



Zane

Kimberly Lewis

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She's looking for safety ... Will she find it in the arms of a cowboy?

Kellan Anderson is in hillbilly hell—or at least that’s what it feels like. But after escaping the clutches her abusive ex, she’ll do anything to ensure he doesn't find her—even if it means trading in her high heels for boots and putting up with a sexy, hot-tempered cowboy determined to be a certified pain in her rear.

Rancher Zane McKade is convinced all women are nothing but trouble, especially Kellan. Her sweet smile may have the rest of the town fooled, but he's not buying it or out to play nice. But the more time they spend butting heads, the more an undeniable attraction grows. As their hostility fades, will they push past their differences to give in to the slow-burning desire neither can deny? Or will the secrets of Kellan's past rip them apart?

Zane Details

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Romance

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From Reader Review Zane for online ebook

Ruthie Taylor says

I received a free copy of this audiobook to listen to and review for Wicked Reads

I am generally a reader, not a listener, but with a few long road trips booked, this was the perfect opportunity to review an audiobook. I have to say I really enjoyed the experience, and on the whole, thought the narration was well done. I liked that it was a woman reading - for some reason a woman can get away with doing a man's dialogue much better than the other way around. So if you fancy giving your eyes a rest - do give the audiobook a try.

The story is comfortably predictable, with a fun group of characters to help the leads make their plays, mistakes and chemistry laden moments. Bella was such a wonderful foil to Andi (Kellan) and gave her an early taste of what caring for someone actually means. I thought the writing was good, with some lovely snappy lines, that were both funny and clever. The inequality in the level of honesty between Zane and Andi is explored well, and convincing.

If you like your romance wrapped in a cowboy shaped package - and let's face it, naturally created muscles seem so much sexier than gym gained ones - then this is a perfect diversion from reality. It is also the first in a series, so it will be interesting to see how future stories develop from the cast of this novel. Norah is the title of book 2.

Patty Campagna says

Boring

This book was slow. The first few chapters are very good, and then it slows down. The characters are ok. There isn't a lot of tension. As a reader you really don't get the feel that Andi ever worried that she is lying, or that people will find out her secret.

Cait Lavender says

What does one hot cowboy, a girl on the run and a middle-of-nowhere hick town make? A really cute western chick-lit story that is bound to entertain. That's exactly what this is.

When I first started to read Zane, I was a little worried. The plot is a little tired and a bit predictable. Girl runs from evil ex into the arms of a strong man who falls for her and protects her from said boogie-man. That said, I found myself really enjoying the little touches Lewis uses to take that storyline and make it hers. A few nice western references here and there made me smile, since I myself am a western girl, especially the Ty Murray and Billy Currington name dropping. If anyone is wondering, I'd love to go to one of his after parties too!

What the story was lacking in plot it by far made up with its characters. They were believable, relatable and I wanted to be friends with them by the end of the book. I particularly enjoyed the sibling rivalry between the two brothers and it helped bring that family to life for me. The romance arc felt natural between the two main protagonists, not the 'ohmygoshIloveyouandwanttomarryyourightthissecond' kind of love that's so typical with the chick-lit books that drives me absolutely nuts. Lewis does a good job of getting the reader on Andi's side and lusting after Zane and the heat between the two of them is downright sizzling and delicious.

Overall, if you're looking for a quick and easy summer read with plenty of sexy spice, this is the book for you. I'd definitely recommend it as an intro into the western genre because it has enough of the lifestyle and lingo to place you in that setting without drowning you underneath it if you're a city-slicker. It's a well written book and worth the price of admission. The reader won't be asked to ponder life's big questions or solve environmental issues, but it's fun, lighthearted and very entertaining.

Lara says

I want to round up because I did like Zane and the other McKades (though they were a little naïve and trusting when it came to Andi's arrival). However, I really didn't like Andi, so only 3 stars.

