



JUST GOOD FRIENDS

S.L. SIWIK



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Juggling two jobs and mounting bills, Audrey decides she doesn't have time for a boyfriend, but contemplates a friends plus situation. After placing a personal ad, she meets Mike, a local cop, former Marine. He's old fashioned and overbearing, but she just can't walk away. Unfortunately for her, Michael is an expert marksman, and her heart never stood a chance. Their tumultuous love affair crashes to an ending neither foresaw, and Audrey is forced to make a decision that will change both their lives forever.

Just Good Friends Details

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From Reader Review Just Good Friends for online ebook

Dawn Smith says

I was given an ARC of this book by the author in exchange for an honest review.

You have heard all the sayings: Opposites Attract, First impressions are what counts most, There is a thin line between love and hate. Well, they are all true in Clean Slate. Audrey is stressed out to the max from constantly working and trying to pay bills. She is so busy that she doesn't even have time for a steady boyfriends, but a girl has needs, so she would consider a friend with benefits. To solve this problem, Audrey puts out a personal ad. Enter Mike. He's all smoldering alpha, cop, ex marine, stubborn to the hilt and drives Audrey up the wall. She doesn't know whether to jump him or punch him. This book is full of sexual sparks and fire. As much as they profess to dislike each other, underneath it all, Mike and Audrey live in a constant state of wanting the other. I loved this couple, everything- including their fights were sizzling hot and sexy! For me, this was a fun, fast paced read. The book doesn't lag at any time. It was a true joy to watch Mike and Audrey try to one up each other, to have the last word, and to always try to win the argument. The author has created some great characters. Audrey is strong, sassy, mouthy and stubborn, but you can't help but love her. And then there is Mike- sexy alpha Mike with his dominance and dirty mouth. Mike will set your panties and your kindle on fire. The author has done an amazing job at writing a book full of sexual tension, heat and innuendo. A book where the arguing and disagreements are sexy as all get out. I enjoyed every minute of this book and watching these characters find their way from enemies to lovers. A thoroughly enjoyable read.

4.5 out of 5 stars

Laura Hampton says

5 awesome stars!!!! I loved this book!!!

Clean Slate is the second book by S.L. Siwik that I have had the chance to read. She has officially become one of my favorite Indie Authors. I LOVED this book!!! She has a great writing style, she is detailed and knows how to capture the reader and draw you in.

Audrey Hoffinger was born into a wealthy powerful family. And she hated it. She had no one who cared for her. Her parents fought constantly about her fathers affairs and the fact that she was a "girl" only made matters worse. She found comfort and friendship from her tutor and the cook. She swore the day would come when she left it all behind.

Living paycheck to paycheck is now Audrey's way of life. She owns a small mobile home and works 2 jobs, sends out dozen of resumes a week, hoping to land that one great job, but in reality she is just trying to make ends meet. She comes home to her dog Baron and an empty life on a daily basis. Deciding that she needs more excitement, she places a personal ad, looking for a "friends with benefits" friend. After weeding through the guys, she comes across two, who meet her requirements.

Mike Kowalski is a former Marine, now serving as a police officer at the local precinct, with his best friend John. Mike is hard working, stubborn as hell, caring, protective, demanding, and sexy as sin. He likes to be the one in charge, showing off his alpha ways. Mike has not had an easy life either. His past is filled with

plenty of hurt and anger. When he meets Audrey, that all seems to change, but he makes a really bad first impression on her and she wants nothing to do with her. When he manages to get Audrey away from a raid on a store, everything slowly starts to change. He comes to the diner where she works to eat everyday. He steps in and helps her out financially, without her knowing.

I loved the banter between these two. The characters were well written and believable. They are both always trying to battle for the upper hand, but it seems more times than not, it is Mike who wins. Which drives Audrey crazy! When push comes to shove, will Audrey and Mike be able to put their differences aside and try to make a relationship work. Because Mike wants it all or nothing and trying to convince Audrey is driving him crazy. The chemistry between the two of them is awesome. I cannot wait to read more of what S.L. Siwik writes. Another awesome awesome book! I highly recommend this book and any book that Siwik has written.

