



Give Me Reason

Zoey Derrick

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Vivienne Callahan has known only hardship. As if growing up with an alcoholic, drug addicted mother wasn't traumatic enough, she's escaped from her physically and verbally abusive boyfriend only to struggle every day to make ends meet as a waitress in a Minneapolis diner.

Along comes Mikah Blake, a handsome stranger who quickly takes an unexpected and persistent interest in her. On the surface, "Mr. Suit" seems to be Vivienne's opposite: rich, well-fed, successful. As Vivienne will learn, Mikah is more than he seems, and for reasons unknown, he's determined to be her knight in shining armor. But after having finally found her own two feet after years of abuse, it's difficult for her to accept Mikah's help.

Will her body's unexpected response to Mikah's touch be reason enough to overcome her pride and traumatic past and learn to love and trust? Or will her past, refusing to be left behind, come back to claim her?

Give Me Reason Details

Date : Published September 8th 2013 by Zoey Derrick

ISBN :

Author : Zoey Derrick

Format : Kindle Edition 111 pages

Genre : Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, New Adult, Angels, Paranormal Romance

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From Reader Review Give Me Reason for online ebook

Joanna says

***** 5 STARS *****

What a fantastic start to a series!! I loved it!!

This book had everything I could ask for... a sexy but mysterious alpha-male hero, a courageous and beautiful heroine, an unexplainable instant connection, and paranormal undertones. I was hooked after the first page!

This story is a little over 100 pages long and I always worry a little when I start to read a novella that there won't be enough there to really keep me interested but... whoa, guess again! This story had a lot of depth to it and great character development. Vivienne and Mikah came to life for me in just a few pages. I felt like I got enough of their history to really care about what was happening with them (and to them). I mean not only did I care but I was so invested that I found myself yelling out loud at them during different parts of the story.

Now, this book is part of a series. When I know this ahead of time, I realize that I'm in store for a cliffhanger so I weigh out my options. Do I wait for the entire series to come out before I start reading it or... Am I just going to be a glutton for punishment, read it now and live in agony while I wait for the next installment? Obviously, my decision is pretty apparent but usually my decision depends on a lot of things... my mood, book description, author, genre, etc. In this case, I was in the mood for a romance with a paranormal twist, the description was intriguing, and I recently read another book by this author and I loved it - I mean, I really loved it - . So I read it and I was not disappointed! Was there a cliffhanger... uh... Yeah! There was a crazy mother of a cliffhanger and I am dying for the next one to find out what happens...uggghhh YOUR KILLING ME SMALLS!!! Yes, I'm using a line from the movie The Sandlot – what can I say I'm corny like that. ? Anyway... moving on.

The heat between the main characters was practically on every page but there was no sex or even real kissing between them. I really don't know how the author did it but there was such intimacy (for lack of a better word) between the main characters that I almost didn't miss the sex (...almost! ?). Vivienne and Mikah's connection was so intense that I don't see that lasting much longer but, again, I didn't miss it.

Ok so the gist of this review is... I absolutely loved this story, I highly recommend it and I can't wait for the next part of this series!

Frau Sorge (Yuki) says

What is wrong with all those indie writers? Or with all those indie publishers? I just hate that common and newly founded strategy called be-sure-you-buy-the-next-installment, since we provided you with the cliffhanger of the year.
Seriously, wtf?

It's all about the money, sing a-long.

Well, they just gave me a reason (heck, there's no "a" in this title...) to buy the next book in serie.

And now I'm not sure if I like this book or not.

I liked it.

I didn't like it.

But I want to read part two.

So, back to the book. I can't say a bad word about the writing, even if the prologue left me pleased - it is written in third person. But the story goes and hey, first person, Viv's point of view reigns... Too bad.

The heroine is starved, abused waitress - got your sympathy yet? Then she meets handsome CEO with hint of paranormalcy. Sounds familiar?

I bet the answer is yes.

It's a good story, true tearjerker.

Alas I can't stop myself from adding: If you're abused in any kind of way, please don't wait for your prince charming. Take care of yourself, you won't spot your CEO on the street or he won't spot you. Sadly, there's too few of them.

