



Unsurprisingly Complicated

Claudia Y. Burgoa

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AJ

The lies between my parents and I came to light and now I'm working on a new life for myself. Along the way, I have my trusty superhero, Mason, to lean on when I have a hard time standing or when my crazy ex-boyfriend continues to feel he has a claim on me.

Porter has trouble understanding that there hasn't been an 'us' for more than three years plus all the issues he had brought upon himself. My father was right, drugs do kill. My other concern is the growing feelings I am having regarding Mason. There's something between us I want to explore but I keep getting mixed signals. Here, I thought that after telling my parents about my lies and having their full support, things wouldn't be as complicated as they are.

Mason

My parents divorced before I even made my entrance into this world. My father has been obsessed with that love for years while my mother searches for love in all the wrong places. I don't want a place to call home or a girl I can claim as mine. Except... Ainsley Janine —better known as 'Nine'—has some special power that makes me question my preferences. The more I try to stay away from her, the more she pulls me closer. Exploring the possibilities of having something steady in my life isn't a problem; it's the long term that worries me. In addition to that, the scumbag she dated years ago keeps popping up everywhere we go. If I could use my license to kill, maybe I can stop worrying about one thing and concentrate on what to do with the green eyed girl who keeps me awake most nights.

Unsurprisingly Complicated Details

Date : Published April 30th 2015

ISBN :

Author : Claudia Y. Burgoa

Format : Kindle Edition 313 pages

Genre : Romance, Business, Amazon, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review Unsurprisingly Complicated for online ebook

Jody says

As a reader who loves stories full of angst where characters have to work for their HEA I was looking forward to the continuing love story of AJ and Mason begun in the previous installment. This story didn't disappoint as both friends had to work hard to overcome their pasts to become something more. The emotional baggage in this tale was indeed heavy, and instead of being beaten by it, it made them stronger to culminate in a very satisfying story.

In the previous installment my feelings regarding AJ were conflicted as she wavered from spoiled to childish at times. She was left bitter by all the things that happened to her, from a dangerous ex-boyfriend to a devastating loss, and it brought out a less than pleasant side. In this book though she's grown older and wiser. She's a woman of strength, no longer lost or willing to settle for a relationship that doesn't make her feel whole. While her ex isn't completely out of the picture she refuses to give him anymore power over her. To that end it's her lifelong friend Mason who meets the criteria of what she's looking for as he's always there when she needs him. It won't be easy to transition from friends to committed lovers though as his past has left its mark on him too. Nothing worthwhile comes without a struggle and AJ is now more than capable of going after what she wants which will take readers on a complicated yet engaging journey to HEA.

Mason is a strong and sexy man who's loved AJ since they were young but always held himself back. Now just might be the time to finally claim the woman who keeps him on his toes with her witty and flirty banter if he could only put his past in the past. Not having the best role models, or childhood, has left an indelible mark that keeps him from committing to someone. His views regarding love are skewed and it has him making some hurtful decisions in his burgeoning relationship with AJ that left me frustrated yet aching for him. He's a smart and capable man in every other way but when it comes to love he's still learning. No matter what though he's always there when AJ needs him most and it's that fact that had me rooting for their HEA, knowing it was possible.

This book started out a bit muddled as the dual POVs tried to find a balance but it didn't take too long to get into a reading groove as I reacquainted myself with the complicated family dynamics. This story definitely needs to be read after *Unlike Any Other* though as the groundwork is laid in that story for everything that happens here. All the past hurts make the characters who they are now and drove them to change. With its larger than life characters and intense gamut of emotions this is a book that's hard to put down. The sensual connection between Mason and AJ adds to the intensity and to the entertainment with their playful moments adding to the fun. Though I was exhausted after reading this book I'm greatly anticipating the next installment in hopes of getting to know more about MJ or JC.

Caroline F says

After reading '*Unlike Any Other*', I was really looking forward to reading Ainsley and Mason's story, and the author didn't disappoint!

This is a standalone novel but it's worth reading the first one in the series, so that you get a rounder view and understanding of the key characters, as well as background information.

Ainsley and Mason have been friends since childhood, and Mason is pretty devoted to his 'Nine'. He's always there for her, even when he's travelling to mysterious destinations on secret missions.

