



## Brush Strokes

*Janelle Stalder*

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## **Brush Strokes** Janelle Stalder

Art student, Olivia Banks, was living her dream at an exclusive school when everything came crashing down around her. Now back in the small town she grew up in, she's forced to spend her senior year at her old school where she's known as the 'freak', all because she'd rather focus on her painting than the trivial drama of high school. But things aren't the same as they were when she left. And the one thing that is turning her life upside down the most just happens to be the resident bad boy, Colt Morgan. Her senior year was supposed to fly by so she could pack up and leave again, but what happens when there's suddenly a reason to want to stay?

\*This book contains strong language and some sexual content. For mature audiences.

## **Brush Strokes Details**

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Janelle Stalder

Format :

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Young Adult, High School, Contemporary

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# From Reader Review Brush Strokes for online ebook

## Alana ~ The Book Pimp says

I... That was a... rabble, rabble, rabble. Gah! I can't say a damn thing right now without spoilers. No, wait- it's New Adult, that's something that's not spoilery. Ummm... bad boy with tattoos and peircings... Check. Great BFF - Check. VERY interesting male BFF that is quite promising - Check. Passionate kisses - Check, Check, Check! A beginning that punched me in the gut and hooked me in it's clutches - Check. Not just a check on that beginning, more like a heart-stopping paintball just went splat on my forehead.

At this moment in time, that's all I got, without giving it away for free, and this book pimp isn't a dime store slut. Sorry guys. Janelle, you clever, and evil author, you.

*The author gifted me an advance copy in exchange for my thoughts, my opinions are my own and not for sale.*

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## Angie says

This was a really good steamy young adult romance novel that I was lucky enough to receive an ARC of in exchange for my honest opinion. This book was amazing and the romantic tension was so much that I was literally fanning myself at times!! I also love that the book is from both Olivia and Colt's perspectives. Normally I like the mystery of what the other people are thinking, but I find it is a great touch in this romance.

Olivia moves back home from a prestigious art school for her senior year as her parents can no longer afford tuition. When Olivia left after her freshman year, she was known as a quiet artsy "freak". Needless to say, Olivia is dreading returning to her former high school. The only bright spots are her best friend and eye candy, bad boy neighbor Colt. She has never really spoken to Colt, but since his family moved in next door she has always had a thing for him.

When she moves home, she is in for a surprise. Olivia is like the new toy back in town and boys all around are interested in her.

This review and others can be found on my blog [Free Bookster](#).

### Favorite Quotes:

"Looking directly at Colt Morgan was like staring into the sun. One could go blind from over-exposure if they stared too long.

I just stopped walking all together at the front of the class as our eyes locked. My heart started racing and I hated it for that. If I didn't need the damn thing to live, I would have told it to take a hike. Traitor.

No one tanned that much and wore frosted lipstick can ever really be trusted to look out for anyone but themselves.

The grin that spread across his face had my stomach rolling. He shoved his hands in the back of his pants,

rocking on his heels. I couldn't stop myself from looking at that smile and the way his lip ring wrapped around the full bottom lip of his mouth. Damn him and his stupid ring, and his stupid silver eyes, and his stupid hair and the way it always looks messy but good, and those stupid tattoos and stupid muscles.

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## **Bee says**

### **Istyria book blog ~ B's world of enchanted books**

#### **4.5 stars**

Okay. The first half of this book I was constantly saying: 'Just kiss already!!' The next 20-30% I was saying: 'Stop being idiots, make up and kiss already!!' and then my brain exploded and I died.

Olivia Banks just returned from an exclusive school to her small hometown, forced to spend her senior year at her old school. But not everything is as she remembered. Suddenly two guys are interested in her, one of which is the resident bad boy Colt Morgan. Her plan was to go through senior year and then pack up and leave again. But it seems like Colt is not going to let that happen.

First off, don't let the blurb mislead you! I thought there would be a huge thing with Olivia and why she had to leave, but there is not. Something does happen, but it doesn't have anything to do with that. I asked Janelle if I was missing something, but she admitted she's just not good at writing blurbs. And honestly, who is? Anyway, that doesn't matter. I just wanted to let you guys know and get that out of the way so I can gush about this book for the rest of the review.

