



# A View from Forever

*Charles Sheehan-Miles*

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## **A View from Forever** Charles Sheehan-Miles

Dylan Paris is a working class kid from Atlanta. A former high school dropout who is trying to clean up his act, Dylan is stunned to be selected for a six-week foreign exchange program to Israel.

Alex Thompson is the daughter of a wealthy US Ambassador. Several weeks overseas with an exchange program is just what she needs to get out from under her over-controlling parents.

They only have five weeks before they go back to their homes.

They have completely different lives.

The last thing either of them want or need is to fall in love.

## **A View from Forever Details**

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Author : Charles Sheehan-Miles

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# From Reader Review A View from Forever for online ebook

**Claire Robinson says**

4 - "I wish this day could last forever." Stars!

Charles Sheehan-Miles has managed to do with *A View From Forever* something that a lot of authors struggle to do when offering prequel novels for books that they have already released, and that is make it a worthwhile read. I am a sucker for books that offer me more of characters that I have grown to love, whether it be stories from their present, or revisits to their pasts, but lately I have found a lot of this type of book/novella to be more about bringing in a bit more money off the back of a successful release, and less about offering up a story that gives any extra value to the one that the reader has already been given.

*A View From Forever* gives that value (and then some), in that it provides the beginning of the love story that is Alexandra Thompson and Dylan Paris, a couple I have fond memories of, and their story (*Just Remember To Breathe*) is one that I will never forget. The author takes the reader on a journey with them, that highlights just how different the worlds they come from are, as they spend time getting to know each other, whilst putting them in a situation together that gives them both the opportunity to see past those differences to just be the people they want to be instead.

Alex (17) and Dylan (18) are on a school exchange trip travelling around Israel, 34 days together, days that inevitably and irrevocably change them both, not just because of the time they spend together, but also from the things that they experience whilst they are there. This book strengthens the foundation of *Just Remember To Breathe*, and gives further depth and perspective into who Dylan and Alex were prior to his stint in the US Army, and expectations as well as the pressures of her life in relation to the fact that she is the daughter of a man who is very much in the public eye. It gives you as a reader a deeper understanding of their story and how deep their original connection was, prior to them being reunited again at Columbia University.

I haven't read a bad book by this author, and this one is no exception. As a series you do not need to read books one and two to appreciate this installment, but to fully understand how relevant this part of Dylan and Alex's story is I recommend you line up *Just Remember To Breathe* and dive in straight after you have finished, you won't regret it. That said, Crank and Julia's story (books one and two) is just as exceptional and memorable, so I recommend you try and read them as well if you can.

ARC generously provided by the author, and it was my absolute pleasure to provide the above honest review.

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**Arabella ~?AB?~ says**

★★★ 3.5 Stars ★★★

*ARC gratefully received from the author in exchange for an honest review*

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## **Krystle Marie says**

So if you know anything about my reading habits you probably know that I love, love, love The Thompson Sisters books. I have read all of the books in the original series and then read all of the books in the spinoff series and truly enjoyed every one of them. When I found out that Charles Sheehan-Miles had a project in the works and it had something to do with The Thompson Sisters I was extremely excited! Of course I selfishly hoped it would be about my favorites Julia and Crank but honestly I love reading about the whole family so when I found out that it was about Dylan and Alex that was cool too.

Another thing you may or may not know is I am pretty much a freak when it comes to not knowing any spoilers about a book. I also refuse to read books out of order... I won't even read a book that people SWEAR is a standalone if I know it is part of a series and I haven't read the books that were released first. That's just my personal preference and many of my friends think I'm crazy for it but whatever. Since A View From Forever is a novel that takes place years before we actually met Dylan and Alex in their book, Just Remember to Breathe, and I have also learned lots about their lives from other books in the spinoff series I wasn't quite sure how I would take to this story. I figured it'd just be okay for me since I already knew the outcome. Turns out I was wrong. I mean obviously I was wrong, so far I have loved everything I have read from CSM so I don't know why I even questioned it.

I found myself completely invested in this story. I felt the angst and the pain that I imagined the characters were feeling and I found myself reading faster to see what would happen between the young couple. This was surprising to me since, like I already said, I knew the outcome. Really it shouldn't have been a surprise at all. CSM has a way with words and I can't help but fall in love with his stories and his characters. One of my other favorite parts about his Thompson Sisters books is that he always ties in tidbits about the rest of the family that give other parts of the series clarity and I truly appreciate these moments.