Tana says

Just Good Friends by S.L. Siwik

This is a debut novel for S.L. Siwik and I have to say I really enjoyed the authors writing. This story is a really good friendship/romance novel. S.L. writing was easy to read, the story flowed seamlessly, I really got caught up in this story and before I knew it I had read the entire book. The plot the story line and the character were all great, I hope there is more to come in this series as I think it was a fantastic read and loved all the other characters.

We meet Audrey who is working two jobs to pay the bills; she is basically living from paycheck to paycheck. She is a waitress during the day then at night stalk shelves at a local store. We find out the Audrey comes from a pretty well off family but left home when she was 18 to head to college and has no desire to return there. She fell in love once only to find out he was cheating on her so she left him too.

Now on her own she is struggling to make ends meet, only having one day off a week she pretty much knows she may never find romance again. She's not even sure she wants romance at this point, her family and cheating boyfriends does not lead Audrey to believe in love or commitment. One day on a whim she decides to place an ad looking for a friend with benefit situation. She gets quite a few emails, one from a male who wants to set her up with his friend Mike.

So soon we meet Mike who is a police officer and he only agrees to go out and meet Audrey because of his friend John. When they meet he really screws up their first meeting which does not make a very good impression with Audrey. Mike knows he screwed up so he tries to repair the damage he has done. Audrey forgives him but lets him know she can't forget what he said and decides they can be friends (no benefits).

As the get to know each other on a friendship basis they become quite close, even Mike's police officer buddies are hanging around her place of work. It is a cute romance novel; I really enjoyed the story and S.L. Siwik writing. I have rated Just Good Friends a 4 star rating and defiantly would like to read more from the author. I would recommend to any of my friends or followers to grab a copy of Just Good Friends by S.L. Siwik.

Lisa says

ARC Given to Blog for Honest Review

3 ‘Friendly’ Kisses

When a book starts off with a bang, literally, guns were actually being fired – you have my attention. I read the first chapter of Just Good Friends on fictionpress a few months ago and was really intrigued to know the rest of the story -the anticipation was killing me.

‘She glanced up at both of them to drive home her point. “I’m not ashamed of the life I live. I make an honest living, I pay my taxes, and I vote. If anyone doesn’t like it, they know where the door is.”’

We meet Audrey Hoffinger, a strong, self-assured woman. She has not had it easy by any stretch; she’s got her master’s degree but spends her days working two full time non-stop manual labor jobs (waitress and shelf stocker) with one day off a week...Tuesdays. After months and months of this, she needs something new...and she gets the idea to place an online ad for a ‘friends with benefits’ type relationship. She doesn’t have time for a relationship, but everyone needs human companionship, right?

‘Audrey turned back towards Mike. “Because that’s not who I am. At the end of the day, I need to be able to look at myself in the mirror and be alright with the person who stares back. Everyone deserves respect, until they’ve shown me otherwise.”’

Long story short, she meets Michael Kowalski, a former marine and cop and he proceeds to stick his foot in his mouth, forever ruining any chances with Audrey except for friendship. He was kind of a douche. So the plan is set, they are going to be friends – and that works, kind of. Mike goes above and beyond to make up for his actions and he is a terrific friend, which is part of what makes it so hard for Audrey.

“I’m sorrier than you’ll ever know. I’d like us to be friends. I think you’ll be good for me.” She raised her brow questioning his statement. “I think you’ll keep me honest. No one has forced me to think about my actions before quite like you, and I’ve never had a female friend.”

They work into the comfortable routine, he comes in with his other officers and Sgt, they eat, talk, build a bond, a friendship. All the time you’re screaming at Audrey on your kindle, ‘*Good gravy girl, wake up and smell the sexy incredible man who is alllllll about you!*’ Audrey is logical...practical....intellectual, but insanely frustrating in that aspect. She does finally give in and with one kiss she is lost for good.