Is the story super original and fresh? Probably not. It's hard to find something fresh and original in this genre. I've said it before and I'll say it again: it doesn't matter that the basic story is the same, as long as it's executed well I don't care. And yes, Janelle did get it right. This is her first New Adult Contemporary Romance and it is amazing. It's hard to go from fantasy and dystopian to good old contemporary. Believe me, I know. But it's really really good! The writing is great, like I expected from Janelle. And god that ending. My brain just exploded. (view spoiler) DON'T click on that spoiler! I mean it. If you have not read this book yet, do not read it. I need your brain to explode too.

I loved the characters in this book, even though I just wanted to punch them at times for being idiots. I loooved Olivia. She's so much like me. She's not very social, shy, insecure,... I can totally relate to that. She's practically me. Except for the art. I suck at art, I really do. I adored Ella, Olivia's best friend. And I'm so excited to read the next book, which is about her! She reminded me a bit of my best friend Stephanie. Rannon was also cool, but you know... Colt. He's not the typical bad boy to be honest. Especially when it comes to Olivia. He's so giddy around her. He's had a crush on her for years and I just love him. He made me giggle a lot.

Obviously the romance was amazing. It made me soooooo frustrated! For the most part I just wanted them to kiss already! And then I wanted them to stop being idiots! I was on the edge of my seat and I didn't stop reading. Seriously. I'm writing this right after reading this and my mouth is all dry because I haven't gotten out of my chair for hours. My butt hurts like hell and it's 1am. That's how good this is.

Brush Strokes is one hell of a contemporary debut. I can't wait to read Ella's story! If you haven't read anything by Janelle Stalder yet, you really have to! She has an awesome fantasy series, an amazing dystopian series and now a fantastic contemporary series. So choose one and start reading.

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### **Jess says**

The tension between the main characters is through the roof. I loved the main characters! This book is a quick fun easy read!

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### **Veronica Morfi says**

Rating: 4/5

Janelle's first contemporary novel didn't disappoint me at all. I have a bad past with the genre. I can never really get into contemporary novels so I mostly stay away from them, but once in a while one book will show up in my radar that I know I have to give it a try. Brush Strokes was it. I really enjoyed this little piece of heaven that Janelle created.

Brush Strokes is the story of Olivia and Colt. They are next door neighbors that always had a thing for each other but never even talked. So, when Olivia leaves to go to art school and then comes back, Colt decides it's time for a change. They start hanging out and getting to know each other and fall even harder in love. Their love story was really sweet, warm and fuzzy. But besides the two MCs Janelle did a great job with the secondary characters, especially the two best friends. They were a breath of fresh air, giving the story a more fun side.

All in all, this was a great story. I loved how each chapters started with a quote about art and how Colt and Olivia's story progressed and bloomed. Highly recommended for lovers of contemporary novels.

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### **Lisa says**

#### **You evil evil genius**

Ok wow this story was actually really good! And the amazingly evil author gave me a scare there for a moment! Olivia and Colts story is so cute. Sexy bad boy and weird girl next door who loves to paint.

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### **Morphys Book Blog says**

Olivia was unnoticeable before moving away for two years, known as the freak who paints. Now she's returned for her senior year and suddenly everyone is being nice to her and she's got the two hottest guys fighting for her attention; the school star Jake and the bad boy next door, Colt. Olivia has to adjust to the attention and make some decisions that could end up in heartbreak.

Olivia is a shy, artsy, loving, caring girl, why everyone ignored her besides her best friend Ella is beyond me. From the descriptions of her she's beautiful in my mind and she'd be an awesome friend. Once she builds her self-confidence she really is amazing. I love how she reacts to Colt and the bit by bits she gets back at him, really made me giggle ALOT!

Reagan and her girls annoyed the hell out of me but don't the school bitches (pardon my French) always do that? Every time she appeared in the story it made me want to slap her silly little face, and Jenn was almost as bad but then without them the story wouldn't have been as good so no complaints from me, just some muttered cursing ;)

Colt \*sigh\* sorry! Colt is the bad boy next door, covered in tattoos and body piercing he seems like your typical bad boy, going through the ladies, never getting attached but that is soooooo not the case when it comes to Olive. I loved how he was with her, they seemed perfect for each other and I can't believe how long they danced around each other for. Just like, Jesus! Make out already... Ya know?