Aarati says

Give Me Reason was a short read. It was a bit emotional, and even inspiring. The book had a somber mood, primarily because of Vivienne's past. The book has been categorized as paranormal, but the only hint of anything paranormal is found only in the prologue.

The one thing Vivienne Callahan knows very well is hardship. Living with her alcoholic and drug-addict mother was a hardship. Being in a relationship with Riley was a hardship. After all he put her in a hospital for three days. And now working a shitty job, with a shitty boss, with a kid on the way is also a hardship. Sure it is better than an abusive ex-boyfriend and an uncaring mother. After all the pain she has seen in her life, Viv just wants to give up. But when the reality of her pregnancy hits her full force, she is ready to pick up the pieces and start over.

Mikah Blake is a handsome and rich businessman. A gut feeling or rather a pain in his back caused by his tattoo leads him to the diner Vivienne is working in. When he sees her he is dumbstruck by how fragile and unhealthy she is. He tries to help her, but she refuses him time and again. His persistent and unexpected interest in her baffles Viv. After finding her footing after all these years of abuse, and probably because of that abuse, Viv is reluctant to take his help.

The best thing about this book was Vivienne. Even though she was on the verge of giving up early in the book, once the reality of her pregnancy hits her, she is willing to get her act together. She finds help; albeit unexpectedly from her doctor and for the first time in her life she takes it even. She realizes she can't make it on her own and that she needs help. She tries to set her pride aside and start thinking about her child. She is

determined to do right by her child. That one step she takes toward changing her life, makes Vivian a commendable character.

Like the name of the book, Vivienne just needs a reason to get her life back on track. And she finds that reason in her unborn child. The book ends on a cliffhanger which surely made me eager enough to pick up the next book promptly.

Tammy Bland says

Received this book for an honest review.

*****WARNING: MAJOR CLIFFHANGER *****

Ok....wow. This book had me on the edge of my seat. There were times I wanted to throw my iPad, shake some into Viv, beat the living shite out of dumbass, and of course comfort Mikah (oh yeah, I could do that). Then WHAM....wait till the next book.

Viv has been taking care of herself since she was six years old. Growing up in a household with an alcoholic drug addicted mother she has been dealt a shite hand of cards. Viv is tough and quite intelligent. What she wasn't expecting was getting caught up in an abusive relationship. After spending three days in the hospital at the hands of dumbass she now has the help she needs to escape. With the help of a social worker she has an apartment and a job.

Enter Mikah. Charming, gorgeous, wealthy and attracted to Viv beyond anything that he can comprehend. He is drawn to her. Compelled to protect her. But why ? What is this force that is drawing him nearer and nearer ?

Mikah tries to get to know Viv and help her. He knows she is not taking care of herself and he desperately wants to be there for her. Her pride and of course the history of men from her past won't let her accept his help. She is not a charity case. She doesn't want pity.

Will Viv open up and let Mikah help her before its too late ? Will Viv's past catch up to her before she sees it coming ? Will Mikah figure out what this invisible force is that draws him to Viv ?

Stay tuned.....

Thank you for allowing me to read this book. I hope the next one is SOON !!! The suspense is going to kill me !!!! UGH !!!!!

Emily says

Vivienne Callahan has hit rock bottom without even attempting to. After her abusive ex attacks her, she is left trying to move on and take care of herself, but not as successfully as she would like.

Mikah Blake sees Vivienne for the first time and she radiates something that Mikah needs in his life. If he had his way, he would protect and care for Vivienne with no questions asked, but he sees he proud young lady in front of him and tries to form a friendship.

This was a page turner for me. Vivienne is a strong, proud, but so vulnerable young woman who is just trying to survive day to day. I loved Mikah, he is a mystery which you don't get to much revealed but know he is a pivotal piece in Vivienne's life. I eagerly await the next book in the series. Entrancing.

Ange says

Give Me Reason is another outstanding read by author Zoey Derrick. I finished it and was so disappointed, not in the book, but in the fact that I knew that it was going to be "for-ev-er" before I got to read the next installment! It had me enthralled. When I couldn't read, I was thinking about it, wondering what was going to come next!

