



'80s Mix Tape

Karen Booth , Gwen Hayes , Autumn Jones Lake , Jenny Holiday , A.J. Pine , Bobbi Ruggiero , Rachel Cowell

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Save a Prayer by Karen Booth

Angie Dawson never wants to see Graham Whiting again, a complete impossibility living in Stourbridge, England, the town outside London where she and Graham grew up. His band, Banks Forest, is so hot in the UK they might as well be on fire. She can't turn on the blooming radio or watch telly or look at a magazine without being confronted by the '80s Fab Four, fronted by the sexy bloke she'd once called her boyfriend. Every girl in England wants him. Bloody bastard.

Desperate to escape the 24-7 Banks Forest overload, Angie takes a two week job working as a photographer at the Music Revolution festival in the US. Finally, she can set her mind on something other than Graham and what it was like before he started being such a wanker. Maybe she can sort out what to do with her life. If she's lucky, she'll meet a cracking guy who doesn't think he's God's gift to women. The instant she steps off the plane, she learns how daft her plan was. Banks Forest mania practically followed her across the Atlantic. Her new job puts her in Graham's sights and he's dead-set on winning her back. He knows the perfect things to say, the right way to kiss her and make everything brilliant again. She wants him, she wants him to be the guy he says he can be, but he's about to go on the road for a year. How does a reunion with her ex end up being anything more than a one-night stand?

Need You Tonight by Gwen Hayes

Jacob Stone is on the run for a crime he didn't commit, but when he's stranded with the only woman he's ever loved by chance, the girl he abandoned to protect two years ago, he can't deny the need to possess her one last time. Mind, body, and soul.

Typical good girl Becky McDonald has loved bad boy Jacob since they were kids, but even as she gives in to the passion only he can ignite in her, she hides the truth. The one secret that would bring him back is the lie she can never reveal.

One night of passion. One night of need. That's all they can have, but it will never be enough.

Kickstart My Heart by Autumn Jones Lake

Russell "Chaser" Adams knows he's destined to take over his father's outlaw motorcycle club one day. With Chaser's heavy metal band close to making it big, his father encourages him to pursue his music for now. Chaser straddles his Harley and heads across the country to the Sunset Strip.

Raised in a strict family with old-world traditions and their own secrets, Mallory Delov longs for glitter and glamor instead of blood and deceit. With her father serving time, it's the perfect time to escape his domineering grasp and pursue her lifelong dream of becoming an actress.

After nailing her first audition, Mallory is offered the part of a playful vixen who torments the lead singer of the up and coming metal band, Kickstart. Her job description calls for lots of hair tossing and ass wiggling. Not quite the career she had in mind.

She didn't plan to fall in love either. Unlike any man she's ever known, she can't help being drawn to the

guitar player, Chaser. He's sweet, yet dangerous. An irresistible mixture to Mallory.

On the surface they seem like complete opposites.

Little do either of them know how much they have in common.

867-5309 by Jenny Holiday

Jenny Fields is a crusader. The editor of her college newspaper, she never met a cause she couldn't get behind. So when the administration announces it's tearing down the historic art building, she's on the case. All she needs to do is get Matthew Townsend, the art department's most talented student, on board. If she could just get the moody genius to answer his phone...

Drummer Girl by A.J. Pine

Sam Walsh is done—done with college, done with guys, done with the whole scene. After graduation tomorrow, she'll head home, ready to start her job as an elementary school music teacher in the fall. But her roommate coaxes her out for what she promises will be an epic last night, a night that ends up changing everything.

London Calling is the up-and-coming band playing at the local bar, and Sam can't take her eyes off the sexy drummer. When he dedicates the drummer's choice song to her, she knows the evening might be more epic than she'd imagined. Then one kiss turns her world upside down, making her question everything she thought she wanted out of her last night at school.

Ben McCarthy is the guy behind the drums, the would-have-been 306 valedictorian who dropped out three years ago to follow his dream. Tomorrow he and the band leave for London, but for one unforgettable night, it's just Sam, the music, and him. Can a girl with her feet planted firmly on the ground fall for the boy who reaches for the stars when the only result is a broken heart?

Young Teacher by Bobbi Ruggiero

Control freak Julia Powers hates surprises. With the skills of a ninja, she keeps her ad business and personal life in perfect order. That leaves zero time for fun, let alone men. But there's nothing wrong with having a little crush on the guy she sees at lunchtime, is there? Sure, he's a lot younger, but it's only a crush. It's not like she's going to date him or anything.

Matthew Gordon wants nothing more than for his band Joyride to go national. While he waits for his big break, he spends his days working in a sandwich shop—a job he loathes—and teaching guitar on the side—a job he loves. His days get a bit more interesting when a mysterious woman comes in for lunch and hands him a list of her favorite songs. So imagine his surprise when she shows up at his door for guitar lessons.

Unfortunately, Julia can't play guitar to save her life, and her frustration threatens to ruin any chance of her finding happiness—with herself, or in love. Will he ever be able to teach her that she's perfect just as she is?