“He gets under my skin like no one else. I don’t really understand it, and I don’t like it,” she admitted, feeling uncomfortable just thinking about the way he made her feel whenever he looked at her, never mind when he opened his mouth.

“The call that love,” Calvin said, putting his hand on her shoulder sympathetically.’

I mentioned the logical, practical, intellectual stuff? Yeah...well just cause she likes kissing Mike, doesn't mean that everything is going to be peachy keen. She sets up rules for their....whatever...and she is sticking to them. Kinda. :-) It was kinda cute that every time they got asked what was going on, they both always answered 'just good friends' – it was like the secret they thought they were keeping.

'She missed him much more than she ever wanted to admit. The world didn't feel right until she was nestled in his arms. During her unstimulating, soul crushing jobs she felt as though she was sleepwalking. Audrey wasn't sure when it happened, but she began to realize she coasted through her days on autopilot, barely registering what was even happening. The evidence became overwhelming when she was with Mike, every nerve ending firing brilliantly. When she inhaled, she was now finally, truly breathing.'

It's hard not to swoon a little bit over Mike. He's Mr. Alpha Male...plus the marine thing really did it for me, and then the whole 'man in uniform' thing. I don't do spoilers, so I can't spoil the bang. And there are a few good surprises thrown in at the end, but it's all HEA and no cliffhanger, so all is well.

'Her friend, lover, man she did everything with, was insane, belonging on his own plane of craziness. Normalcy seemed pretty overrated, though, she supposed.'

So by all accounts, this was a good book...and it was, I don't want that to be confused, but I had to be honest with myself. I can't be in love with every book I read, I understand that, it's illogical to think so. And don't get me wrong, there were a lot of things I did like about this book, just not enough to push me over into the '*I love it so much I can't get over it*' category. That's not to say it's not a very well written book, great story line with awesome characters. Was I wow'd...no. Was I entertained...yes. There were a few things that started to become frustrating. I enjoy detail and description, but sometimes it felt forced and unnatural, maybe even unnecessary at times, which distracted me. And this is purely a personal feeling, but if the word 'pocketbook' was used one more time, I was going to loose it.

"“Why does it matter?” He asked.

“It matters to me,” she shouted. It matters a lot. I can’t give you everything you want, everything you need.” She sighed. “Not yet.”

“I don’t need anything but you,” he protested.’

With the way Mike and Audrey's story was left, I am craving more – luckily this is part of a series and I am anxious to know more of their story. There is a lot left to be seen as to where this couple will go, so I'm excited to see how their story plays out.

Books&Dreams says

Book Worms was gifted this book from the Author for an honest review.

We gave this book 4 stars.

This Review was left by Leigh a Book Worms Reviewer.

Thank you Leigh.

Audrey Hoffinger left behind her family and life to venture out on her own and have her freedom. She wanted to go to college so she could get the job of her dreams and live an independent life. After college, Audrey can't seem to find a job. She is stuck with getting two barely paying jobs to make just enough money to pay for her home and bills. At least she has her boyfriend... well, maybe not. She discovers her best friend is sleeping with boyfriend, and that leaves her on her own. She decides, after several months of a sexual dry spell, that she wants a physical relationship without the emotional relationship to deal with. She places an honest add online to find someone to fit her needs. She gets a response back from a man, only to find out that it's not him that is interested. John is looking for a love interest for his friend. Audrey will discover that physical is hard to separate from emotional as she falls for a man and builds friendships with others.

Mike Kowalski is an ex military man turned cop. He's got some issues from his past that making it hard for him to move forward, that is until he meets Audrey Hoffinger. First impressions usually say it all. Well, Mike messes that up big time, and Audrey isn't going to let him in that easily after their first awkward date. He begins to thaw from his icy cop persona. He starts to win Audrey over with his charm, but she refuses to make anything official. After events and pasts that present themselves Mike is getting Audrey moving in the right direction in their odd but functional relationship. In the end they both get what they needed whether they knew they wanted it or not.