Haha but I'm just impatient and I loved the way it all happened. It wasn't rushed into and it didn't feel dragged out either. The pacing was great and wasn't boring for me at all. I expected great things from this book and great is what I got. Janelle's writing sucked me in and kept me captivated right until the end and I can't wait to read Ella's story, like can I have it now please? Ahhhhh there's me being impatient again but I seriously can't wait to get my hands on it!

**\*\*A copy was provided for review purposes\*\***

Original review at: <http://morphbooksblog.wordpress.com/...>

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## **Julia says**

I love this book... Janelle took Brush Strokes and painted it all over my heart.

This is not a boy meets girl kind of book, this is boy's known girl, he's too scared to talk to girl. Girl crushes on boy... Girl...what?!?! Boy talks to girl once she moves back home? Colt \*swoon worthy\* He's had to grow up at a very young age, going from a family to living with a single mom was hard for him to see. He has a bad boy persona but he's kind and selfless in a way. Olivia, an artist who has had a crush on Colt, with the help of her bestie she comes out of her shell, and show him there is more to her than meets the eye.

They both have been observers of each other's lives without the other knowing. I love that Olivia encourages him to go to college and to let go of his self-doubt... Colt, is a big softy when it comes to her, it's sweet as their love blooms. The lengths they go for one another is heart-warming. This is an all-around freaking great book to re-read again, and again. yes, I'll say it again GO...GET THIS BOOK.

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## **Iva says**

I read this book a lot of months ago and I love how I remember so many details and how after finishing it I wanted to give it a 5 stars. But somehow I missed updating it on my profile. So now, glad with the knowledge of how much it stuck to me, I'm giving it the mark it deserves. It really was a good NA story.

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## Janelle Shio says

5 Stars!

I love it! I love it! I love it! Can't wait to read the next book! Now I am a fan! :)

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## Kayleigh {K-Books} says

Brush Strokes Review on K-Books

*"You touch her and I'll break you're hands."*

I have been such a huge Janelle Stalder fan since I read her debut novel, *Eden*. It blew me away and since that day I have been devouring each and every book than Janelle puts out. Whether it be fantasy or dystopia, YA or NA Janelle was fast becoming one of my all time favourite authors... and then came her first ever contemporary novel... and Janelle is definitely one of my favourite authors of all time. I really can't figure out why Janelle hasn't wrote a contemporary novel before now... she is definitely one of the best in the genre if *Brush Strokes* is anything to go by.

Olivia had everything. The perfect life. She was living the dream at a prestigious art school and nothing could be better. But then everything came crashing down and she is suddenly faced with her senior year back at her old school where she is dubbed as the freak just because she is different. But everything isn't the same. resident bad boy and next door neighbour, Colt, who Olivia has had a crush on forever is actually noticing that she exists. Can she trust the womanizer to actually be different with her? Or will she end up with a broken heart?

I absolutely loved every single second of this book. Once again Janelle's excellent writing style and characterisation drew me in right from the start and I just couldn't put this book down. Janelle is so amazing and she has just proved that she can write absolutely anything and just be amazing. *Brush Strokes* is no different. It completely takes over your life and you will find yourself putting everything on your to-do list to one side until you have devoured this book in it's entirety in one sitting.

Janelle's characters are all fantastic and Olivia and Colt are no different. What I loved the most about them is that they both have pretty bad pasts but none of them are really traumatic. What you find in the majority of NA Contemporary novels is that the girl will have a really traumatic thing that has happened to her so I found it really refreshing that Olivia didn't. I also found it really refreshing that Colt has a bad past. It's very rare to find the guy having a bad past too and I loved that. It really made both characters really relatable, because they weren't perfect... but that in it's own way makes them perfect characters.

I loved *Brush Strokes* so much. It was just absolutely amazing. It had everything that you would want in a contemporary romance novel. It was sweet and flirty, sexy and swoony and packed full of heart-racing romance. I loved that Janelle had an arty influence right the way through the book, not only with Olivia but by putting a art-related quote at the start of each chapter. I absolutely loved reading them.

