



Fanning the Flames

Victoria Dahl

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A fan favorite from USA TODAY bestselling author Victoria Dahl.

Some men are off-limits. Close friends of your ex-husband, for instance. Or firefighters who work in the same building as you. Yet despite her best judgment, librarian Lauren Foster can't help noticing fire captain Jake Davis whenever he jogs by...shirtless. They've always been friends, but all it takes is one not-so-chance meeting at a local bar and one not-quite-innocent walk home to ignite a fierce, uncontrollable desire between them.

Widower Jake Davis has tried to ignore the spark he feels whenever Lauren's around, but once he sees her curves in a little black dress, there's no turning back. No matter how often she says she's all wrong for him, the sexy, outspoken divorcee is driving him wild in the best possible way. Maybe she's just blowing off steam. Or maybe he can convince her to fan these flames into something deeper, hotter and truer than they ever expected....

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Fanning the Flames Details

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Author : Victoria Dahl

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From Reader Review Fanning the Flames for online ebook

Lady Heather says

4.5 stars

Loved Lauren & Jack's story!

This is a short, sweet novella that introduces the main characters in this series.

What I liked most about this story is that the H/h are in their mid to late 40's.

Their children have all grown and left the nest. They've lived life, and now they're trying to figure out how to move onto the next chapter even though it's scary & exciting.

Carmen says

"You don't understand. I don't bake cookies. I don't want to take care of a man. I'm bitchy. I'm demanding. I want my own space and free time, and when I'm in a bad mood, I'll tell you and I'll use bad language while I do it. Speaking of, I like to fuck." She poked his chest again. "I. Am. Not. Sweet."

Well, I don't really know what to say about this. It's about a 43-year-old divorcée, Lauren. She may seem like an uptight librarian, but really she's fierce and bitchy and is going through this phase where she wants to fuck every man in sight. You know, as one does.

She's had her eye on the 46-year-old widower Jake for a while now, as he runs by her every day shirtless, but she's convinced he only likes "nice women" and she doesn't fit that bill. Luckily, they meet up at a little bar and one thing leads to another, showing these two that they are actually perfect for each other.

...

One thing I want to mention is that the cover of this book is completely inappropriate for the content. Jake has a hairy chest and he's 46. The fact that he has a hairy chest and that Lauren thinks hairy chests are the sexiest thing ever is mentioned approximately sixty times in this novella. Why couldn't they get an actual in-his-forties man with an actual hairy chest to be on the cover of this novel? I can't be the only female who is tired of seeing a completely waxed six-pack-ab man on the cover of romance novels. How about changing it up a little bit? Is chest hair really that repulsive to people? I don't find it repulsive.

This story is just okay. I mean there's nothing BAD about it, but neither is it particularly inspiring or heart-pounding. Lauren is funny sometimes, and I enjoyed reading a romance where the two protagonists are in their forties. But it wasn't a particularly romantic or sweet book, and I like romantic and sweet.

How's the sex, Carmen?

It's good. I mean, I didn't find this book particularly romantic or sweet or having a story that makes my heart pound, so the sex (while fine) wasn't emotionally interesting to me. Lauren is kind of like "Let's fuck!" and Jake is like, "I would love to be your fuck buddy." The End. That's fine, but it's not really what I'm looking for in a romance novel.

Tl;dr - It's nice to read about protagonists who are in their 40s and it's nice to read about a man with a hairy

chest for once. :p I'm kind of half-joking since it's funny to me the way Lauren goes on and on about chest hair in this novella.

But as for sweetness and romance, this isn't really it. I mean, I'm glad they found each other and are happy now and stuff, but it's not really very romantic.

TWO REAL STARS, TWO ROMANCE STARS

P.S. Oh, and I really wanted Jake and Lauren to go to a BBQ or something where her dickhead ex-husband would be there and for him to be shocked and embarrassed that Lauren is with sexy Jake and really rub his face in it. Ugh, I hated her ex-husband, what a jerk! I would have given this an extra star just to see him get put down.

Lana ✶Dirty Girl Romance✶ says

3.5 Sexy and Short Stars

Her body wanted her to get busy humping any man who caught her eye before her eggs dried up. What her body didn't seem to understand was that there were plenty of healthy-egged young twenty-somethings who were attracted to men like Jake Davis, too. She couldn't compete with them. But honestly, she wouldn't mind a few hopeless tries.

