then there's the sinking ferry. I only know of survival stories in TV shows and films so I was curious as to how this is going to turn out in book form. Let me tell you, it was as gripping and emotional to read as it is to watching it. You could really feel for Emily and her mission to survive afloat this vast and dark sea.

Despite being short, Fama still managed to deliver a heartbreaking and rousing story. I hope more people get a chance to read this beautiful body of work.

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### **Jayvee "Writer For Misfits" says**

If a book has left me in a rollercoaster of feelings, it would have to be this book. Filled with values and morals, *Overboard* just threw me off into an abyss of feelings, where I am now dysfunctional because it is just so good.

*Overboard* tells the story of a fourteen-year old girl, Emily, forced to live in Indonesia because her parents work as volunteer doctors. She does not like being the odd one out among the dark skinned people while her pale white skin and blonde hair gets paraded on by people. She is tired of her parents not understanding her feelings and her frustrations, and when a tragic incident happens in a hospital, Emily then decides to leave and travel to the island of Weh where she is to meet her Uncle Matt. Lo and behold more tragedy strikes and Emily's determination and even her faith is challenged.

This book was a slow read for me at first, even though it is quite short. It just narrates the near-death experience of a girl, swimming for her life but then it gets exciting. Forces of nature come into the picture, making it seem like a difficult conquest. I swear, turning every page, I expected some tragedy to happen, because it seemed inevitable. It made me sad. And when there were times that I almost thought that everything was gonna be alright with the world, dun dun dun, more plot twist. It definitely reminded me of reading and watching *The Life of Pi*.

My infuriating feelings for this book are totally good, because it is thrilling, without being too boring. Elements of faith and religion also makes its way into the story, introducing the character of Isman. Emily however, was a homerun character for me. Though at the beginning, I found her rather annoying with all her qualms, which were perfectly normal for a 14 year old. I just might be getting old. But her perseverance towards the tragedy and staying alive is admirable and uncanny for someone of such a young age.

Not much can be drawn out from characters throughout this novel, because it is very short and it only focuses on the struggles of that particular situation, however, the descriptions and the way that the scenes were written, left me gripping my book. There was this one moment in the book where I had to completely curse out loud and scream at the book, It's just so good.

Though not entirely YA, it is labeled YA by Cricket Books, but to me it seems to fall in the middle grade category, however, it is as relevant as any book out there right now.

Elizabeth Fama just delivers. I've read Plus One and you know how much I completely adored and loved that book. I would die for a sequel of that book, you hear. It's that beautiful. You need to read it!

A drawback to my feelings for this book is how the end didn't seem to reassure me, which a lot of books do. And I guess, Elizabeth's books have a way of doing it to me most of the time. I feel like there could've been some rough patches fixed up in terms of the characters. It was open-ended, which is good too, but I expected a bit of a closure.

Overall, Overboard delivers on the emotion, the writing, the wit, the drama, the thrill and everything you need in a book, rolled into one little parcel. It's very good and I truly recommend it!

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## Carol Storm says

Stephen Crane's THE OPEN BOAT meets THE BREAKFAST CLUB by John Hughes.

I have to give this book two stars just because the suspense of drowning, terror and dehydration keeps you turning the pages till the very end. But the characters in this book are so annoying, it's like Molly Ringwald from THE BREAKFAST CLUB meets Hadji from JOHNNY QUEST and all they do is talk and talk and swim and drown and talk and talk . . .

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## Kim at Divergent Gryffindor says

Normally, Overboard is not a book that I would pick up. But since I got the book, I thought, why not read it? It has less than 200 pages after all. And upon opening the book, I was surprised that it was actually signed! Aren't I just lucky.

To be honest, this book is not my taste so I didn't really enjoy it as much as I would want to. But taste aside, I have to admit that it was a pretty good book. It's my fault that I wasn't able to get into it, not the book's nor the author's fault.

**Overboard is different than any other book I've ever read. It's about a sinking ship and helping each other to survive. In some ways, it's also about fate *and* faith. It's about friendship and not giving up. It's about the difference between being positive and being realistic.**

It was scary in a way that it was *too* real. It already happened, so what's preventing the same thing from happening to anyone? It really made me think and somehow it also made me a bit uneasy, thinking over that fact.

Overboard was a quick and gripping read. It had my heart racing and I really connected with the main character. It was only when I finished reading that I was able to breathe a sigh of relief. This one is definitely a unique and interesting read. It's not for me, but I still recommend it.