And I mean I *really* didn't like Andi. I almost gave up on the book because of Andi's actions and attitude in the first few chapters, but I refuse to let a book win! Also, I needed a book starting with Z for an alphabet challenge :)

So what's wrong with Andi? She's immature, spoiled, condescending. She steals a car and passes it off to someone else, no thought as to consequences to him. Never seems to phase her either, that she's stolen this expensive car! Yes, she's on the run from an abusive relationship, but does that really justify all her attitudes and actions? She got a bit better and I didn't have to force myself to read the book, but for a while I was seriously debating looking for another Z book.

I did like that there was no drama with Zane's ex. Awkwardness yes, but no angst. Refreshing change.

For an on-the-run sort of story, the middle dragged. Things usually keep moving in those sorts of stories - part of how you maintain the suspense, right? Instead, she got to the ranch and then things just kinda stalled. Especially in a pretty predictable plot like this one, you've gotta keep things moving.

In short, not fond of the heroine *at all*, but the other characters made up for it. Formulaic plot but slow pacing made the story drag. Not a favorite, but I'd consider reading stories about the other McKades (especially if I find those as Kindle sale/freebies too!)

Heather says

This was a good story with likable characters. The plot was predictable, but was still enjoyable.

Andi, aka Kellan, is a woman on the run from her abusive ex. She decides to start over by running from her past and making some questionable decisions along the way. At first I did not like her. She came off snobby

and had a "I am too good for this" attitude, but once she meets Belle that seems to change. You realize she is not used to kindness and people doing nice things for her and that helps to soften her outer shell.

Zane is a handsome cowboy through and through. He wears a rough exterior and shields himself due to being hurt in the past. He has trust issues and from the start, he knows Andi is hiding something. He decides to change tactic with her and starts being nice, maybe she will reveal her secrets then. What he doesn't realize is that this is the start of him falling for her.

They are drawn to each other and the romance starts fast. I had a hard time with it because he was 100% honest with her and she held back. He wanted to be there for her and she just opened the door a tiny bit for him.

Of course her past comes back to haunt her, he finds out and it all happens kind of uneventfully from there. The predictable happens and I got my happy ending. I just wish it all did not happen so quick and neat. The bad guys had to be really bad, but we never really knew who they were and what they did?

This had potential, but fell a little short. I am invested enough in the characters to want to read the next books in the series though, so let's see how Norah's story turns out.

Sheri says

Though I do not generally read westerns, I love cowboys, and this book was a nice change for me from my usual. Zane is a fun, entertaining story. Though the plot was predictable, I enjoyed the way Kimberly Lewis told the story. She was able to bring her characters to life in such a way that they were believable, likeable, and the cowboys were sexy as hell. Lewis was able to bring out individual personalities, and you felt like you got to know each character. Lewis made the romance fun and believable, if not a bit quick. I also loved the sibling rivalry between Zane and Luke; they were really fun together. I am so looking forward to read Luke's and Norah's stories.

Alana ~ The Book Pimp says

I receiving an eBook from the author via Making Connections in exchange for a review. My thoughts are my own.

Holy. Hot. Cowboys. Not just hot, but 'Did it just get hot in here, HAWT'! And there is more than one, so it gives promise of future 'hotness' down the line. Promise is never a bad thing!

It's like Sleeping with the Enemy meets Dukes of Hazard, but in the best possible way. It's got that city girl becomes a 'fish out of water' feel to it... just the descriptions alone of Andie first hearing a rooster, or trying to collect the eggs from the chicken coops! It was really amusing and provided that perfect foil to the 'heavier' theme of escaping a physically abusive relationship. It really manages to keep the overall tone light and you can't help but anticipate the romance even as the animosity sparks are flying.

I am far from being the best judge of punctuation or grammar, but I found the book to be well written. It's like this clever little Indy author Western romance... but it has the feels of a 'big' author instead. I was just

really amazed from start to finish- the cover (hot- yes we're bad to hot), the snarky dialouge that I just love, and the great opening book leading a trail of chocolate (we don't want stinking breadcrumbs) down the path to the new McKades of Texas book! I sucked Zane down in a day!