In this novel CSM also wove in another story about someone important to Dylan's life in his teenage years. This side story really made this novel what it was and gave me an idea of why Dylan is the protector that he grew to be and gave some insight to what his younger years were really like. This was one of my favorite parts of the story and I wish we could get a little more about this new character....yeah I'm a greedy reader, oh well :)

If you enjoy The Thompson Sisters books I would definitely recommend reading this novel. If you haven't read any of these books yet, what are you waiting for?! 4.5 Stars for this one!

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## **The Literary Connoisseur says**

For readers who have not yet had the pleasure of reading Charles Sheehan-Miles' Thompson Sisters series, this book, A View from Forever, is just a sweet, romantic story of two young adults who find themselves meeting while on a trip to Israel and falling in love.

For fans of Charles', who have already had the honor of reading his Thomson Sisters series, A View from Forever is just what we've all been waiting for...

Alex and Dylan's story, pre-Just Remember to Breathe.

Of course, if you're a fan of the books, you already know the story. You already know the story, but you've

always wanted to know more about what happened on that life-changing journey to Israel. What made the two of them make the choices they made in order to form the mind-bending plot that is Just Remember to Breathe. What really happened?

For fans of Charles Sheehan-Miles' Thompson Sisters series, this is \*the book\* you've been waiting for. (And yes, if you think I'm over using the author's name and book titles with the hope that if I say it enough, your curiosity will get the better of you and you'll download it--well done, you're right!)

After finishing Charles' Girl of Vengeance (book three in the Rachel's Peril trilogy, the sixth book you read in the series if you were to read them in chronological order), I positively jumped at the chance to read another one of his books. Even though I have only gone a few months without a Charles Sheehan-Miles book to read, I felt myself feeling deprived of his work already. (Republic and Insurgent are next, Charles!)

A View from Forever was just what I needed. Even though it took me less than a day to read (I think this is due to the fact that I was just eager to be back with Alex and Dylan...and also because this book is novella-ish), it satisfied my Thompson Sisters craving. It satisfied my Thompson Sisters craving in addition to making me fall in love with Alex and Dylan all over again, and opening my eyes to epic (EPIC) foreshadowing that you'll only truly get after reading all six books (plus Charles' other novella).

Charles Sheehan-Miles is a remarkable author. If you're looking for a series of books to bring out your emotions, open your heart, give you a new outlook on life, and renew your faith in humanity, pick up Charles' books. I guarantee they'll affect you like no other books have.

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## **Kim says**

3.5/4 stars

We already know how this story ends and where Alex and Dylan end up. But in this prequel, Charles Sheehan-Miles uses his unique writing style and imagery to paint us the full picture of a young, intense love story that built over a foreign exchange program.

Two teens from very different backgrounds: Alexandra Thompson, an intelligent, sweet, sheltered diplomat's daughter and Dylan Paris, a boy from Atlanta who has seen a rougher side of life. She has high expectations and future plans including college and important career. He barely managed to get into the exchange program after dropping out of high school for awhile. He does not think college is for him and wants to travel and experience life. Their lives couldn't be more different. And she lives in California while he is from Atlanta.

We follow these teens on their adventures in various locations in Israel. Not only is their budding relationship and attachment forming, but they are also learning about the political and cultural ramifications of what feels like a different world. But all the time as their feelings are growing, so their anxiety about saying goodbye and what their future holds. Dylan has a hard time expressing himself and often feels unworthy. Alex is sensitive and fearful. But somehow they latch onto each other and form a bond.

It is a trip that changed Alex and Dylan's lives in ways they never imagined. They built an attachment that defied their diverse backgrounds. They came to truly understand each other. They brought out the best in each other and believed in each other. But they are well aware that they will be returning to their previous lives with their future looming. I kind of felt like the love story sometimes got bogged down in the politics and ethical considerations of the various locations, but I will admit that is not usually a big subject of interest to me so others might enjoy that.

We know from Just Remember to Breathe that their lives take on twists and turns, but the connection that they developed during this trip will stick with them always. I will admit that after reading this, I went back and did a re-read of Just Remember to Breathe just to continue on with their story since it had been a while since I read it. It is interesting to see the difference between the teenage Alex and Dylan and the older versions of them.