Vivienne's story is one of tragedy and hardship. Having been beaten close to death by her ex-boyfriend, she's doing it hard trying to make it on her own, working a crap-paying job that barely covers her rent; living off a hotdog a day; until a well-dressed, tall, dark and handsome guy walks in the diner she works at and sits at her booth.

Mikah, a successful businessman, finds himself compelled to walk into a slum part of town. He sees a beautiful woman hop off a bus and enter a diner. He has to follow and discover more about this compelling stranger that he feels an unusual connection to.

These characters had me eating out of the palm of their hands. Viv's story is heart breaking and oh so sad. I hate to think of anyone going through what she has endured.

Mikah is another to-die-for hottie that I need to add to my collection of fictional boyfriends! His caring nature and persistence with helping Vivienne are so heart warming and desirable, he is lovely. *Sighs* Their slowly building relationship is really nice to read and it's going to be well worth waiting for when (or if) they do unite!

You're going to need tissues handy for this one! It is a well written and thought out storyline. The characters are well developed with still much to learn about them-which is one of the draw cards for book #2. I'm dying to get to the bottom of Mikah's compulsion of Vivienne!

I loved this book and am so impressed with Zoey's growing skills as an author! I can't wait to read more in the "Reason" series!

Angie McLain-Fan Girl Book Blog says

Honored with an ARC from Author, will try to avoid spoilers!

I found myself intrigued by this one from page one. I have read this author's debut novel Finding Love's Wings and devoured it. I loved the writing style, the plot and the unique characters. Once I was aware of more upcoming works, I added all of them to my TBR.

This one is different, and you are aware of this, by page 2. The plot is simple, yet complex the more you

think about it, and the further you venture into the story, you have no hope of putting it down until you are finished. Vivienne Callahan has had a horrific childhood, from the glimpses we get here in this first installment. To make matters worse, life does not improve for Vivienne. She is floundering. She is hiding. As far a female heroines go in books, Vivienne is amazing. She is so incredibly strong, determined, self reliant, and resilient. When others would be rocking in the corner trying to find their happy place, this young woman, is living her life, and trying to make it completely on her own. Although not doing a great job at it, she is determined. Enter handsome, wealthy, CEO Mikah Blake. OH MY.... This is where the story is different, there is undeniable pull between these two characters, and I mean that quite literally. They have very strong physical reactions to each other, that neither one of them completely understand. Mikah doesn't have an ulterior motive, his interest in Vivienne comes from a very pure place. He wants to help, with no expectation of anything in return. Swoooon right ladies??? Make room for another Book Boyfriend.

This book will elicit a lot of emotional reactions while reading, you may want to buckle up, cause it's quite a ride. A ride that leaves you scatter brained, your heart aching, pounding, trying to catch your breath, and trying to figure out WTH is going to happen next???? The writing is brilliant and it flows wonderfully. There is an unexpected current running throughout the story, it simmers just below the surface. It will draw you in, and make you quirk your eyebrow.

I personally loved this book, cannot wait for the next, I am now a huge fan of this author's unique writing style. If you are looking for a, emotional, unique read, with a thrilling edge, this is a must read. Add it to your TBR's and enjoy.

Calatasde says

Give Me a Reason by Zoey Derrick is a great read. Many may not like the cliff hanger endings, but I think they're good because they always keep those characters in the forefront of my mind wondering what will happen to them next. Vivienne Callahan just escaped the brutality of her ex-husband and set her life up again in new place. She busts her ass to make ends, works as a waitress, and I admire her tenacity to never give up. Her life is hard, but she doesn't let it pull her down.

I ALWAYS have some kind of weakness and soft spot for Irishmen. Their accent is undeniably sexy-as-hell. He's handsome, rich, kind, and affectionate. He's a CEO, and the attraction he feels toward Vivienne is more than physical. He wants to help, to take care, and to protect her. Especially after he finds out what she's been through. At first Vivienne, very stubbornly sometimes very annoyingly insists that she doesn't need his help. That's what she thinks. But she warms up to Mikah eventually. What I love is their obvious chemistry, right from the start.

No bulls, no some long preface before the characters meet. his book is a full-romance book, with no apparent action scenes in the near future, but the storyline alone will provide some enjoyment.