This book gets 4 out of 5 stars from me!

I love the way this book started out. It was so different from other books in its genre. The prologue had me intrigued. Then the first chapter immediately sucked me in. I had all this info, and I just had to see what was going to go on with Audrey. She's not your typical doing great kind of gal in a romance book. This lady is struggling! Even though we know her background from reading the prologue, we are hit with this drastic change in chapter one. The author uses great descriptions to show the contrast in her life changes. The first paragraph lets the reader know the drastic change from her former life to her present one.

"Audrey sat on her garage sale find couch flipping through the television channels. Nothing good was on. Nothing good was ever on. It was Tuesday, her one day off from her two jobs, one as a waitress at the local diner, Romeo's, and the other as an overnight shelf-stocker at Bargain Buys."

I also loved her tell it like it is, sarcastic ways.

" 'Say it, Audrey. Tell me that you love me.'
'Fuck you,' she panted out"

"Oh look, it's a cop shoving a doughnut down his throat. How original. Did you wake up and decide to be so cliché, or does it just come naturally?

Yup, I like that girl's attitude.

Okay, when these two finally get down to business, they really get down to business. It was HAWT! Mr. Kowalski can definitely enter my list of top 10 book boyfriends. Who doesn't love a military man? And little Miss Hoffinger? Well, she's quite a little firecracker. Together they are EXPLOSIVE!

The only thing I was missing was more of the story with her parents. What happened? It felt a little

inconclusive to me. I need more!

I do recommend this book. It was quite an enjoyable read!

My Secret Book Spot says

“Clean Slate” by S.L. Siwik

4 out of 5 stars

Audrey is starting her life over. Growing up under the thumb of her oppressive parents, she vows to get out as soon as she can. Refusing to give in to an arranged marriage, Audrey heads off to college and finally begins living her own life. After successfully completing her education she is ready to take on the world, but the world turns its back on her and she’s left out in the cold. After leaving her cheating fiancé and the best friend he cheated with behind, Audrey finds herself alone, working two dead end jobs, and feeling defeated. She places an ad on an internet dating site hoping to find a casual relationship, but one reply email changes her life forever.

Audrey has issues. She doesn’t trust anyone, she’s working way too hard, and she’s tired of being alone. I admire her independence. Most people would have crawled back home after the years of struggle, but Audrey is resilient. She is determined to make something of herself, even if that means working two jobs and sending out forty resumes a day. She has a fighting spirit that won’t allow her quit or back down from adversity. When she meets the group of cops who become her surrogate family a lighter side of her comes out and brings with it a little vulnerability. She literally sparks with Michael and the electricity flies off the pages.

Michael has issues of his own. He has been beat down by love and refuses to let go of the past. That same determination comes in handy when he decides he wants Audrey in his life. He is very alpha male in a subtle way. He’s formidable yet gentle, demanding without being domineering, and sexy in a charming way. He wasn’t perfect and I liked that about him.

Audrey’s newfound “family” are each unique and offer her pieces to the puzzle that make her whole. John is the brother she never had, Sarge is the father she longed for, and Garver is the goofy friend that everyone needs to have around. Together they round out a great cast of characters that will keep you invested in the story.

The only reason I held off on giving this book five stars is the flow. While the writing was fluid in most places, it was choppy in others. There were times when a scene felt rushed and I would have liked a little more development. I also wanted to have a bit more back story on Audrey’s parents and the years she spent in college. The storyline, itself, was great and I couldn’t wait to see how it ended. I hope that Siwik turns this into a series because I would love to see it continue. There are lots of characters to write about and plenty of stories left to tell. I would recommend this book and I hope that there will be more in the future!