At the end of the first book, they cross the friendship line and things become a bit blurry for them. Mason has been scarred by his parents' relationship. He fears loving and losing someone. He knows that Ainsley could be the one who could break him. He has no permanent home and he keeps himself distant from others.

Ainsley, even though she has suffered a traumatic and abusive love affair previously, is willing to take a chance on a relationship with her best friend. She's impatient but loyal, caring, and gives 100% to those she loves.

I thoroughly enjoyed the chemistry and passion between the main characters – although sometimes I wanted to knock some sense into Mason! I loved that his head was telling him one thing to protect himself, but his heart was making him act in completely the opposite manner! The emotion between them in some scenes was really intense.

The banter between Ainsley's brothers, JC and MJ, had me giggling! I love the relationship that the triplets have between them. Their solidarity is heartwarming, and makes me wish I had that relationship with my own siblings.

The one thing that really strikes me about this author's style is that her characters are very real and very relatable. Fear, hurt, anger and love – everything they feel, you feel.

Really looking forward to the next book in the series.

Rosa Sharon (iScream Books Blog) says

Live with no regrets...

This was my introduction to the author, Claudia Y. Burgos. Yes, I started with book #2. Thankfully I read a review that gave me a breakdown of the characters and details so that I didn't start out as confused as some others. I jumped right in and had no problems understanding what was going on. However; I am kind of intrigued about Chris & Gabe's love story and might go back to read it later. I must say that AJ is my hero in this book, even though it's Mason that does all of the rescuing. He might have all of the muscles, but in my opinion, she is the one with the strength. I enjoyed her sass and attitude, quickly understanding how it developed. Being the only girl with two brothers and two fathers it was a matter of survival. The obvious love and affection between the siblings and parents was apparent in spite of their constant picking at each other. AJ was the favored sister and daughter and it would take a hell of a man to get past that wall of protection to get near their princess. AJ kept me amused with her habit of giving everything a name, like her car Eleanor. And since Mason called her Nine, she called him Ten. Being a music lover, I also enjoyed the family talents including their song writing and jam sessions. Since the story is written so that the readers get both POV's, the attraction between AJ & Mason is clear to us, but not to them. So, we are treated to some sexual frustration as we mentally encourage the couple to give in to their urges and satisfy our cravings. Yup, when we witness what she described as a "bone-melting kiss", we are ready for more. Unfortunately, our sexy man, Mason, has some issues. He had a really bad example of what love can do to a man, so he avoids it all costs. He has a rule, deciding that anything he wants to do to a woman can be done within 2 hours and there's no need to spend any longer with one. It's a good thing AJ is his best friend, right? That keeps her in

his company longer than most. But that kiss, it opens doors and then slams them shut again. Is this where the book title comes in? It's Unsurprisingly Complicated? Maybe so, cuz there were a lot of complications and set-backs and laughter and love. A lot of history and pain, danger and suspense. And mixed in was some fear and forgiveness. Overall, a page-turning journey that kept me entertained. I'm curious about the brothers and look forward to getting to know them better in future installments of the Unexpected series.

Gloria Herrera for As You Wish Reviews says

He has loved her dearly since he was eight. She is the one who centers him and offers him the anchor he needs for all his feelings and emotions. Though he has never admitted to her or to himself that he loves her, he has successfully remained in her life to support her and rescue her in times of need. Mason is "Ten" to Ainslie's(AJ) "Nine". They go together.

Well-written, emotional, and extreme engaging, the series continues with the focus on Aj and Mason. This love affair has been int he works for years... it only took one kiss three years ago to shake both of them up. It has been like a slow simmer that finally grew to a boil.

AJ is an interesting character. She is fragile because she has been through so much, yet inside she has the fortitude to survive and be independent. Having survived her life with Porter and losing a child has brought a new wisdom regarding relationships and love. Abused women do not walk away from an abusive relationship easily. In AJ's case, losing the baby and being abandoned by Porter made the difference. Through all of these low points, it is Mason who has been her constant, always being there for her and never asking for more than her friendship.

The Colthurst-Decker family is an interesting and unique one to the core. The next installment will focus on JC... I wonder what new trouble he has gotten himself in!