So eventually you like the book but may I love the book? That's counting on other book :)

Dianne says

What happens when a wealthy and successful businessman gets a strange pull toward a hole-in-the-wall restaurant and finds himself drawn to a young and obviously troubled waitress who works there? She may be down on her luck, but Vivienne is a fighter and is determined to make it in life on her own terms, in her own

way. Mikah is equally determined, no, he inexplicably NEEDS to help this brave, yet frail young woman. He doesn't understand how or why, but he needs to protect her. And admit it or not, she needs him, too.

Give Me Reason by Zoey Derrick is going to leave you in awe of her talent with words while weaving a beautiful tale that touches on romance, mystery and fantasy all at once! With well-developed characters and a plot that is, at times painful to read, Ms. Derrick has created a dark world that could engulf its characters, if not for Mikah's mysterious destiny and role in Vivienne's life. You might want to grab the tissue box, just in case!

I received a review copy as part of Zoey Derrick's Give me Hope Blog Tour stopping at Tome Tender December 5, 2013.

Series: Reason, Book 1

Publication Date: September 21, 2013

Publisher: Zoey Derrick

ISBN-10: 0615889158

Genre: Adult Contemporary Romance /Fantasy

Page Count 132

Available from: [Amazon](#) | [Barnes & Noble](#)

Sweets Books says

Are you in the mood for romance? Or are you in the mood for a bit of drama and mystery? If you answered yes to the second question then 'Give Me Reason' is a good book for your choice.

It starts out with a bit of vague prologue that leaves you not really understanding much. But you can tell its a vital part to the story to come. And that for some reason Mikah is drawn to Viv for reasons he doesn't even understand. But he follows through with his feelings and slowly gets to know her a little.

Now Viv she had a rough life from abusive mother to her mothers boyfriends to her own boyfriends. But for once she makes the correct decision and leaves. So many women don't I know from my own personal life I worked at a safe house and so many refused help. But even though she makes the decision to leave her life doesn't turn into a bunch of roses.

She has a job and a apartment which is more then some. But sadly she's wasting away to nothing and refuses help from anyone with fear of strings being attached. But fortunately for her Mikah refuses to stay quite and on the sidelines and just watch her waste away. So slowly he knocks down some of her walls but not all of them and makes some progress.

Then as they say 'the past has a way of catching up to you' and Viv's past as in her ex-boyfriend does. And it doesn't look well at all in anyway you look at it. But then our story comes to abrupt ending which I so hate it's not fair. So sadly yes we have have to wait till the next book comes out to see what is going to happen with Viv.

I recommend, this is a great start to a series that I can't wait to read.

Erika Lynn says

I received an ARC of Give Me Reason by Zoey Derrick for an honest review.

After finishing this book five minutes ago and chain smoking a cigarette (don't hate me, gross- I know) I'm STILL frustrated! Oh cliffhangers, how I flipping HATE YOU! Luckily for me, I received an ARC of Give Me Hope combined with this one (*neener neener neener!*)... but I feel so bad for those of you that had to twiddle your thumbs waiting for the second book of this series to come out. Zoey totally left me stranded, on edge, feeling totally lost like having diarrhea in a public bathroom and there being no shit paper in the stall. Ahhhh!

This was one of those books that I was completely clueless as to where it was going. At first I thought it would transition into a romance story, and then I didn't. Then I thought, 'OH I KNOW! It's going to be a murder mystery.' I was so wrong. Now that I think of it I'm actually glad I had no idea where it was going because it kept me high strung, restless, overanxious, and fidgety. Yep, I read it all in one sitting- my kid starved, my boyfriend has no clean work clothes for tomorrow so looks like he's wearing his birthday suit, and I didn't freakin' shower. Just kidding, sort of. ;)

The characters in Give Me Reason were the main reason I stayed so driven to keep reading. Vivienne Callahan, a young woman working as a waitress at a local dingy diner in South Minneapolis experiences many hardships in her present and past life that mold her into the person she now is, a strong, independent, overworked individual whose misfortunes are far from over. Mikah Blake, the CEO of a large, successful company, has a serious fascination to help Miss Callahan. However, her pride speaks volumes- she pushes him away, hurts his feelings, and throws his courteous charities in his face. Not to forget Vivienne's abusive, psychotic ex-boyfriend Riley and the damage he has done to her physically and emotionally on top of her childhood damage.