I'm a huge fan of Victoria Dahl, so when I saw she has a new series coming out, I jumped at the chance to read it. Plus I read "firefighters" and I was pretty much done for? What? So I'm shallow. Don't you judge me here.

Forty three year old divorcee Lauren Foster is ready to move on with her life. After a marriage that fizzled out, she's convinced that she's not exactly cut out to be a wife...but some sweaty and dirty sex certainly wouldn't be amiss. Too bad the only thing her libido is responding to is a man that is very hands off to her, widower and fire chief Jake Davis. But how is a girl supposed to ignore the inferno of lust every time Jake jogs shirtless to work. Maybe working next to the fire station isn't as great as it sounds for a librarian.

I'm a sucker for older MCs, since it's very rare I'll find that in book. I really loved that Lauren was 43 to Jake's 46. It's refreshing to read about mature MCs with kids. It's also refreshing when those kids are normal and there's no added drama from that. This was a very quick, light, and super sexy read about 2 people getting a second chance for love.

I was afraid that with Lauren being a librarian, I'd find her to be stuffy and boring. Boy was I wrong!

You don't understand. I don't bake cookies. I don't want to take care of a man. I'm bitchy. I'm demanding. I want my own space and free time, and when I'm in a bad mood, I'll tell you and I'll use bad language while I do it. Speaking of, I like to fuck."

She poked his chest again.

"I. Am. Not. Sweet."

Oh I certainly got it, Lauren.

While I really enjoyed this, it was still a bit too short for me to be anything more than 3.5 stars. I was surprised, however, at how invested I managed to get in both these characters in just a short 60+ pages. I just really wished for an epilogue of sorts to really make it a solid 4 stars. But considering this is planned to be a series, I'm sure we'll be hearing about Jake and Lauren in the future books.

If you're looking for a quick, sexy and light read, then you definitely want to give this book a try.

ARC courtesy of publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

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Alp says

You want something hot? Hell yeah, you got it!

This was hot, sexy, and sweet all at the same time. It was an enjoyable read, another wonderful short story by Victoria Dahl that I finished in one sitting. The characters and the plot, per se, had so much potential to be a full length novel. Anyway, this was a nice prequel to the Jackson: Girls' Night Out series.

Fans of contemporary romance shouldn't miss this series.

Anne OK says

Short, sweet and hot! And the two leads are in their forties which was strangely satisfying. He's a widowed firefighter whose wife died four years ago, and she's a librarian who has been divorced for eight years. The setting is a small town where everyone knows your name and anything else that goes on.

Very quick read (50 pages) and there's a feeling of happy for now but you don't get the whole happily-ever-after confirmation. And it's the beginning of a new series for Victoria Dahl, so we may see more of Jake and Lauren.

Jonetta says

Originally posted on The Book Nympho

There's a lot to like about this short story!

Lauren Foster is a divorced librarian with a son who is a college freshman. Jake Davis is a widower and a

fire captain. His daily shirtless runs past the library have caused Lauren to realize she's now at her sexual peak. Both keep pretending they aren't noticing each other but with a little help from friends, they finally connect.

I really enjoyed everything about the story. Both Lauren and Jake are extremely likable and appealing and it helped having both their points of view. It was also great that they're a mature couple who don't waste time with immature issues. It's funny and sexy (almost erotic), a great intro to the series.

Loved it and the only downside is its brevity, though the story was definitely complete. I'm just greedy!

(I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review)

KatLynne says

3.5 stars

A short novella introducing Lauren & Jack, a couple in their forties who find themselves willing to take a chance on love again. This sexy introduction is a very good start to Dahl's new series and I'm looking forward to more.

Shannon Gorilla McGee Winston says

This was **SO** good, but the ending was abrupt and weird. I was hoping for a teeny bit more at the end. Otherwise, this was a sexy and cute read.

Duchess Nicole says

For such a short read, this one packs quite the punch. A nearly middle aged divorcee librarian and a middle aged firefighter captain. Both experienced enough to know what they want, both finally ready to "see" each other in a way they never had before. I really enjoyed this.

Michelle [Helen Geek] says

07/20/2014 --

Overall Rating = 3.5 Stars

Book Cover / Book Blurb / Book Title = 4 / 4 / 4 = 4 Stars

Writer's Voice = 4 Stars

Character Development = 3 Stars

Story Appreciation = 3.5 Stars

Ending = 3 Stars

Worth the Chili = 5 Stars -- [\$Freebie on Amazon]

Smexy [HEAT] Rating = Mild

61 pages

This is kind of a prequel for a new series for this author.