I was gifted a copy in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Whitney Anderton says**

Just Remember to Breathe was the first Thompson sisters book I read. I absolutely loved the writing so I was hooked on the series. Alex & Dylan were definitely at a different point in that stage, especially Dylan. He was so broken & angry & I'll admit I wondered many times whether they would make it as a couple, but I rooted for them the whole time. This book was a nice change because we get to see how it started with these two & it's definitely a lighter more innocent time of their relationship. We get to experience all those wonderful things when your first falling in love...the doubt of whether the person feels the same, the smiles, the first kiss. It was all beautifully written & of course a once in a lifetime trip as the backdrop with the historical lessons & political infusion weaved throughout made it the classic Charles Sheehan-Miles story. I only wish it could have been longer as I'm sure Alex & Dylan did but I'm glad I know how their story turns out.

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### **Amie Morgado- We Stole Your Book Boyfriend says**

I am so glad I was able to read this book. I have loved the Thompson sisters and missed them too !! When we met Dylan and Alex in their original book we didn't get much of their back story. Now we finally have it first hand and with both POV's it makes it an amazing read. I have always struggled a bit with the political aspects in these books but honestly it is also something that makes me love the series. These girls are so smart and brave. Being brought up with so many experiences that I would never have the courage to grab. Maybe I struggle because I am jealous of their knowledge of all things worldly !! Anyhow... Dylan and Alex first meet during a student exchange trip to Israel , they may be from two different worlds but their friendship quickly grows into much more. Their trip is so full of culture and beauty , I honestly felt I was with them at times reading the details and envisioning what they were seeing for myself. As much as there was beauty there was also despair. The stories of the families struggles and the abuse that was suffered for many in this area was heartbreaking. Some of these kids still have a great deal of anger towards the past , rightfully so. Dylan and Alex have had their own struggles with their families and although they are so different they fall in love but struggle with what to do with that love knowing this trip is not going to last forever. We know already how things turn out but it didn't matter to me. I was so caught up in their emotion that I almost forgot. This Dylan we meet is such a different Dylan than we knew , it is sad to know where he is heading but Dylan struggled with his future and made the choices he thought best. If only the trip didn't have to end. It was so painful reading their goodbyes and hearing their promises of keeping in touch. I was devastated but again very happy to have read how it all began and get to know the people they were then.

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## **Linda says**

It was wonderful to be able to visit Alex and Dylan again (this time in the story before the story). We first read about them in Just Remember to Breathe (Thompson Sisters Book 2). But how did they meet? How did their story develop? We find out in A View from Forever. Travel along with Alex and Dylan as they participate in a student exchange program to Israel, where they first fall for each other. If you're like me, by the end you'll shed a tear (or two).

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## **Cath says**

Makes me want to read Just Remember To Breathe all over again <3

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## **Twooks\_Sanni says**

Jetzt liebe ich Dylan nur noch mehr. :)

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## **Rachel says**

3.5-4 stars

It was great to see where these two started out. While their initial meeting and the trip to Israel was referenced in Just Remember to Breathe, this is the entire trip, start to finish. From strangers meeting eyes in an airport terminal, to exploring the cities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem together, this is the building of the love that will last them until they are both at Columbia years later.

Novellas are tricky for me in that they have to blow me away for me to love them. It is such a short timeline that I either expect things to roll really quickly, or I expect to not have a lot of detail. This fell somewhere in between. For a short story, there is a lot of detail about the scenery and people Alex and Dylan are traveling with. I felt like I was visiting Israel right along with them, even though I've never been. I could see the historic and the modern through their eyes.

Maybe it was because there was so much detail, it felt more like a short novel than a short story. And because I already knew where Alex and Dylan would end up at the end of the trip, I didn't feel the need to rush through the reading. As a result it made it hard at times to get through the details to the heart of the story.

The Alex and Dylan who narrate A View from Forever are not the same characters we know from Just Remember to Breathe. Alex is so unsure of what she wants to do beyond high school, whether to follow her parents' wishes or create her own path as her older sisters have done. Dylan feels so out of place among the more typical high schoolers on the trip. Between his time living on the streets and his determination to not drink, he feels like he is from a completely different world. Even he doesn't know what he wants to do after graduation. The time in between the two story lines is filled with so much growth and change for these two and that I almost didn't recognize them here.