I was given a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Shannon, My Secret Book Spot

Kirsten says

I can't tell you how much I enjoyed reading this book. I loved how fiesty and independent Audrey was. I loved that she stood up for herself and fought for what she believed in, even if she was wrong at times. I understood why she felt the need to do things for herself, and also why she had a hard time letting new people in her life. Audrey met Mike by placing an ad online and having his friend, John respond for him. Just a bit awkward, right? Mike is definitely something else. Former Marine, current cop, but a sweet guy who had been hurt so bad in the past. Meeting Audrey breathes new life into Mike, and then they have a disastrous first meeting, I won't even call it a date because that's how bad it was. But leave it to Mike, that guy just would not quit. Then he brings his group of cops, including John, into her work every night she's there. She makes friends with them all and tries her damnedest to keep Mike in that friend zone too.

Mike and Audrey have undeniable chemistry, however, and eventually Audrey can't fight anymore. Once she gives in, Mike wants it all, not understanding that Audrey is giving as much as she can at the time. I loved Mike's intensity. His focus was completely on Audrey and keeping her safe. There are a lot of strange things that happen, most of which have to do with Audrey's parents, which I thought was really creepy. I loved the way the book ends and am wondering if there will be a second book? I would love it, love to find out more about these awesome guys that Mike works with and also find out what the deal is with Audrey's parents. Don't get me wrong, I really loved the ending and don't want that to change, but would love more because all the guys were pretty awesome and they supported Mike and Audrey as well. I am glad that Audrey has that in her life now, and hope it will never change except to welcome more family and friends into her growing circle.

I received a copy of this book in return for an honest review.

Emily says

Audrey doesn't have much time for anything other than her two jobs and dog, Baron, except on Tuesdays. After realizing her chance of companionship without any strings is dismal, she places an online ad, with every specific instructions of what she is looking for. After placing several responses in her junk folder, she does run across one that peaks her interest. It is an unusual way to meet someone, but after a few interesting emails she agrees to a blind date.

On a scale of 1 to 10 of blind date experiences, Audrey is at a -1. The date was insulting, embarrassing, and regretful to say the least. Mike, a former Marine and cop, comes off like a raving lunatic. After a ridiculous amount of apologizing, Mike and Audrey form a friendship of sorts. With the cop friends in tow and Audrey as their waitress, Mike uses his patience to show Audrey how right he really is, but both Audrey and Mike have hang-ups from being hurt before and need to decide if it is worth taking a chance on one another, after all they are Just Good Friends, right?

Highly entertaining. I was cracking up with Mike in the beginning, he is a brooder of sorts but he has set his sights on Audrey and takes an unexpected route in trying to get to see him in the same way. Audrey is unique, she is a bit of a free spirit and unlike most heroines you read about which was refreshing. An enjoyable romantic story.

Jackie's Book Review says

Clean Slate was the second book that I read and reviewed for S.L. and enjoyed this book just as much.

This is a story about two people who thought that they were looking for the same thing, then realized that what they both wanted was really each other.

In Clean Slate the story centers around Audrey Hoffinger who has spent most of her childhood very lonely with no friends and parents that had no time for her. After Audrey leaves home, goes to college and is on her own she decides that maybe it's time to try to have a "friends with benefits" relationship. After putting an add in an online classified she gets a response from Mike Kowalski who is a policeman and a former marine. Mike is very cautious, territorial and bossy which comes from his years as a marine and cop.

Let's just say that if Audrey was peanut butter you can bet Mike is not the jelly to finish the sandwich! They are complete opposites of each other. After having a not so great first meeting havoc follows both Audrey and Mike. Of course as time goes on Mike becomes smitten with Audrey and wants her more than just a friend. Audrey on the other hand keeps pushing Mike at bay and trying to keep the relationship platonic all the while deep down inside she wants the same as Mike. I have to say a couple of times I wanted to punch her in the head for being so selfish and stupid about Mike the dope!

So the question is can Mike and Audrey finally come to a happy medium in their lives? The question and the answer can be found when you read this enjoyable book.