The ending of this book will have your mind-spinning. I had figured it out right at the start of "that chapter" before it was revealed but I know that it had a lot of people taken by surprise and freaking out. It just proves how much of an incredible author Janelle is. If there is only one NA novel that you read this year make sure that it is *Brush Strokes*. It's utter perfection wrapped up in an exceptional written package. It will steal your heart and leave you breathless.

*"I want to be able to walk up to you at school and kiss you until neither of us can think straight, and then do it again and again and again, throughout the entire day so that every damn person in that schools knows you're mine."*

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## Becca says

I don't think my heart will stop racing....I don't think this is healthy.

First warning: I was given this in exchange for an honest review, as an ARC and all that ness <3 And I gotta be honest in my reviews ^.^

Song Choice: "Done All Wrong" by Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, "Sail" by AWOLNATION, "All of Me" John Legend, "I miss you" Blink 182

First thoughts: Okay so i should warn everyone that I am not a big contemporary fiction reader, and to be honest it takes authors like Janelle who I love everything they have produced in the past, to get to me even read an ARC contemp. I don't accept them because I fear that I will get bored and then i will feel like an ass for not finishing. That was not the case here, far from it. I practically read this in a day and i loved every moment of it. This was amazing. Janelle made me fall head over heels for all of her characters, as she always does, and haha its good to know she can write a completely just bad, gross character like Reagan, for reals. I shudder just thinking about her.

Thoughts on Plot: I loved this. So I thought it was going to be college, I was wrong it was high school, please don't let that turn you off from the book, when Janelle Stalder writes main characters that are so immature that make me want to punch someone in the face, I am sure that hell will freeze over. There are characters that are the embodiment of high school but its needed, and only furthers to make the story better. Okay stop with characters becca that comes later! The story, so while I don't read a lot of contemporary fiction i think this was brilliantly original. I enjoyed that it was a story about two people trying to figure things out, they were trying to find themselves, and figure out their first loves. I mean they were passionate, they fought, they didn't just give up. Ahh so awesome. I was really excited it wasn't lets start them right off the bat dating and dealing with the landmines of high school. I really enjoyed how this was a really character driven book. I do enjoy action, i do but this was so amazing because it was an action love story. It wasn't lets fall in love because we have to, its because we chose too, and lets show the progression. This was unbelievably sexy, and not in the lets just shove sex in your face, nah, it was the little things, the words that were said.

Characters:

I love Janelle's characters always.

Olivia: I really liked her. I liked her because she felt real to me. She had all the thoughts, and self-conscious issues all women have had once in their life- and don't you DARE give me those rolly eyes and say, well i

never did because you would be down right lying! its okay, its a part of life, its when you over come them and realize how kickass you really are that matters. And I think that Olivia while lived in self-conscious land with us, she also never wanted to validate herself to be accepted, she was happy enough with who she was, she grew, and she was a totally amazing MC.

Colt: Honestly? I felt this was more of his story than it was Olivia's. I think Olivia was the supporter here and that wasn't a bad thing at all. I think Colt had the most growing to do in this book, I think he saw himself in a way that only degraded himself. He wasn't a bad guy, he just had tough choices and a life that wasn't so easy. Everyone was so alright with seeing his tattoos, and oh so sexy piercings that they didn't see him. Well someone did ;) Olivia. Everyone was okay with just judging him, and only pounding into him that is who he always would be. But there is so much more to him. LOVED. LOVED HIM. and talk about knowing how to treat a woman ^.^ ;) Alright I'll stop being gross.

Ella: Adored her. She was all sass and i cannot wait to see what she has in store for us. For reals ^.^ hehehe I feel like she a tornado that can't be stopped.

The ending: :| beautiful. ^.^

Check me out here if you want to see more Becca-ness: [http://theviolethourbookreviews.wordpress...](http://theviolethourbookreviews.wordpress.com)

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## **seton says**

Genre: YA romance

Sensuality: PG

I sorta liked this since, sometimes, I dont mind a vapid Boy Meets Girl high school story, but I cant overlook the very mediocre writing. Lots of telling, not showing. No character development. Don't let the good reviews fool you.

Looks like there is a second book featuring a new couple but I am not sure I would be interested.

