



# Whiskey Renegade

*H.J. Bellus*

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## Whiskey Renegade H.J. Bellus

We used to be kings on top of the world, but it all went to hell...

My money and power are worthless.

All I want is blood bathing my knuckles, their soulless bodies dead at my feet.

I've never felt the need to take someone's life until now.

They will pay.

I will sacrifice everything to protect my family.

To save the beauty that's been haunting my dreams.

I don't even know her, but the fear dancing in her eyes will be my worst nightmare.

It's a game of death, and I'm all in.

## Whiskey Renegade Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : H.J. Bellus

Format :

Genre : Romance

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# From Reader Review *Whiskey Renegade* for online ebook

## Marnie says

**HJ Bellus pulled true love from the pits of hell and human despair.**

Ms Bellus, with this book, you slayed me. I wonder how you have the gift of putting together a book that is so dark, and so desperate that I questioned how love could even occur under the circumstances, but you made love happen, and it was the guiding light upon which all else was hinged.

Never have I read a duo of books where the hero really does dive into the pits of a hell so deep that he returns, it's as changed and as damaged as Kemp did. This is exactly what Kemp did for his family. A man who would put them even before himself. And I found this book to be even darker and more despairing than JJ and Navy's story in *Whiskey and You*.

I loved that he is big and tattooed, yet still in awe of his true hero – his mum. She inspired him to be the man that he is, a protector of women, and one who treats them with respect.

Charlie also dove into the pits of hell to retrieve someone she loved, her sister. Trouble is, sometimes they are so broken, there is never any way back for them, and that hurts.

I had to finish it in one session, straight after I'd just hit Book 1 and I could wax lyrical long and hard about the awesomeness of this book. Instead, I will loudly admire your talent, and vociferously recommend it to all and sundry that this is their next 5 Star must read. This is now my book of the year!

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## Valeen Robertson (Live Thru Books Blog) says

*Whiskey Renegade* picks up right where *Whiskey & You* left off, with Kemp and JJ running to find out where Navy was taken. It's there where Kemp forges a bond with one of the women in the same van Navy was thrown into, and where Kemp's mission begins - to rescue that woman, and all the other women kidnapped and trafficked by the same organization that terrorized them in *Whiskey & You*.

Kemp's mission, though, takes him from beastly manwhore, fucking prostitutes in Mexico while waiting for the men he's out to take down, back to the sweet-natured businessman he was in *Whiskey & You* and in the beginning of *Whiskey Renegade*. I admit to not liking him much in the beginning, wondering why the hell he had changed so much from the first book, but knowing his quest for vengeance had to have changed him, made him so unrecognizable. But, the biggest surprise was that Kemp didn't ultimately end up with the woman that set him off on his mission. No, his soul mate ended up being Charlie, a woman looking for her sister, who had been taken by the traffickers that had taken Rose and Navy.

Although I didn't end up liking *Whiskey Renegade* the way I loved *Whiskey & You*, I am still glad I got to read it, glad I got to read Kemp's story. It's raw and gritty, but beautiful in its own way. Charlie and Kemp make for a hot couple, and it was good to see the womanizing Kemp find his one and only. And of course JJ, Navy, Bella, Jack and Faye are all back with their own cameos, and it was great to see them happily living the good life together. I'm hoping there's more to come in this *Kings of Texas* world, perhaps Dax's story?

*ARC via HEA PR for an honest review.*

Full review posted on *Live Through Books Blog*.

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### **Kylee says**

Whiskey Renegade is the second book in the Kings of Texas series and this book was explosive like that first shot of Jack as it hits your throat. Kemp is a man on a mission with a set of green eyes haunting him and pushing him forward, but it might just be a set of whiskey-honey eyes that will be his salvation. This story is gritty, emotional, heart wrenching and packed full of passion and determination. Their journey will bring you joy, laughter, tears and will warm your heart like no other. The chemistry between these two characters will be so strong you will feel it in your soul. A book that will keep you gripped, on the edge of your seat and falling head over heels for these two. Be warned, after this book you will want your own Kemp to sweep your floors. Move over JJ, I think Kemp just claimed my heart.

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### **Jennifer Pierson says**

WOW, Whiskey Renegade really didn't pull any punches on throwing me in the deep end of suspense & action filled goodness from the very get go. I'm not saying it was an easy read, nope, the dark undertones made it hard at times to keep going without a break. This is Kemp's story, which started out with him a very successful businessman, but quickly takes a dark turn, when he decides to head to Mexico to rescue some women after some bad guys tried to hurt his best friend's woman, Navy. I know I keep saying the word dark, but I just don't know how else to say it without giving things away, but Kemp is losing any of his goodness while in Mexico. Like I'm saying, his actions aren't quite what I like in my hero, but hey, what he's doing seems to be wearing all the good away. Finally he meets Charlie, who's there to find her sister, and they seem to click after their first big meeting which pretty much went sideways. So I can say that there are twists & turns around every corner, and I dropped so many f-bombs it's not even funny. There's a pretty interesting cast of secondaries who really grew on me, as they were all trying to get past all the darkness. Obviously, there's some serious angst which really didn't let up at all, but with the topic at hand, it came off very realistically. So anyway, that's all from me, and kudos to the talented HJ Bellus who definitely doesn't write inside any sort of box. I HIGHLY HIGHLY HIGHLY RECOMMEND to ALL who can handle some serious dark topics.