What draws Vivienne to be so cold hearted, dignified, and stubborn? Why does Mikah care so much for her, when clearly he is rich, comfortable, and well-off? As she fights to accept the gifts given to her, she closes off herself to forming any relationships with men because of her dreadful past ones. Finally developing feelings of contentment, Vivienne is warned that Riley has come back- with a vengeance.

Give Me Reason will keep you sucked in, craving for more. Zoey Derrick, yet again, writes another phenomenal novel awarded 5 amazing stars from *yours truly*! With the release of Give Me Hope, #2 in the series, it is critical that all readers read this book FIRST- and trust me, you will be very glad you did! Thank you, Zoey, for pulling me out of the book slump that I was in and in t-minus 2 minutes I'll be diving into Give Me Hope- which I can only anticipate will be equally as mind blowing.

Jonel Boyko says

Well, I can honestly say that I've never read a book that made me cry this hard before. I was so attached to the characters that each and every moment that they were in pain I felt for them. The main characters in this novel are quite well developed, even if one remains a bit mysterious. They are real people with real issues.

Even if these issues are more extreme than what many of us would face everyday, they are real issues.

Derrick continues to write with her usual smooth and approachable style. Her understated descriptions meld perfectly with her thoughtful narrative to create a storyline that is not only extremely well put together, but also impossible to put down. This novel has some of everything in it. There is suspense, hardship, a bit of mystery & paranormal, and of course, a budding romance. Derrick does begin to introduce some things that have yet to be fully explained, but the allusion of things to come in future instalments is gripping.

My final thoughts? Holy cliffhanger batman! But in a good way, and the suspense is killing me. I can't wait to be back with these characters when the next instalment comes out. So if you don't like cliffhangers, wait for the sequel's release so you can read them back to back, but this is definitely a must read for all.

Please note that I received this novel free of charge from the author in exchange for an honest review.

TheDarkerhalf says

Hello Readers!

Today we are going to be taking a look at Give Me Reason. Zoey Derrick tells us the story of Viv, a constantly struggling waitress and Mikah a rich man who is inexplicably drawn to Viv. We meet Viv just after she gets out of the hospital. After being put there by her boyfriend Viv tries once again to get back on her feet, something she's been doing all her life. Mikah is our mysterious hero and right from the beginning we know there is way more to him then meets the eye. After literally being drawn to Viv for unknown reasons Mikah just wants to take care of her. None of which Viv is having, she sees it as nothing more then a rich guy easing his conscience but she couldn't be more wrong.

I'm giving Give Me Reason a solid 4 stars and I'll tell you why. Zoey definitely starts out with the strong basis for a series. She gives us some really great characters and a plot with endless possibilities. One of the interesting things Zoey does is write this book in the first person. She also keeps her writing really relaxed, which to me keeps things realistic. You really feel for Viv right off the bat and this helps you understand why she doesn't want Mikah hand outs. Viv pulls more at your heartstrings the more you get to know her and her backstory. I really enjoyed the fact that Mikah is kept a little bit of a mystery, it keeps the reader on our toes. You get to see a tiny bit in the beginning to plant the seed, but he's still keeps his mystery. I loved the fact that Zoey doesn't give you 47 characters. She introduces people to us that matter, and only when they matter. I've experienced a lot of extra characters lately from other authors and all they do is take up page space. Literally, they do nothing to further the plot. We never meet Viv's landlord, we hear about him when he matters and I just love that!!!!

I gave this book 4 stars instead of 5 for one very big reason... the cliffhanger. I don't normally mind a cliffhanger but I just felt a little bit cheated by this one. Zoey had me invested in her story, she didn't need it to keep my interested, I was already planning on reading the next part of Viv and Mikah's story. Because of this though, it just didn't feel like there was much resolution to this book, or at least not as much as I would have liked. What happened to Riley? What was up with all the well dressed patrons at the diner? I know there is another book on the way. I also know that it is coming out soon, so I'm not as upset as I would have been if I'd had to wait a year for the next book.