I did like the extra depth this story gave to Alex and Dylan's overall story. I remember when I read Just Remember to Breathe that their trip would have made a great addition to their beginning, so I have a feeling if I were reading this closer to reading JRTB I would have liked the addition much more.

I was gifted a copy in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Maayan says**

Israel? Count me in! ;)

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## **Michel Reinhard (Smut Book Junkie Reviews) says**

A View From Forever by Charles Sheehan-Miles is the latest release in the Thompson Sisters series. Although it is the latest release in the series, it is not the most current book in present times. It is now book 3 in the series and goes back to the beginning of Dylan Paris and Alexandra Thompson's story. It is the perfect introduction to these characters that have their full story in Just Remember To Breathe. This couple also plays a major part in the Rachel's Peril series.

The reader gets to meet Dylan Paris and Alexandra Thompson as teenagers. Dylan is a senior in high school that comes from a troubled past. He had quit school and gotten into drugs which led to him living on the streets. After a year on the streets he has cleaned up his act, returned home, and enrolled back in school. One of his accomplishments is winning a spot as a foreign exchange student for six weeks in Israel. This is where he meets Alex Thompson. It is also where he gets a new perspective about the world that alters his original direction after high school.

Alex Thompson has finally found a way to step away from her political family when she obtains a spot on the foreign exchange program. Although she has different ambitions for her future than what her politically powerful father has for her, she sees this trip as an opportunity that will help her in the future. What she didn't count on was meeting a boy that would change her life.

Both Dylan and Alex come from different walks of life and different areas of the country. In their ordinary world their paths would of never crossed. For six weeks they will get to know one another and start a relationship that will affect both of their futures. They will also get some eye opening experiences that will change them and their view of the world.

Once again Charles Sheehan-Miles wrote another captivating segment in the Thompson Sisters series. He captured the very essence of youthful hope, young love, and new beginnings. It was perfect for this series.

I highly recommend the Thompson Sisters series. It is a series filled with romance, deep emotional events, intrigue, suspense, and family saga. Each and every book has a powerful story that will keep the reader glued to the pages.

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## Chu says

*"You'll find a way if it matters to you."*

It's the start of their forever. Dylan and Alex's love story had me gaga over Sheehan-Mile's books, most especially the Thompson sisters. This is the first book I have ever read from this author, and since then I have been a fan. I wouldn't miss this one.

In this story I have met their younger version, who were both sent to a six-week foreign exchange program to Israel. We had some idea of where they both came from, but it was still refreshing to once again know them both in-depth at that age.

Fall in love with the young Dylan, as he tries his best to clean up his act after a not-so-impressive stint he did when he dropped out of high school and joined some not-so-nice crowd. When he finally had his second chance, he grabbed it and never looked back. Problem is, unlike the other exchange students who have concrete plans in their lives, he had some plans as well, but it doesn't include going off to college.

What he didn't expect in this trip was meeting Alex Thompson.

If you love Alex, I'm sure you will like the younger version more. This was her taste of freedom, without overbearing parents hovering over her. It was just her, and a bunch of exchange students of her age. She's sweet, definitely rich, and down-to-earth. Meeting Dylan Paris was indeed the highlight of her journey. Problem is that, they only have five weeks to act on their feelings, before they go back to the reality of their worlds.

Charles described Israel beautifully. It was if readers were besides the exchange students strolling in its streets. He was careful in threading the conflicts and issues that was faced by the country, and instead focused more on what was good in it and the people that lived in there.

I enjoyed reading this novel, where everything began. I finally got an in depth of their past, where did they met, how they fell in love in a short span of time. For those who haven't started the series yet, I must say you are missing half of your lives not reading it, and you have to start now. It could be read as stand alone, and yet, it is highly suggested you read it chronologically to understand everything better.

It's short, sweet and fun. I love the younger versions of Dylan and Alex much as I love the older version of them. Travel to Israel, see the sights, join the teenage angst and other hormonal-related drama from the other exchange students and get to fall in love all over again with this wonderful sets of characters.

Review originally posted on my blog

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•Complimentary Copy was given in exchange for an honest review. •

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**Charles Sheehan-Miles says**

Just added release date (April 20, 2015) and book description.

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