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### **Cheryl O'Harney (The Book Whisperer) says**

Title: Whiskey Renegade

Author: HJ Bellus

Genre: Contemporary Romance

Rating: 4/5

Arc received in return for an honest review.

This is the second book in The Kings of Texas series and it picks up where *Whiskey and You* left off, and now Kemp is on a mission to take down a Mexican drug cartel but he's not the only one. Charlie's a young woman who escaped from the clutches of hell and now she's paying the price, being separated from the only family member she has left which sets her on her own journey of redemption leading her straight into the arms of Kemp, although it's safe to say theirs isn't a case of love at first sight.

Together along with the help of a few accomplices they manage to win the war but battle scars and repercussions become evident in the aftermath.

From start to finish this was an intense read, at the beginning Kemp as a person left little to be desired but he totally redeemed himself, the bond he forged with Charlie soon became indestructible leading them to a HEA neither of them would ever have predicted.

This was one raw, dirty storyline which hosted a whole range of emotions, one minute I was completely disgusted the next I was turned on ?????, I was curious, frustrated, crying then laughing. I went from hating Kemp to wanting one of my own. A whole range of characters old and new made this one riveting read, I can't wait to see what comes next from Bellus, maybe Dax's story?? (hint, hint?).

?? The Book Whisperer ??

Check it out here?

<https://m.facebook.com/The-Book-Whisp...>

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## Stefanie Kral says

☆☆5 Kemp Filled Stars!!!☆☆

Man oh man. The Kings Of Texas are back. This time we're following Kemp into the dirty depths of Mexico and dealing with human trafficking.

We pick up where *Whiskey & You* left off. Kemp just saved Navy from being kidnapped. Navy's his best friend JJ's girlfriend but she's become like a sister to him. Kemp tried saving another girl he finds out her name was Rose and she's been friends with Navy since childhood.

Kemp can't get Rose out of his head. Kemp plans on taking down the guy responsible for hurting Navy and for his abuse on the women. Kemp heads to Mexico with some help of a local MC.

Kemp isn't the same funny, easy going guy he was in book one. He's hit a deep, dark place. Kemp spends his time gathering info and screwing every woman he can. Kemp knows they're nasty dirty but he does it anyway.

Until he met Charlie and everything changed. Charlie's in Mexico for the same reason. She was dating the

guy Kemp is looking for. When she found out what he was into Charlie left and he got revenge by kidnapping her sister. She's the only family Charlie has left and she won't go down without getting her sister back.

These two do not start off a good foot. Nope! It starts with her trying to put a bullet in between Kemp's eyes. Yup. It's like that!!!

But, the more time these two spend together they realize that they have in common. Kemp promises to take down the guy and save Rose and get Charlie her sister back. If only things were that easy.

Even though this is a darker book and might have triggers for some people. I really liked it. My heart broke for Charlie from beginning to the end of this book. I'm glad she got her HEA with Kemp, I just wish she didn't have to go thru everything she did.

Kemp definitely has a place on my top book boyfriends list!! His relationship with Belle is no joke one of the best parts of both books!!! And, his momma is one of my favs too. Kemp is either super dark or super goofball. I'll take him either way.

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## **Jan says**

**I am so on the fence with this book! 2-3 stars.**

**Have you ever read a book that you wish was written differently, it has potential but the way things go get you so frustrated and you start asking why? well this is one of those for me.**

**WHISKEY RENEGADE continues where the previous book Whiskey and You finished, we're I presume is also where Kemp's best friend finds love in his story with Navy but this is Kemp's story and picks up from the drama's and danger still not put to rest from the previous book.**

**Kemp is introduced in the beginning as a hot businesses-man, a tycoon along with his best friend J.J and the book begins with them attending a country fair as a family, J.J, Navy and kids until they discover Navy is missing from her bathroom break. They discover an attempted kidnapping, a revenge from the same people they had issues with in the last book who are still out for revenge for whatever went down. This attack on the people he loves then sparks the start of Kemp's own revenge mission.**

**Kemp rescues Navy at the fair who was being dragged away when he finds her and he also discovers the van is full of other women for trafficking, he tries to rescue another woman but she slips from his grasp as the van drives away.**

**The above needed mentioning because this is where it got confusing and there are spoilers.**

**Kemp goes off to Mexico to put an end to everything once and for all, using his contacts in an MC he plans to take down the crime organisation who are out to get him and his partner and also rescue the girl he can't get out of his head who he discovers is called Rose.**

Kemp claimed to have a connection with Rose, claimed to already have a love for her although they only met briefly, this connection not only spurred on his revenge mission but gave him additional purpose for what he had to do to protect those he loves but he also wanted to find Rose and make her his.