Melanie Buffington says

I absolutely loved this book! S.L. Siwik is a great story teller, the characters were well written and the timeline was believable. The heroine is independent, fiesty and tough yet there is a vulnerability to her that she tries to hide. The hero is your typical Hot Alpha male that you can't resist. Audrey is a 25 year old workin 2 dead-end jobs, six days a week, struggling to make ends meet. She decides she doesn't have time for a relationship but contemplates a friends with benefits situation. She places a personal add on-line where she eventually meets Mike. Mike is a former marine and cop. He can be rude, demanding and overbearing, but he is also fiercely protective, sweet and romantic. When they meet for the first time Mike screws up big time, he apologizes but the damage is done. Mike starts showing up at the diner where she works to try and earn her forgiveness. Eventually Audrey breaks down and tells him they can be friends, but just friends and nothing more. As time goes by and their relationship builds Audrey learns why Mike acted the way he did when they first met. She learns more about his past and she reveals more about hers. She decides she wants more than just friendship, she wants the benefits now also. Now I don't want to give away any spoilers so lets just say that after family problems, problem with ex's and a life and death situation Audrey finally comes to her senses and they get their HEA. I'm sure Audrey and Mike still have many more obstacles to overcome and I cannot wait for the sequel.

Jennifer Greeff says

I just wrapped up Clean Slate and I'm honestly at a loss for words right now. I know that probably sounds awful so bear with me and I will explain. I really loved the beginning of the book. The character development of Audrey and Mike were very well done.

Audrey comes from a very well to do background. But her father was a bastard who cheated on her mother for decades with their housekeeper and her mother just took it because she liked the money and status that being with him brought her. Audrey decided at a young age that she would not be like her mother and end up in a loveless marriage while her husband cheats on her left and right. So, she packs up and heads out to live the hard earned life that most of us mere mortals have to live. Digging into the daily grind of two jobs, 16 hour shifts and 1 day off a week, Audrey lives her life with her English bulldog, Baron. For some reason one days she decides randomly to take type up a Personal Ad after finishing a round job applications. She's looking for a no strings, friends with benefits kind of thing. She gets two possibly responses. One from a friend of a guy and the other from a poetry and book nerd.

So we meet Mike, he's a former Marine with all the uptight ticks and quirks that go with it. He's now a New Jersey Police Officer along with his best friend John who answered the Ad for him. He's come out of a bad relationship with a girl who had an eating disorder and comes from a home where his mom left at a young age and his father has a disease caused by too many years of alcohol abuse and has landed himself in a nursing home. Though Mike feels the need to check in on Audrey's personal life before even meeting her, background check, run the license plates, the whole nine yards, he has her best interest in mind. He comes off as stalker-ish but is also very sweet and protective of Audrey though he can't really place his finger on why.

I loved their interactions with one another, their banter back and forth as they try to be friends after he completely insults her at their first meeting. They are infuriatingly adorable together as they both try to stay just friends. But when their relationship heads into "relationship" territory, Audrey always bolts and you just want to smack her around. I was so freaking fed up with her behavior, which is good cause it means I cared enough about these characters to want them to end up together. My reason for giving the book a 3.5 and not a 4 or better is that the story at about 75% in went a little haywire for me. I won't say why that is or what happens but I just was kind of left sitting there scratching my head thinking through all that was happening asking myself it his is even plausible. If people really act like this and if things like this could even happen. Yes, I realize its a work of fiction and I read stories about vampires and werewolves, I know every story doesn't have to be realistic but when reality just seems to go out the door to me I have a hard time keeping up.

I absolutely adored S.L. Siwik's book, Stealing Time but this one fell short for me. It was still a very enjoyable read, something just seemed off toward the end. It felt rushed to me. I kept feeling like I was missing something and that is the reason for the rating. Overall I love S.L. Siwik, I'm still a fan and will still read anything she writes.