***kawehi.reviews says**

? I received an RC via the author in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!! ?

3.75 stars!!

For an up and coming author, Claudia Burgoa is definitely a rare talent wading to break out at the seams.

After finishing bk1, I had been waiting to see what would be in the future of both AJ and Mason.

Nonsurprisingly, in eloquent fashion, the threads to their history and subsequent romance are as intricate and complicated as ever.

I had a wide range of thoughts and reactions while going into and reading this throughout. It was just that unique perplex. One minute I was content and relaxed, and then the next, I was either raging or pent up with unbridled feelings and emotions.

Everyone has pasts and hardships. But what's even harder is to let go and open yourself up to life again and

to take risks and chances within it.

Unsurprisingly Complicated 'unsurprisingly' definitely lives up to the book title as it was cut into the unforeseen twists, turns, and obscurities that each of us has to face and what paths we can choose to take.

A powerful and beautifully written second installment of the "Unexpected" series!!

Drue DePompei-Hoffman says

If I thought I liked book 1, I absolutely fell head over heals for book 2. I love AJ so much she is just a totally awesome kick ass character. And who am I kidding, I've read and loved every book Claudia has published.

In book 1 we get the hint that Mace is totally in love with AJ and has stood on the sideline waiting for the right time. What we did not get in book 1 is the level of damage Mace's view of his own family life growing up has done to his soul.

AJ, while still healing from her own wounds of the past fights an uphill battle against the demons of Mace's past. You will have to read this series to find out if she wins or not. And I HIGHLY recommend this series.

I can't wait for the next book, will it be MJ or JC?

Johanna Sawyer says

Thanks to the author for an ARC to read and review.

The beginning of this novel was complicated, and I put it down twice but after finishing I'm glad I stuck with it.

There are two POV's in this book, Nine's and Masons. So starting out, I had a hard time getting all the characters straight but after I had them straight it was smooth sailing. Nine's been broken up with her ex Porter for awhile, but he's not ready to let go. He appears throughout the book, and it's hard to believe that Nine even got messed up with him. Mason has been her friend longer than he wanted, and his character really moved me until he did that bullshit move and tried to break up with Nine. I don't understand men and their friend category issues. Mason wanted more since childhood and either didn't understand or did and got cold feet. Nine was classic! I loved her character and her smoothness. I adored how she was and overall entertainment for this book was four stars. I was major confused in the beginning of the book, with all the characters, so I would recommend to the author to do longer chapters, or a prequel to smooth the confusion. Other than that I enjoyed the book!

S.M. West says

5 “9 and 10 go to together, no matter what” STARS

“A love story, his and mine. Ordinary, and yet extraordinary. One, unlike any other.”

This series captured my heart with the first book, Unlike Any Other. **The Colhurst-Decker family hold a special place in my heart** and Ainsley Janine (AJ) is such an awesome, real, kickass female character. I simply adore her! I was really looking forward to this book, **Mason Bradley just did things to me...**

...in the first book. I seriously wanted to see him and Ainsley Janine Colhurst-Decker together.

I knew this wasn't going to be a walk in the park and there would be tears, angst and who knew what else. Boy was it ever, my emotions were...

AJ (Nine to Mase) and Mason (Ten to AJ) are best friends, grew up together and have this one-of-a-kind bond where no amount of time or space could ever sever their connection. I love a best friends to lovers story especially when it's done exceptionally well like this one was.

In addition to the usual concern with what happens to the friendship if they crash and burn? There was also the fact that AJ and Mason dating would shake up the family dynamic: Mason was also friends with AJ's brothers – MJ and JC – she is a triplet. And finally, the biggest obstacle of all was Mason Bradley. Needless to say, they go for it.

"Let's dare and try."

Mason is this **insanely smart, sexy and superior man** with stealth and lethal skills at securing, protecting and if needed, destroying. We finally learn that Mason owns a security/special ops business. Yet, **for all of his “ninja skills,” he is emotionally stunted.** He didn't have the greatest of role models for a loving relationship as his parents' divorced before he was even born yet they both loved him very much. He has commitment issues of any kind (he won't even sign a lease on a place to live) and is afraid of loving, of getting hurt and of doing complicated.

AJ and Mason were great together...