And I have to include my favorite quote from the book...

“Screw you, cowboy!” she yelled after him, saying the word exactly as she had before. “And that horse you rode in on.”

(Seems kinda underwhelming until you read the book and realize... he really DID ride in on a horse. I laughed out loud and got a scathing look from my husband for that one!)

Check it out! If you like romance and cowboys, this should most definitely be on your to-be-read list!

Gaele says

AudioBook Review:

Stars: Overall 4 Narration 3 Story 4

A contemporary small-town Texas setting is the backdrop for this romance. Carrying a feel that is reminiscent of stories written 10 – 15 years ago, Kimberly Lewis brings us the McKade family and the ‘new girl’ Andi, just trying to adjust to the very different country she finds herself hiding in.

While there aren’t any great new reinventions of the wheel here, Lewis develops Andi (Kellan) and Zane with flair, and each of the secondary characters in town are just as fun and well built. But of course, the reason Andi (Kellan) is there is to hide away from an evil ex, and well – this story would have been perfect without that rather over-wrought trope. The solution to that situation was confusing and a bit quick to resolve, and while I understood the need to give Andi (Kellan) a reason to travel to ‘hillbilly hell’, I did not wholly buy into her fear or the threat.

But – that was a small niggle in the overall story, and while it was a diversion from the lightning fast, snarky banter and sparks flying between she and Zane, it wasn’t the focal point of the story. And – Lewis managed to use the BEST Line EVER

“Screw you, cowboy!” she yelled after him, saying the word exactly as she had before. “And that horse you rode in on.”

Narration in this story is provided by Madeline Bundy, and like others that I have listened to recently, the performance was workable, but not outstanding. Overly emphasizing each word to completely enunciate causes odd pauses and breathing moments that are not reflective of the text, and while her conversational moments and slight distinctions for different character voices were performed slightly better, and gave some variation in narrative speed and interest, the overall impression was an average one. I love audiobooks for the little ‘oomph’ given by narrating a story, that bit of extra that a great narration can give to a story in their personification of characters and emotional emphasis. Overworking or not doing enough can ruin a story: this narration was just average and workable, neither special nor horrible.

I received an AudioBook copy from the author for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

Claire M says

Cowboys that's all just cowboys!!

Running away from an abusive ex Kellan starts over in a little nowhere town.

Zane is having a bad day when he meets Andi (Kellan) for the first time but when he later finds her in kitchen he is confused and suspicious.

As their feelings for each other grow will Andi's past catch up with them or will they be able to be happy together.

Melody May (What I'm Reading) says

Posted on What I'm Reading

Few weeks back I listened to Zane by Kimberly Lewis. At first, I was a little confused, because the heroine's accent didn't match the other characters. I assumed she was from Texas too. Yeah, never assume. It's not until later in the story (extremely later) that we find out where she's from, and that's when everything became clear. That aha moment. I hate being late to the party on that account. It could have been, because the narration or the fact the author didn't share that information until later. Overall, the narrator didn't do a bad job, just might need a little work.

Now the characters:

Kellan/Andi: Lets start with the positives. She left an abusive relation. She tried to make a plan for her escape. Truth be told that is one the hardest things to do. She had no one to turn to.

My issues: She did fairly well on her escape, but she kept her cellphone. Rule #1 ditch the cellphone and buy a cheaper burner. I'm surprise the ex didn't call the police to report the car stolen. There were a couple other issues, but I'm not going to nitpick. Downward spiral there.

Zane: The cowboy who doesn't trust Andi or whoever she is. I liked him. He was looking out for his family when Andi drops on his doorstep.

McKade Family: Luke, Norah, and their mother. They basically welcome Andi without question.

Eventually, Andi settles into life in Texas and she starts to feel at home. It starts to slow down during the middle of the book, because everything seems to be perfect for Andi and Zane. I got to the point, okay were is this possessive ex, because abusers don't normally let things go. Waiting and waiting for something to happen. Eventually it does, but it's the last couple of chapters and it seem it went all too quickly. It wasn't bad, and I liked the ending because it picked up the pace. I also had a couple issues with the epilogue, because somethings weren't completely cleared up.

