



The Strength Of Desire

Alison Fraser

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The truth will out!

The first time: Hope had always been strongly attracted to Guy, but she did the right thing and turned her back on him ...until that fateful weekend, when their desire boiled over.

In-between times: Hope tried to put her short-lived, misguided affair with Guy behind her, and be a good mother to her daughter, Maxine.

This time: The death of Hope's ex-husband. Jack, has brought Guy, his younger brother, back into her life. Hope is left with two legacies: one is the startling contents of Jack's will, the other is the need to confess the truth--that Maxine is not Guy's niece, but his daughter

The Strength Of Desire Details

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From Reader Review The Strength Of Desire for online ebook

Jacqueline J says

review to come

Mary-jane says

It was okay but i can't erase the awesomeness of my 5* book i recently read

Triada says

La Fuerza Del Deseo (Spanish Version)

bookjunkie says

Another one down, it's official: I really like this author! However, I preferred the other 2 books of hers that I've read over this one. In this one, the heroine persisted in thinking the worst of the Hero for much, much too long (13 years and 95% of the book).

The story's a bit twisted. The heroine is married to the brother and near the end of her marriage, she and the Hero sleep together. So yeah, adultery with her husband's brother. Granted, the husband's had numerous affairs and she's just found out and has agreed to run away with the Hero, but it's still cheating.

It's not hard to figure out the rest of the story. I don't think I'm spoiling anything, because it's all quite obvious. Her twelve-year-old daughter, believed to be her ex-husband's, is the Hero's. The Hero has been in love with the heroine from the beginning. She lives in denial of everything and sullenly, shrewishly rejects all his advances til the bitter end when their mutual misunderstandings are revealed.

I don't like the plot and don't like the heroine. She had too much of the delusional, over-suspicious insecurity that plagues so many HP heroines. I liked the writing though, and liked the Hero very much as well, so overall I enjoyed the book.

Lyuda says

Another story typical of the author-Story full of misunderstandings that could easily be resolved if characters trusted each other and not behaving as stubborn teenagers. The hero proclaimed to be in love with heroine and was old enough to behave better.

EeeJay says

Rating: 4.5

Is this a harlequin book for real? Could have fooled me for being a full length stand-alone novel. A quite successful one, too. It reads almost like Lisa Kleypas' Sugar Daddy. I am not joking. Very retrospective and sometimes pensive in tone.

In fact, it'd be a first class selection for a book club read due to the human study and various aspects which can evoke various responses from different people. There's not a lot of humor in this one but I still liked it for the character development and for keeping my interest despite a theme which I despise.

The perfect song for the story: [here \(mashup\)](#) and [here \(original w/ video\)](#)

Marianne says

The Strength of Desire is the ninth romance novel by British author, Alison Fraser. Hope Gardener has been single-handedly bringing up her daughter Maxine for all of her twelve years. Hope's ex-husband Jack Delacroix was too busy being a rock star on tour to have much to do with Maxine, or provide for her financially. When he did appear, he would inevitably disappoint her. But now Hope's heard that Jack has died, and Jack's younger brother, Guy has turned up on her doorstep to tell her about her inheritance. Hope wants nothing to do with Guy: she learned her lesson thirteen years ago when she opened her heart to a man who apparently only wanted her body. Nor does she want anything from Jack. But is it fair to deprive Maxine of a legacy that will make her future brighter?

Guy and Hope are a pair who spend every moment that they're not fiercely kissing each other, glaring, snarling and shouting at each other. And, boy, are they good at putting each other down. Assumptions and misunderstandings and a bit of malice from an older brother mean thirteen years of enmity that finally, finally resolve into a happy ending. Not Fraser's best, but still quite a good read.

boogenhagen says

Re The Strength of Desire - Alison Fraser does the third book of the This Time Forever Series and takes a shot at that favorite AM trope of keepin' it all in the family.

Part of the strength of this book is that there is a really excellent build up to the big reveal and there are several strategically placed flashbacks that enhance the tension.

It is fairly easy to figure out what is going to happen before we actually get to the flashbacks, but what keeps the story moving forward is how each flashback exponentially increases the angsty drama and pushes the plot forward in the story's present.

This technique makes things really hard to spoilerize tho. So for HP Voyagers who might want to know, I am just going to info dump the back story and then move on the present part were all the drama happens.

The h and H meet when she is 17, almost 18 and he is 28. The occasion is the h, who just lost her music producer father to cancer, is marrying the H's rock star brother. The H is antagonistic because his brother is 6 yrs older than him and is not the most stable or faithful guy on the planet.

The H makes some snarky cradle robbing comments in French to his brother, the h understands French very well and delivers her own verbal smackdown every time the H makes another condescending innuendo to her.

The h goes ahead and marries the rock star brother, but when she gets pregnant she is not up to the rock star touring lifestyle, so her BFF goes on tour with her husband and the h goes to the H and his mother's family home in Cornwall.

Sadly the h experiences a still birth about six weeks before her baby is due with only the H to help her during the process. She recovers and the H is pretty nice to her in her grieving, but as soon as the h rejoins her husband on tour, she collapses again and has to go back to Cornwall.

While in Cornwall for the second recovery, the h and H become good friends. Then the BFF writes the h about how sorry the BFF is for having an affair with the h's rock star husband and the emotionally devastated and betrayed h has a rebound weekend lurve club moment with the H.