...although he'd unwittingly taints these beautiful moments between them with his fear, indecision and hot and cold attitude. He kept screwing things up and hurting AJ, which was the last thing he wanted to do.

“You’re making me walk through fragile glass, and I fear it’ll shatter with anything I may say wrong.”

“We shared blissful and magical moments, also the unsurprisingly complicated times where I had no idea how to fix the situation or how to react to what he said.”

I truly enjoy Ms. Burgoa's writing style. She's creates **these rich, realistic characters and their**

development is beautifully done. The growth of AJ from the first book to this one was inspiring and gratifying. She was always strong but she's more confident, happier and wiser. **And the journey she takes us on with Mason was so real.** His fuck ups, his insane thoughts and his "come to Jesus" moment were all genuine and while I wanted to shake him at times, I could empathize with him.

"This girl – no woman – has always had the power to keep me unbalanced. Nothing she says or does is expected. She's my fucking weakness, the one person who can warm my heart with one smile."

This was so engrossing that I read it in one sitting and now I'm sad that it's done. I just loved that all of AJ's guys were in this one too. I simply adore her family and feel like I'm a part of their clan.

"No matter how high, fast, strong or long the waves are that crash against us, as long as the five of us are together, nothing will break us."

This one ended with a teaser for the next book, Uncharted: JC's story. There were mentions throughout this book of JC's past and **I can hardly wait for his story!!**

Guest reviewer for SlutSistas Book Blog. For more reviews and blog posts.

Pam says

Thought to come...but it was wonderful!!

This is Mason's book. It picks up right after Gabe's book and continues. I love Burgoa's writing...she creates such complex characters and Mason is very complex. The boy has issues. And Nine is there the whole way waiting for Mase to get his shit together as he continually wrestles with his internal dialog which ain't helpin! But you can't help but fall in love with the broken little boy.

Interesting happenings with Porter (love that name...I have 4 Porters in my family and this is the first series I've read with that name). I know his is the last book in the series and I really look forward to him finding his HEA. In the meantime he is a butthead!

Some hints as to some terrible romantic trauma in JC's past which I suspect we will read about in the next book.

LOVE, LOVE, LOVE this series.

Heather / Obsessed With Myshelf says

This book was surprisingly good. I have to admit that it took be about 20% to get into this one, though. The beginning contains SO MUCH information that was tossed around a lot that I was really really confused. Let me alleviate any confusion for you: Ainse (also known as Nine to Mason) is a triplet with two brothers. Her parents are a gay couple, Chris and Gabe, who are super famous and thus super rich. Her brothers are apparently in a band of some kind and otherwise work with their parents at Decker Records. Ainse also writes music for her brothers and gets some royalties from it, but that's not what she wants to do full time. Instead, she's in the process of building a music school for young children – but it's not yet done – so right now she's substitute teaching at a local school to make money. Ainse used to secretly date a foster brother (dislike! but not the focus of the book so I was ok) who was an utter asshole who ripped her heart to pieces.

Mason has known the Deckers FOREVER. His dad owns a security company that provides bodyguard and other services to the rich and famous – mostly celebrities and rock bands and such – and this is how Mason's dad became friends with Gabe & Christian. So, when Mason was young, he spent a ton of time with the Decker triplets and became close to all of them. NOW YOU WON'T BE CONFUSED. #Yourewelcome.

I really enjoyed the connection between Ainse and Mason – and I loved how it grew even stronger as the book progressed. I was dying for Mason to just give it a chance and try it out with Ainse. It's so clear to everyone else how Mason feels about her, but he just can't get out of his own head to recognize his feelings. When they finally did get together it was incredibly sweet and adorable. I was giddy enough for both of them.

The passion and heat between the two characters was definitely enjoyable, and occasionally comical – especially when Ainse's family tried to cockblock. The dynamic between the triplets was a nice addition to the story and I loved the family togetherness they had. There's also the expected drama between the ex and Ainse – GET HIM, GIRL.

I go back and forth with this book because I really loved the story and grew to love the characters, but I didn't always love the way that the story was presented – SO, it's a hard one for me over here. The ending was satisfying in the 'everything that I wanted to happen happened' kind of way, even though I think it was a little presumptuous with how it all went down. Regardless, it left me pretty happy & it set up another book to come – so #win.