Over all this is a good story with good characters and the fun mystery of what Mikah is. I just would have

liked a little bit more in the way of wrap up. So defiantly put this on your to read list, but if you hate cliffhangers make sure you wait for the next book release before you start.

~Notti

Nina says

ARC Version From The Author Zoey Derrick

I was really excited when the author Zoey offered me a copy of her ARC in her newest set of PNR series. I enjoyed Finding Love's Wings, so I was like *yes, of course. With pleasure.* Anyway, I thought when I noticed how short the book was, I was tempted to put it as a novella, hehe. But noo, I didn't categorize it as novella. This is one of my fastest reading. Like, 4 hours fast since I received it.

When I read the first page, my response was like *huh? Angels? Again?* Don't get me wrong, I so love angels and their stories, although I'm more interested with true angels without the religious label. Like Nalini Singh does. **Give Me Reason** has me hooked from the start, and clearly, what I thought as *simple* became more *complicated* and *fascinating* in each page.

Vivienne Callahan just escaped the brutality of her ex-husband and set her life up again in new place. She busts her ass to make ends, works as a waitress, and I admire her tenacity to never give up. Sometimes she is quite a pessimist, but understandable under the circumstances. She's pretty much closes herself, hesitant to trust anyone. She doesn't have a good childhood with a drunk mother and sometimes abusive men in her mother's life. Her life is hard, but she doesn't let it pull her down.

Then comes Mikah Blake. Ohmanohman. **Irish??** *swoon* I ALWAYS have some kind of weakness and soft spot for Irishmen. Their accent is undeniably sexy-as-hell. He's handsome, rich, kind, and affectionate. He's a CEO, and the attraction he feels toward Vivienne is more than physical. He wants to help, to take care, and to protect her. Especially after he finds out what she's been through. At first Vivienne, very stubbornly sometimes very annoyingly insists that she doesn't need his help. Hey, a girl got to have some pride, right? That's what she thinks. But she warms up to Mikah eventually.

What I love is their obvious chemistry, right from the start. No bulls, no some long preface before the characters meet. Just right to the point, where Mikah and Vivienne meet in the first chapter and their attraction shows instantly. Personally 'instant attraction' never feels quite right for me and I honestly haven't read much books with this kind of chemistry. What they feel of each other feels somehow real and strong.

Just like Finding Love's Wings, what really ticks me off is the sudden end of the book. Great chemistry? *Yes* Good characters? *Aye* Nice storyline and plot? *Definitely* Major cliffhanger? *Ohmygod! #pullinghair* I understand that cliffhanger will keep the readers wondering about what happens next. But ending a book abruptly, without some kind of assurance about what will happen, I think that's very cruel of the author *weeping in the corner* Oh, Zoey, why do you have to include a sneak peek of book two?

I like the book, and some things that didn't sit right on my mind caused me to give this just 4 stars. This book is a full-romance book, with no apparent action scenes in the near future, but the storyline alone will provide some enjoyment. Deeply emotional, nice writing style, and then a hot hero? That alone will keep me reading,

and wondering, and hoping for the next one to come early.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

1.5 stars

My rating for this book is purely because I didn't like it, not because I hated it or want to rant on it... much.

Aside from the grammar errors and the extremely high voice of a narrator trying to do a deep male voice with an Irish accent (not good), the content of the book was puzzling.

The author tried to combine a paranormal with the TIRED theme of a billionaire self-made 20-something year old hot man "saving" an angelic, needy poor lady. Add in the pregnancy "twist" and a cliffhanger ending and, yeah, I'm pretty done with the whole thing.

I honestly was creeped out beyond belief by Mikah. He was like an insane stalker, and I would have been calling the cops if I was Vivienne. I also hate it when the extremely poor person refuses to except money because they don't like to take charity. Look, you are STARVING, how stupid can you get? Take the F-ing money and stay away from the crazy-man!

Also, it was like everyone, all of these secondary characters, treated Vivienne like gold. Is she supposed to be a Virgin Mary parable kind of thing? Why was everyone so nice to her all the time?

Yeah, not good. Not the worse audiobook I own, but I wouldn't listen to another one, even if it was free.

Read as part of my RT reading challenge, my quest to read new authors before the convention (<https://www.rtconvention.com>).