Liz at Fictional Candy says

Ok this book? Completely awesome. It made me smile and laugh. I mean laugh right out loud! Right from

the beginning I knew this story had something special in it, and I ended up devouring it within a day.

First we have Audrey, who is a waitress in her mid twenties at a diner. Actually, she works two jobs, and barely has any free time at all. She does have a little dog named Baron, who is quite the charming little guy, especially around new people! Audrey's sex life has taken on a bit of a dry spell, and Audrey decides a personals ad online is the way to go. It's not long before she's got a ton of responses.

One in particular is from a guy who wants to set her up with his friend. And then that guy shows up at her diner the next day - and it's actually on accident, not a stalker thing! I thought this was hilarious, and it just had me giggling. Little did I know what would be coming up soon!

Very soon this brings Mike, a cop, into the picture. You can tell the guy is a bunch of nerves, and the nervousness is rolling off of him. And well, he acts like an ass. A big ol giant ass lol. As for the man himself, he turns out to be this extremely attentive, caring, kind man, if a bit socially awkward. Nearly the perfect man, I'd say. But calling their first meeting a disaster would be a compliment!

The rest of the story includes some funny situations, like one involving a sex toy store. Or entirely sweet scenes, like one during the fireworks. All in all, you get a nice steady slow build on something between Audrey and Mike that is amazing and wonderful. And the sexy naked time - oh holy man on fire! These two certainly have the chemistry when it comes to being alone together in the dark!

I loved every page of this story. It was fresh and fun, and the characters were a perfect match together. If you are a romance fan, I think you should definitely add this one to your list - you won't be sorry! SL Siwik is definitely an author to keep an eye on!

Shelley says

Audrey is working two jobs merely to exist. She's trying to find a better job with no luck. With most of her hours spent working there's no time for romance. One day it occurs to Audrey that a friends with benefit situation might work for her. Finding the right person, however, might not be so easy.

Mike is a cop and former marine. He's not as sure about the friends with benefits deal but he finally goes ahead. Thus starts their relationship.

Gradually they learn about each other and share their pasts while moving on into the future. Together they're great with their personalities balancing each other out.

While I liked the characters, I felt the author missed opportunities to show emotion and told the reader what happened instead. For me some of the book suffered from pace problems, but I did enjoy the way the characters met and the romance evolved.

Donna ~ says

This book was about determination to make it on your own, the guts to do and the ability to overcome your

parents shadow to allow happiness into your life.

Audrey was a mere pawn in her father's life until she wanted more than just marrying into a loveless marriage to appease her father's wishes at the age of 18. With determination and some help from a friend she was off to college and to life with out entitlement.

Barely making ends meet, working two jobs, little did she know that a group of policemen that frequented the diner would turn her life around and maybe alittle upside down too.

Meet Mike, Officer Kowalski. He's easy on the eyes but his demeanor is a bit less that desirable. First impressions may be lasting but they may not always be accurate. Mike has his own past insecurities to deal with and may not put his best foot forward. His actions spoke louder than words at times and definitely in a good way.

Audrey and Mike are "friends", yes because we need to label all relationships, but it is apparent to all that Audrey and Mike want more. I felt for Audrey. She argues with herself and looks for excuses not to fall for Mike. She feels the connection but hasn't been able to trust it, her parents relationship flashing like a neon sign in her mind. Mike scared me at times with his "stalker-like" behavior. Can you say invasion of privacy? Once he allowed himself to feel for Audrey there was no holding back. He would do anything and everything to keep her in his life.

As with any good story we get some twists and turns. We have unresolved issues and hope for a happy resolution. This story had me pulling for Audrey the whole while. Looking for the one thing that would finally give the girl a break. What she got was so much more.

If you haven't had the chance to read anything by this author you could start here. But be sure to check out her other works as well, she has created some memorable characters.

Aboyer says

Can't believe this is her first book. I read it in 2 days. Easy to read. Great characters.