After much internal debate – this one gets a 3.5!

[I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review]
This review looks prettier on my blog: <http://obsessedwithmyshelf.com/2015/0...>

Cass says

English Review

You can read this novel as a standalone but you will better understand the characters if you read the first volume. I think it can be confusing without reading the first one (which is a very good book, so read it !) It's the story about AJ and Mason, told in dual POV.

Who says AJ, says her guys : her fathers Gabe and Chris, and her brothers MJ and JC. You can't not love them. Her fathers are hyper protective and her brothers are... what brothers are they made me giggling more time than once. I'm in love with this family.

AJ, who is a strong woman despite her past, struggles against her feelings for Mason because she knows that if their story ends badly, she will lose her best friend.

Mason has issues too. As he isn't a long-term relationship type of guy, he knows he will hurt her and he doesn't want to. I wanted to slap him to makes things clear in his head !

A lot of things happen in this book, I can't reveal more without spoiling.

I cried, I laughed, I wanted to punch someone (I will not say who, you'll find out).

I like Claudia Y. Burgoa's writing and I'm happy to have the next novel to read it right now !

Avis en français

Vous pouvez lire ce roman seul, mais vous comprendrez mieux les personnages, si vous lisez le premier volume. Je pense que cela peut être déroutant sans lire le premier tome (qui est un très bon livre, donc lisez-le !) C'est l'histoire d'AJ et Mason, raconté en double POV.

Qui dit AJ, dit ses gars: ses pères Gabe et Chris, et ses frères MJ et JC. Vous ne pouvez pas ne pas les aimer. Ses pères sont hyper protecteurs et ses frères sont ... ce que sont les frères: D Ils m'ont fait rire plus d'une fois. J'adore cette famille.

AJ, est une femme forte malgré son passé, qui lutte contre ses sentiments pour Mason parce qu'elle sait que si leur histoire se termine mal, elle va perdre son meilleur ami.

Mason a des problèmes aussi. Comme il n'est pas un type de gars à avoir des relations de longue durée, il sait qu'il va lui faire du mal et il ne le veut pas. J'avais envie de le gifler pour mettre les choses au clair dans sa tête!

Beaucoup de choses se passent dans ce livre, je ne peux pas révéler plus sans gâcher.
J'ai pleuré, j'ai ri, je voulais frapper quelqu'un (je ne dirai pas qui, vous trouverez).

J'aime l'écriture de Claudia Y. Burgoa et je suis heureuse d'avoir le prochain roman à lire dès maintenant!

Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says

Book – Unsurprisingly Complicated (Unexpected #2)

Author – Claudia Burgoa

Publication Date – April 30, 2015

Genre – New Adult Romance

Type – Companion Series

Cliffhanger – No

Rating – 4.5 out of 5 Stars

Complimentary Copy generously provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

My Thoughts - Story

After finishing up *Unlike Any Other*, I couldn't wait to get my hands on this one. I wanted to know what happened next to Mason and Nine and if they would finally find true love.

Ms. Burgoa definitely didn't disappoint with her story of my favorite characters.

Just a bit of a suggestion though...read the first book before you try this one. There is so much that goes on in the first book, that by starting the second book – you may be confused at first. I would say that probably the first 15-20% of the book is dedicated to trying to fill you in and give the back-story of each of the characters.

This book made me laugh...made me pissed...made me cry and finally made me swoon. AJ grows in this book in so many ways. She finally has her family back and she finally takes a chance on a childhood friendship turned to more.

I think the thing about Ms. Burgoa's writing is her ability to make the reader FEEL – these aren't just words typed out on a piece of paper or computer screen – this is written from her heart and you can tell because of how in depth she writes her characters.

Another winner and I can't wait to get to the next in the series, *Uncharted*.

Re-Cap

We left the first book with a few stolen kisses...now it's time to see if Mason and his Nine have a chance at love. And what happens to Porter?

Reason for Reading – Edited

Story Rating – 4.25 out of 5 Stars

Steam Rating – 4.5 out of 5 Stars

Angst Rating – 5 out of 5 Stars

Writing Rating – 5 out of 5 Stars

Content Flow Rating – 4 out of 5 Stars

Told in – Dual POV

HEA? – (view spoiler)

Would Read More from Author? Every SINGLE book she writes!