While plotting in Mexico with his connections, shagging quite a few whores while he's at it, Kemp then meets Charlie.

Charlie is looking for her sister who has been taken by the human traffickers and she is trying to track her down, so both Kemp and Charlie are both on the same kind of mission and have an understanding with one another and become close.

I then begin to think maybe Charlie is Rose's sister, is this why he felt connected to Rose when he grabbed her hand in the van?. Then as things progressed I thought maybe this mission was meant to happen to bring them together and Rose is Charlie's sister after all. Then I thought maybe they search for Charlie's sister together leading to Charlie finding her sister and Kemp gets his girl Rose but no, no and no, Charlie and Kemp end up together this is their love story among the grittiness?

Why was Rose even on this story anyway,? A question I ended up asking myself.

Kemp had to stop what was going on with the danger and threats anyway, he had to put a stop to the people who had made his family's world unsafe and wanted revenge so they could be free from being on edge, looking over their shoulders this part of the plot was more than enough for Kemp to go looking for those who were a potential threat to him and his partner and their family, the girls in the van and his connection to Rose wasn't necessary to this story, well Rose wasn't anyway.

Kemp's character too was a contradiction, you meet Kemp the business tycoon and techie, family man, then in Mexico he's the bad boy, man-whore shagging prostitutes in his hotel room while waiting for the right time for his revenge mission. Kemp was like two different people, then when he meets Charlie he was different again?

In a nut shell both Charlie and Kemp accomplished what they set out to do, the bad guys are taken down and Charlie gets her sister back and along the way Kemp and Charlie fall in love.

And Rose? the girl who was part of the soul for Kemp's mission just gets a mention in a sentence near the end, Charlie stated in a conversation with her friend that Rose after being rescued by one of Kemp's men, she's doing well, gone back to college or whatever and they have become friends?

I didn't get it?, it didn't make sense to me.

WHISKEY RENEGADE is a dark and gritty read, had the potential to be great but fell short, certain things as mentioned let it down.

Arc received for review purposes

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Sara Koelsch says

I really wish I had realized this was a book 2 in the Whiskey series. I've read Whiskey & You but it's been a while and I would have liked to refresh my mind a bit. However, that is all on my lap and has nothing to do with the author or even my rating because, again, my fault. So anyway, it took me a bit to get in the mindset of this story and refresh Kemp in my head. He's a lot more lethal than I recall him being. I might have struggled a bit liking him. I understood his reasoning but, I don't know, he was dark and hard... like really hard. I do like my alphas with a bit more of a softer side to them, but again, that's my preference.

However, let me tell you, HJ Bellus pulls out all the emotional stops and likes to play with your heart. I was a bit surprised with how dark Bellus went. This might just be her darkest story. She did take a real-world problem and bring it into fiction with fantasies we'd all like to have really happen. You know, the stories where the good guys always win and the bad guy always rot in hell. Even with all the dark, all the deep; Bellus was able to make this a well-rounded storyline. It was an emotional story.

*I received an ARC of this book with the hope that I would leave an Unbiased Opinion. I was not required to leave a review, positive or otherwise, and my opinions are just that... my opinions.*

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## **Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says**

DNF at 10% I legit only got 10% into this one and the hero has already had sex with **SIX** different whores that he says are "**dirty with diseases**". Ummm...I don't even know what to say about that. It left me kind of speechless (a rare feat indeed \*lol\*). I hope when he eventually gets with the heroine she throws a couple of buckets of bleach in his direction. (lol) On top of that, the writing felt clunky to me. So I am calling it a day on this one...

On a positive note...the cover on this one is SMOKIN' HOT!

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## **Renee says**

I received a copy of this book from the publisher/author to review for Stephanie's Book Reports.

We used to be kings on top of the world, but it all went bad. My money and power are worthless. All I want is blood bathing my knuckles, their soulless bodies dead at my feet. I've never felt the need to take someone's life until now. They will pay. I will sacrifice everything to protect my family. To save the beauty that's been



haunting my dreams. I don't even know her, but the fear dancing in her eyes will be my worst nightmare. It's a game to the death, and I am all in.