Rating: about 2.25

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## **Chyna says**

Source: From the Author

Format: Advance eGalley

Series: Standalone

Category: New Adult

Genre: Contemporary Romance

Ratings: 3.5 stars

Loved the new idea Janelle Stalder had for her New NA novel, *Brush Strokes*. It begins about an artist, Olivia Banks who never quite fit in excluding her drop dead good looks who would have any guy dropping to his knee, and yet she was still an anti-social freak. Meanwhile, tattooed, bad boy and hotly pierced Colt Morgan who had been watching from a good 20 feet away at the lovely daughter of Mr. Banks. Both seemed oblivious to how much they want each other and so no one made a move not until Olivia moved back into town after two years of studying art. She has transformed into more than just a drop dead beauty and so everyone wants her. But Colt says “Nobody touch her.” She doesn’t have plans to stay in this small town, but then she found a reason to WANT to stay.

“Doesn’t that man own a damn shirt?” I muttered with a huff.

“Dear God, I hope not,” Ella said on a sign, fanning herself with her hand.

I squealed when I finally got my hands on an arc. I forgot how Janelle Stalder writes phenomenally. The book isn’t perfect, but it is well-deserving of a high rating. I enjoyed a lot of the book’s predicaments and hot romance. I would always become overly excited once those two are stuck in one chapter, I knew what to expect. Colt had always seen Olivia more than as a beauty in the book well it was written there. I needed to be convinced more to why Colt even wanted her to begin with. From what I’ve read, he only saw how she was physically blessed with. I get that she’s pretty, but what else. After my frustration towards Colt I got to realize how perfect those two are together. He’s bad, she’s good. Opposites should attract and so it shall.

He pulled back with wide eyes.

“Who told you my middle name? I smiled.

“Your mother.”

“That wench,” he muttered leaning in again.

What made the romance a teeny bit unreal? The tug-of-war, perhaps. I might have gotten a little bit confused with Colt’s intentions, he says he can’t have her yet he bullies everyone that would dare gawk at her. So back to flirting then it returns to another I can’t have you conversation. I was becoming weary of the idea of him being chivalrous, he wanted to save her from himself. He kinda did. His reasoning to why he pushed her away didn’t have me entirely convinced. I almost forgot to mention, Ella, she’s the best friend of Olivia. She’s very fun to read in *Brush Strokes* because of her awesome persona and bitch smack-talk. I love that she has Ella’s back all the time, but some times she can’t give the best advice. (She goes back on her word.) There was a time when Olivia was conflicted whether she should have Colt or not, Ella is not the answer because it seems she supports either of what Olivia chooses. What was the point of having this girl-talk? Eeeeh!

I slowly looked over my shoulder at him, and almost choked on my own breathe. Of course he had to be shirtless.

Some conflicts were not resolved properly like Colt's relationship with his father. I was able to catch a glimpse of Colt's past, but hardly any answers at all. I wasn't surprised by the secret his father has kept from him, but that didn't stop my inquisitiveness. I needed answers.

"I hate you more than I hate green Skittles," I said in a hushed voice. Her hand gripped her chest as those damn puppy eyes came out.

"Ouch," she said. "That hurts, Them's strong words, Ollie. Strong words."

For what it's worth, I got to like the story in the end. I'm not fully sated with how the book had ended. It could have ended in a different manner, I would like to change a few parts, it seemed like the story is unfinished. It isn't ready to end yet for me. I'd like to see a story based on Ella and Rannon, and maybe a novella for Colt and Olivia.

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### **Terri ♥ (aka Mrs. Christian Grey) says**

Quick review:

**Cover:** Pretty

**Rating:** R

**Thumbs Up:** 4.5

**Overall:** A really good read

**Characters:** Well Done

**Plot:** Falling in love with the bad boy next door

**Page Turner:** Yes

**Series Cont.?** Yes

**Recommend:** Yes

**Book Boyfriend:** Colt

#### **SUMMARY** (50 words or less)

You're going to love this book. It's a YA book because it's set in high school. It's a NA book because of the maturity level. No matter it's just a good read. And you'll love it because even though Olivia's the artist, it's Colt who paints love across her heart.

For a full review and yummy pic, see my blog post at:

<http://mybookboyfriend.blogspot.com/2...>

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