Claudia Burgoa says

Jen says

Check out my full review on Bookaholics Not-So-Anonymous.

Ah, where do I even begin with this book?! After reading *Unlike Any Other*, the first book in the *Unexpected* series, I had fallen in love with the entire Colthurst-Decker clan and was already chomping at the bit to know what Claudia Burgoa had in store for Ainsley Janine "AJ" Colthurst-Decker and Mason I. H. Bradley. And now, after having finished *Unsurprisingly Complicated*, the second book in the series, in one sitting, I find myself emotionally wrung out after everything AJ and Mason went through. Goodness, these two had to truly want to be together and to fight for what it is they wanted. But it was when they realized that they actually needed each other and were worth the risks that things leveled up, as if the previous trials were meant to prepare them for the ultimate test of love, trust, and commitment.

AJ's story of heartache because of what happened with her family and then with her ex-boyfriend was a painful one to read in *Unlike Any Other*. Here, she wasn't just a mere survivor; she started her life over and believed she was worthy of more than what her ex had forced upon her in the past. She wanted a love similar to what her parents shared but a love story that she could call her own and one that she could have with someone who loved her as much as she loved him. She truly grew up and matured in *Unsurprisingly Complicated* and the ups and downs of her relationship with Mason taught her important things about herself, most important of which was her inner strength and that she had a family that would always be there for her, providing her with acceptance and support and not asking for anything in return.

And then we have Mason. He may have been physically and intellectually superior to a lot of other men, but the poor guy had a chip on his shoulder the size of the entire state of Washington and was often so confused by his own feelings and reactions that he was screwing with himself. There were times I wanted to give him a hug, and then there were times I wanted to slap him upside the head. He was dealing with a lot of emotional baggage courtesy of having parents like his and living the kind of childhood he did, so I more than empathized with how emotionally unavailable he was every now and again and applauded how much he wanted to try to be the kind of guy who deserved to be with AJ. Even when I was miffed at him, I still continued to cheer him on, hoping that they would get the ending their love story deserved.

I squeed. I sighed. I smiled. I stilled. And yes, my heart experienced that squeezing sensation that I associate with being so immersed and invested in a story and its characters that everything else fades away. When I read books that are part of a series I love, I always go into each one hoping that I'll love it as much as the one that came before. When a sequel surpasses my expectations, then calling me a satisfied bookaholic is a vast understatement. Unsurprisingly Complicated exceeded the bar that was set for it by its predecessor and that ending has me itching to get my hands on book three in the series. While I wait, however, I've gone ahead and bought Claudia Burgoa's past work to satisfy my for her addictive storytelling. My rating for Unsurprisingly Complicated is surprisingly simple: five-plus stars. ♥

Tina Lee Harris says

4 stars

As we follow AJ continue on her journey of getting better and moving on with her life, her one constant, Mason, is still there to lend a hand when she needs him. But what happens with the way AJ needs Mason changes. AJ is fighting with herself for the way she feels for Mason. Why? Why does she want to be more than just a friend with him? When she knows it could end badly and she would no longer have her friend in her life.

Mason is staying busy with his job. He knows that AJ is working through her issues from the past but when did they close the line of friends? How can he want her so badly when he knows that he will only hurt her? He is not the loving type of guy. He does sex, period. No feelings, no cuddling, no future so how come AJ makes me feel stuff he never has before?

As AJ and Mason try to just go out on a date and agree that this will not change their friendship but their hearts have a way of talking to each other. When the date turns into a month then two and then six, Mason feels his life closing in on him. He has to leave. He can not do this or be what AJ needs.

Mason thinks he is doing what is best for AJ but in the end, breaking her heart, does not kill her but makes her strong. She will survive this. She is not the little girl who lets the guy push her around. She will get over him in time. But will Mason get over AJ? Can Ten handle life with Nine in it?

I wanted to smack Mason so many times in this book but when you get to the end and realize how he looks at love, things make sense. AJ, wow, her character was so must stronger and has grown. I enjoyed the author's writing and look forward to more from her.