This is the story of Kemp and oh what a story it is. I am glad I went back and read the first book where he is introduced as Kim suggested when I told her I was going to be reviewing this book. It is dark and gritty and had me on the edge of my seat at times. I loved every second of it. I don't know that Kemp is going to be many people's favorite person to begin with but if you read this book I promise you that your opinion of him will change as you get further and further into the book. He is a man who really does not have many redeeming qualities except for him saving those who are in the clutches of evil known as human traffickers. One of those people are Charlie and this will be your heroine in this story. I do not want to give anything away for those of you who have not read the story as I went into it only knowing what I knew from what I had read when I asked Stephanie to sign me up. If you like your books with dark side and some moments that will have your heart melting this is the perfect book for you. I am sad to say this is my first time reading H.J. Bellus but it certainly will not be my last.

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### **Jennifer Aldrich says**

Whew. What a book. Whiskey Renegade is a mind swirling novel. The story is rough and gritty, but the characters are loveable. I really enjoyed this book. I will put the disclaimer that this book does discuss in detail some pretty heinous activities so this is definitely a book you don't want to read if you have triggers. This book can be read as a standalone as I did, but there are books that come before it.

The plot of this book was interesting. Those used to power fallen from the top. Revenge and vengeance the name of the game. Getting back all that you have lost? That just sounds like a great book. Add in all the action going on in this book and it is the perfect story.

I really liked the characters in this story. Kemp is the definition of protective alpha. He will do anything for those that he loves even if it means getting himself killed in the process that point. I love that about him. Then you have Charlie. She irritated me at times, but she is a strong character. Even knowing what she was facing, she still went and did what she needed to do. She didn't shy away from danger. That is great.

The heat in this book is amazing. This story is dirty and raw. The grittiness of the story mixed with the heat between these two characters adds a layer to this story that it needed. I mean just the way these two started brings the tension out in the story. Add that tension into the high intense situations and the chemistry between the characters and these two were meant to burn up the pages.

I really liked the writing style in this book. The pace of the story is steady. The story is told from a dual point of view. The story itself was written wonderfully. I really felt transported into this world. My heart ached for these characters. This story is full of tension, but it was just perfect for this story.

Overall, this is a wonderful story. I really enjoyed the plot and characters. I would recommend this book to others. I plan to go back and see where this story began by reading the other book in the series.

Ratings:

Plot: 5/5

Characters: 5/5

Heat: 5/5

Writing Style: 5/5

Overall: 5/5

\*Reviewed for Seraphim Book Reviews\*

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## **Maria Hunt says**

Whiskey Renegade was a raw and gritty read full of suspense that kept me on the edge of my seat until the very end.

Kemp definitely took me by surprise in this book. Gone was the smooth-talking jokester I was intrigued with since the first book in this series and in his place was a beast who would do whatever was necessary for those he loved. I'll be honest and say there was a time or two when I wanted to pop him with a wooden spoon myself but the transformation his character underwent held me captivated.

Charlie was exactly what Kemp needed from their rather explosive first meeting. I loved the witty exchanges between them and how they both kept the other on their toes. In the midst of everything they both were dealing with their unexpected relationship took them both by surprise and left me with a smile plastered on my face.

The journey these two shared wasn't easy by any means and there were moments that I was left shocked, breathless or trying to read through my tears yet I was held riveted and unable to put down my Kindle. If you love romances that grip your heart and keep you holding on to the edge of your chair until the end then you'll definitely want to check out Whiskey Renegade.

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## **Brandy Roberts says**

Wow Whiskey Renegade was a big emotional story which isn't surprising because the author is h.j bellus and her books always get me in the emotions . You so do not want to miss out on the read that will have your feelings all over the place .

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## **Karen Sedgman says**

Whiskey Renegade is book2 in The Kings of a Texas series, and WOW I loved this as much as book1! Kemp's story was awesome! This story was gripping, intense, I had tears and was full of love! Amazing ending! If you haven't read The King of Texas series you must!

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## **Erika PBookHavenBookBlog says**

"We are two lost and broken souls, fighting to survive and save loved ones. If our touch can bring us moments of peace, then I'm all in."

Raw and gritty from the first moments, it's a race against time to fight an evil that comes back to haunt these characters, and the fight is on! Not for the faint of heart, it swirls with some pretty dark subjects, with some really flawed characters and pulls no punches at any point. Kemp is a beast, at first, he held really no redeeming qualities other than his devotion to saving those in the clutches of evil, but the Author painted him with a fabulous transformation after an unexpected relationship blossoms with Charlie. The gut wrenching pain of events brought me to tears, and it really got me right in my gut. The desperation, the looming danger,

and the action packed story line felt like watching a movie, and held me transfixed until I got to the end. The sweetness of their relationship and eventual good news made me smile, and warmed my heart. Filled with a whole host of characters new and from previous books that made it a great read. It is a standalone, but I will be going back to read the first book as soon as I'm able!! I thank the Author for providing a copy to review!!

" 'Fall with me.' I obey those three words, falling with my eyes wide open and heart full."

~~~Erika, Book Haven Book Blog

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