The h is in love and the H claims he wants to be with her, but as soon as the rock star husband shows up and the H sees them together, he pushes the h away. (Which was very awkward, as the h tries to talk to the H and he tells her she was a pump and dump and their big thing meant nothing.)

The h is very hurt and feels used and abused by both men. She is also pregnant again, a very unexpected happening after the stillbirth of her son, but the Lurve Force Motilator Mojo is strong and the h is going to have the H's child. She has a little girl this time, but the h also learns that she will not be able to have anymore.

However both the rock star husband the h is divorcing and the H believe the baby is the rock star's. Since the rock star lied and claimed the H told him to pay the h as low a settlement as possible and no child support, the h has been doing all the child raising both financially and emotionally for the last 12 years on her own.

Eventually the h did have to tell the rock star that her daughter wasn't his. (The man kept breaking his promises to visit the child and mucking her around and the h was tired of her daughter's heartbreak and her thinking it was her fault.)

The h told the guy he wasn't the father and had no rights and needed to stay out of their lives. The rock star threw a fit when he figured out his brother was the daddy, conveniently forgetting that he had been cheating on the h from day one and that when the h slept with his brother, she was already determined on divorce.

When the story starts, the h hears that her rock star ex is dead in a car crash. The h's daughter is 12 going on a snarky thirty and there is some teenage angst and drama. The H shows up soon after, to invite the daughter to the rock star's funeral.

There is also the question of a codicil to the rock star's will. His girlfriend at the time he died gets what money he had, but he left the h his share of his and the H's family home in Cornwall, provided she lives there for 6 months.

The h isn't too enthused about this deal because that means that she has to live in the same house as the H. She tries to refuse, but the H points out that if she will accept the terms of the will and live there for the time specified, the H will also leave his half of the house to the h's daughter.

The H doesn't plan to marry or have children, so this means that the h's daughter will eventually have a very pricey house and some financial security. The h is still physically affected by the H and she hates that, but she does want her daughter to have a better life than she does and so we all move down to Cornwall.

The H and h bicker a lot as a cover for the Simmering Lurve Club Mojo and the h's daughter is a very bolshie teenager. The daughter and the H establish a great relationship and the H is doing his best to make sure the h has a lot of ties to stick around the place, even after the six months are up.

The h doesn't see that tho, and when the inevitable OW makes her appearance, the h is all about pushing the H off on to her and even goes so far as to send her daughter, the H and the OW all off together on a cruise around the Greek Isles.

(It doesn't help that the H is playing the OW drama up for all his worth to get a rise out of the h.)

The h is still carrying some really bitter wounds from the mess her life became 13 years earlier and the H is honestly just as bad. He goes out of his way to be subversively sarcastic and nasty and then he gets mad because the h isn't falling into his arms and he turns into a berating bully.

He tells the h several times that he has no plans for children and denies that he even wants them, then he yells at the h for denying him his fatherhood when she finally tells him that her daughter is also his.

He also lets the h believe he is marrying the OW, when he only dated her a few times and then he gets mad because the h doesn't fall to her knees to beg for his attention.

Eventually it gets so bad that the h is willing to let her daughter live in Cornwall with the H to go to school and she will live in London where she earns a living writing jingles for commercials and the H realizes he is going to have to come clean.

After a few more h baiting moments interspersed with some roofie kissing and threats of rape, the H and h finally declare their love, have a big love club event and go to tell the delighted daughter they are getting married for the HEA.

This one was well done in the build up and the tension, but the separation and the H's sly, juvenile behavior pull the story down. The h should have told the H about her daughter much earlier, but considering how the H was totally non-supportive of the h after seducing her at a vulnerable moment, I did not blame her too much.

The H's continual competition with his brother pretty much overrode any feelings he had for the h. I did believe he loved her or at least was obsessed with his own brand of Treacherous Body Syndrome, but he never really fought for her when his brother was alive and he was the one that was 11 years older, he should have acted like an adult and clearly hashed things out with the h.

She even goes to him twice at each relationship crisis moment and he still won't come off his high horse until the h pretty much throws in the towel completely.

So overall, while the drama and angst on this one are very well done, the H and h's adolescent behaviors are enough to knock this one down to a very ordinary HPlania outing.

Leona says

This is an incredibly well done love story that spans 10 years of hurt, betrayal and misunderstandings. This is not your typical category romance with predictable plots, tropes and misguided heroes and heroines. This book has incredible depth and inner reflections that you find in other types of full length well developed novels.

This is my first book by Alison Fraser and I will seek out more of her work.

Shari Kay says

sibling double dipping

FeliciaKaren says

The heroine was a real bit.ch I hated her all through the story. She didnt deserved the hero imo.

Booklover says

Loved it! It is an intense emotional story of two people who love each other deeply but cause of their pride & anger they lost so many years of to be together, the story developed really well with all the flashbacks giving us insights about how Guy-Hope met, how the tragedy brought them together, then it slowly developed into friendship to love and then "Big Misunderstanding" leading to separation. The intense pain-anger-hurt-tension-passion-secrets-lies glued me to the story. After so many secrets and hurdles FINALLY they both realize what had happened and how the misunderstanding developed, Hope asks forgiveness and Guy gives it and this time after 13 years they have their HEA

Overall a very good read, keeper for me
Recommend it

sbf20112011 says

[the H and h co

Adanna says

Loved the book but did not like the heroine, I couldnt get behind her tantrums or the major fact that she.....oh hell read the book :p