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## **Poleth Mercado says**

This book was INCREDIBLE. It was way beyond good of what I ever imagined. It had very good detail and description, and tons of internal thinking which made this story more suspenseful and way better. I recommend this to people who like true stories and girls because its in a girls perspective, but really to all because it shows how we need to be in life. Now, this book isn't like the boring stories you might have read that may have been true. This book does great in not making you bored, but probably in the first few pages. Once you tag along into the book, it'll feel like you're there, and you won't regret reading this book.

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## **Chey says**

great book for Muslims to relate with, fantastic lesson,a lot of unexpected Islam in this book.

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## **Dawn says**

I will admit that I would never have picked up this book on my own. I asked my friend/mentor for recommendations for "Adventure" themed books for my class and she recommended the author E. Fama. Through the first 20-30 pages I thought perhaps I had made a mistake. I was reading about a whiny, complaining teen girl so nothing surprising. Then she boarded a ferry and her life changed, as did my reading experience.

Every moment of her life for the hours that she was in the water after the ferry capsized was well thought out. Elizabeth Fama took us along for the ride while Emily grew from a frivolous teen with few redeeming characteristics to a contemplative young adult struggling to save her life and the life of a young boy she meets in the water. Facing fear, fatigue, frustration and doubt, Emily makes decisions for her own survival as well as Isman's.

I would love to read a sequel as I thought the ending of this 158 page book came far too fast. I would recommend this to a teen who is looking for a sense of adventure without violence (there are dead bodies in the water but beyond that, none), without sex and with no language issues. Because it is a short book, it might not overwhelm a reluctant reader. Elizabeth Fama does an excellent job of showing Emily shirking off the childishness of her actions earlier in the day and claiming her place in the world as a capable young woman.

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## **Megan says**

It was too short, the characters didn't have enough depth, and I wish that there could have been some kind of reunion with her parents at the end of the book.

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## **Lauren says**

I was riveted to this little book! I connected immediately to 14 year old Emily, stuck in Banda Aceh on the island of Sumatra with her doctor parents. Although she tries to fit in, Emily is lonely and desperate for her home and friends in Boston. Angry and upset over something that went wrong at the clinic, Emily takes a ferry to visit her Uncle Matt on the small island of Weh, without telling her parents. She's sure she'll arrive in plenty of time for Matt to phone her mom and dad before they're done with work for the day. But mid crossing the overloaded, patched boat sinks and Emily and hundreds of passengers are thrown into the ocean as its getting dark. Without a life jacket, Emily fights to stay alive, swimming through the night and waiting for rescue boats that don't seem to ever come.

*Overboard* is less than 200 pages but manages to be both heartbreaking and inspiring at the same time. I was glued to Emily's story as she fights with the ocean and sometimes other people and must keep swimming or die. I also got a flavor of life in this part of the world and the dangers of ferry travel. Many of these people couldn't swim and were loaded down with heavy clothing, and they didn't have much of a chance, women and children even less. I especially loved Isman, the boy Emily finds in the ocean, and the way they support each other. I did wish for a little more at the end. But this is definitely recommended.

Full review to come

Love triangle factor: N/A no romance

Cliffhanger Scale: standalone

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## **Bryon says**

Not the ridiculous Kurt Russell/Goldie Hawn fiasco...

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## **Gel (Whimsy Wanders) says**

**REVIEW WILL BE UP ON MY** *Thank you to author Elizabeth Fama for providing me a Kindle and physical copy in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion in any way.*

There's just something captivating about a book that was based on a true story and ***Overboard* by Elizabeth Fama is quite gripping as I only finished it in a day.** Well, I know it is only 186 pages but I'm such a slow reader that finishing a book in 24 hours is a record for me.

Lately, I've been picking up some great friendship books and **the friendship in this book is great.** I like how religion was introduced in Emily and Isman's friendship but it also felt like it weren't forced. It was like Isman was just sharing his beliefs to this stranger, kind of just like he was having a normal conversation with someone.

**The main character, Emily, who is 14 is a little bit whiny but it did not annoy me because it's just realistic.** She's missing her home and friends back in Boston and she felt really different from the people in Sumatra because of her white complexion and blond hair.

**This book made me imagine what it felt like to be stranded in an ocean and I was scared.** Though it did not made me feel like I'm the one who is stranded. **The writing wasn't difficult to read even if it is told in 3rd person point of view.** However because it is told in 3rd person POV I didn't felt connected to the characters.

***Overboard* is a gripping story of fate, beliefs and friendship, one that will keep you turning the pages.**

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