I have never read Victoria Dahl. What? Yeah .. I know. I'm slow to this game. So, shoot me!

I have a few of her books on my TBR pile, but just haven't read them yet. This one. I picked it up yesterday as a freebie. It sounded fun and simple. I've been waiting for F O R E V E R for my favorite Chick-Lit author, Rachel Gibson, to release a new one [next month and I've had it pre-ordered for close to a YEAR -- **happy dancin**] and have been in a bit of a slump. This was good. It was short. Too short really, but I was desperate. It really was perfect for the moment. Enough said.

I immediately requested [and was approved .. on a SUNDAY!!!] the ARC for the first full length book in this series. I'm excited!

It doesn't take long to read it and I do think you'd [anyone really] would like it.

++Did you notice the review didn't really say much about the book? Well, it's barely 50 pages and free. Just give it a try.++

Happy Reading!

?lleskelle - teamSøren? ?I like big b00ks? says

?????????? **5 stars** ??????????

It was short, but *holy smoke* it was GOOD!!!

And seriously what's not love? A rather prim and proper librarian from afar, but a spitfire in the bedroom! Of course she needed a firefighter!

I look forward to read every each of these men' story!

Who is next?

Shawna says

4 stars – Contemporary Romance Novella

I really enjoyed this and loved that the H/h were real, engaging characters in their mid-40's. I just wish it had been longer with an epilogue to round things out, but still a very satisfying, entertaining, sexy read. Oh, and

it's free right now, so even better!

WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says

Lauren is a librarian who has been divorced for 8yrs and has never regretted it but lately has been feeling lonely, in the bedroom. Jake is the town fire captain and a widower whose fire station just so happens to be next door to Lauren's library. They have known each other for years and are now starting to really take notice.

This is a novella, so it's obviously going to be short and sweet. What I didn't expect, was for it to be so complete. This starts off with Lauren observing Jake running shirtless and how hot and bothered it makes her in a fun and light witty banter way. The chick-lit feel continues as Lauren tries to fight her attraction to Jake, bemoans the lack of action happening in her bedroom, and agrees to let her friend take her out for a night out on the town to pick up some hot young eager men. What happens instead is Lauren escaping Jake's house after being caught in flagrante delicto. Jake and Lauren have off the charts bedroom chemistry but Lauren's insecurities rear their ugly head and this is where the story started to become deeper to me.

Lauren criticizes herself for not being what she thought an ideal wife and woman should be. This is partly due to Lauren's own insecurities and partly due to, what are hinted at, years of little digs by her ex-husband. Many women readers who are Lauren's age or have gone through a similar situation are going to feel a pang in their hearts for her. When she thinks the line "she'd hope that a happy mom was more important for Sawyer than a married one." I know many a woman who is going to have a tear in their eye.

Jake is sexy, mature, and oh so good for Lauren but as this is mostly from Lauren's perspective and due to the strength of her character, you're going to focus more on her. The sex scenes are hot and the pace is steady and strong but as with all novellas, the ending seems abrupt and you'll wish it was longer. Very few novellas manage to pull off such a non-rushed feel and complete story. This is honestly one of the best short stories I have ever read and I will absolutely be picking up the next in the series.

Auntee says

Wow!

This was really *hot*. And I wasn't expecting it to be as hot as it was. But really, a widowed, still hunky mid-forties firefighter Captain who likes to jog shirtless (showing off his buff, hairy chest) and a (recently feeling) extremely hot-to-trot early forties sexy divorced town librarian...why can't they be hot together? So what if they don't know if they want to try marriage again? The way Ms. Dahl writes (she has a knack for steamy scenes--I had forgotten that) she made this book come alive. I loved these two together. So yeah, I really enjoyed getting to know these characters, and their very steamy coupling. My only regret? This book should've been longer--I wanted a full novel about these two! But what a great start to a series I've had on the back burner...time to get caught up now! 5 stars.

Jill Sorenson says

I usually like my Dahl the way I like my men, full length, but this little number hit the sweet spot. I loved the horny, bitchy, mouthy independent 40s heroine. So much relate. I loved the older hero. Great dialogue and so many funny moments. I was giggling on every page. 5 stars.

This is free--snap it up.