Overall, Zane wasn't a bad read (listen). There were somethings that could have improved. I'm curious about what will happen to Norah and Luke in their own stories.

Donna Porter says

This was the first of Kimberly Lewis that I have read and I enjoyed it so much I can't wait for the next one to come out. It was a great story between Zane and Andi and their up and down romance a great book

Joan says

Nope. The bar scene is enough to stop me reading. Even when this book was written, in 2012, that sort of behaviour towards a woman was unacceptable.

And ffs, she is escaping from an abusive relationship! So why on earth would she allow a man to slap her so hard on her buttocks that she drops a tray of drinks and THEN the other barmaid doesn't have the gumption or the guts to throw the drunken slob out.

"Gus here got a little too hands-on with the new waitress."

NO HE DIDNT. He fecking well molested her and THEN he proceeded to grab her by the waist and assault her. And only when the drunk punched another guy on the jaw did anyone act. He got thrown out for 'fighting'

Just goes to show how much they valued their waitresses. UGH

DNF at 18% .

Amanda says

Read more of my reviews at <http://onlytrickinthebook.blogspot.com>

I purchased this one on an Amazon whim because I was needing a quick cowboy fix. If you've read modern western romance it is going to be predictable, but you will enjoy it just the same. This book was everything I wanted it to be. It has your typical out of place character fighting not to fall in love with someone who equally doesn't want to fall in love with them.... we all know how that ends up. It also contained the suspense of knowing your past will always come back to haunt you.

Still, Ms. Lewis finds ways to throw shockers into the plot. Andi is brave, strong and apparently into grand theft auto. We see a relatable and honest character through brief journal entries as they are mixed into the story of 'Zane'. Zane is salty and sweet all at the same time. He is a classic case of an incredibly confident man who has a heart of gold. Together, they strike sparks off each other from the beginning. Too bad their feisty and independent personalities get in the way at the start. But trust me, they make up for it - wink, wink.

Ms. Lewis takes an average, seen before plot and turns it into a fairy-tale romance. The courting seems to take a natural course, the hard love between family members, and the strong backbone of the heroine make this book. When you turn the final page you will feel giddy all over and appreciate the escape. This was a perfect read for some relaxing down time.

The one thing I couldn't quite get passed in this plot was that Andi steals a car and seemingly gets away with it. Even heroines escaping the hands of a dangerous man can't ignore the justice system, or maybe they can? It is fiction after all.

Yet another series I am sure to fall in love with.

Dena says

This story is about Kellen a girl on the run from her abusive boyfriend. She is vain and obnoxious and not someone I would give a penny too. She only thinks of herself and I was very loathsome to read more about her. However that changed when she came into the town of Buford, TX and met Zane. At first they despised each other. He has been burned before and does not relish going through that again.

As they work through their relationship she keeps her situation including her name a secret. Zane knows she is hiding something but disregards it because he is falling for her. as she moves forward with her relationship with Zane it doesn't seem like she is remorseful of her lies. I mean she seems ignorant and doesn't come clean about anyone about anything.

When he finds her New Jersey driver lic. then he realizes how right he was and confronts her. Which of course she can only be honest and tell him but she is to frightened so they fight. She leaves her journal for him to read through because she is to traumatized to explain what happened.

when he sees the full picture of her abuse he comes to her and they make up and he asks her to marry me. However Vince (the ex) is not completely out of the picture and finds her and kidnaps her. They end up in Nashville and of course Zane rescues her (this is by far the best part of the book).

Overall I enjoyed the story and the perspective of abuse that the author applies is sensitive and considerate. However the heroine was not relatable at all and I felt like I was missing things. We as readers need the back story so we can empathize with the characters we need a connection that was lacking in the story.

Andrea (mrsaubergine) says

Annoying heroine, no chemistry between her and the hero, and generally not very well written.