Just Like Heaven by Rachel Cowell

As a premed student, college junior Sarah Lattimore's life is a carefully calibrated system of studying, studying, MCAT prep courses, and more studying. She didn't have time for a social life in high school, and she definitely doesn't have time for one now. But when she walks into the first day of anatomy lab and sees her gorgeous TA, Sarah's brilliant mind is suddenly racing in new directions.

Grad student Josh Chapman's mom died of ovarian cancer when he was a teenager, and his grief and rage at

the experience turned his future aspirations toward cancer research. But the unbelievably cute, nerdy, and possibly insane Sarah Lattimore is in his section, and she's... distracting. But when admiring from afar turns to up close and personal, both their academic lives begin to fall apart. Sarah cares too much about her grades to stay with Josh and she breaks things off.

But when she makes a mistake in class that results in Josh facing expulsion, will this mean the end of his dreams? Or will Sarah realize in time that being with Josh was the smartest choice she'd ever made?

'80s Mix Tape Details

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From Reader Review '80s Mix Tape for online ebook

Kristen Johnson says

Kickstart My Heart by Autumn Jones Lake

Mallory's life has been out of her hands forever, forced to do what her father commands of her, she finds herself oddly happy to finally be able to take the reigns over herself when he lands in jail. She treks across the country intent of following her dreams, on becoming an actress. Quickly landing a role, though not quite what she expected, Mallory finds herself drawn to one of the rockstars she's on set with.

Chaser didn't have a normal life either, growing up in an Outlaw motorcycle club. He knows what is expected of him in the future, but for now his focus is on his music. Filming a music video, he sort of stumbles upon Mallory as she's cast for a part. He finds Mallory attractive at first sight as well. Not only that, he finds himself wanting to take care of her.

These two seem to be vastly different, but something in the other just pulls them closer. They both have their family issues, not knowing how much to share or what to say, its easier to answer with as little bit of info as they can. Chaser opens up a whole new world to Mallory as they get to know one another.

Though they have a few misunderstandings they are able to work thorough them. Mallory is not at all what Chaser is used to in women, so it takes him a little while to adjust his thinking from what he knows about women to what he's finding out about Mallory. Mallory's almost a fish out of water with Chaser, because she's never really had an opportunity to just be with a man.

This story gives us two people, both who grew up in crazy situations, both who have been affected by their upbringing, but also find in one another, just the person they need.

Drummer Girl by A.J. Pine

Sam has finished school, it's the night before graduation and she's already got her future all mapped out. Planned out down the the minute almost. But her best friend has plans of her own, an Epic LAST NIGHT, and she's taking Sam with her one way or another.

Because of her life, promises she's made to her mom, Sam has always been one to play it safe. To choose the secured path, and not one filled with risks or danger. She doesn't want to hurt her mother, or herself, so she's been reserved. But a chance meeting shakes her off that safe foundation.

Ben's life is his band. His dreams have begun to come true and he's happy with the decisions he's made that have led him to the this moment. Meeting Sam at a final gig before setting off for London with his band turns him sideways. He wants this night with her no matter what, but finds he really wants more.

Ben and Sam discover that maybe love can happen in one day, but more importantly that dreams are meant to be followed, risks should be taken, and life, doesn't always follow our plans.

Drummer Girl was a sweet short story that gave us just the right mix of sweet and steamy. Ben and Sam's story is left in just the perfect way to imagine what could happen next.

Izabelle says

****Rating & review for Autumn Jones Lake's Kickstart My Heart****

I'm so used to Autumn writing the longer books, it was weird to read something this short written by her, but that doesn't mean it's not as good as her MC books.

Chaser & Mallory are characters we've already met in her LOKI series.

I liked it, I kind of sort of for sure want a Chaser of my own, even though there were times he needed to be smacked upside the head.

I have to say, I wouldn't say no to this being written into a full length novel, if it were possible. It would be so good!

4.5 stars.

A.J. Pine says

I'm so excited to be a part of this anthology, and I can't wait for you to read Samantha and Ben's story in DRUMMER GIRL. It was so much fun to revisit the '80s, still home to a lot of my favorite music, especially The Stone Roses (story inspired by She Bangs the Drums). I pay homage to a lot of my '80s favs in this story. I wonder if you'll be able to find some hidden references. I guess we'll wait and see...;-)

Jess says

This was sort of all over the place in quality and definitely not as good as the 90s anthology. Mostly the reason for the two stars is the fact that this ended with a cheating scandal that did not end in expulsion. So that was weird.

Penny Watson says

I love the premise for this anthology. Each short story is based loosely on a song from the 1980s--the superior decade for music, of course.

I only read one story in this collection so far--YOUNG TEACHER by Bobbi Ruggiero. Will read the others soon.

Here is my review for YOUNG TEACHER...

Who's ready to jump into the 1980s time machine and travel back to the days of big hair and fabulous music?

I am!

Look no further than Bobbi Ruggiero's debut novella YOUNG TEACHER, a touching story that puts a fresh

twist on the older woman-younger man trope. Ruggiero's contemporary romance introduces a younger man as the teacher (guitar lessons) and an older woman as the struggling student--in spite of her successful professional life. Their interactions are at first awkward and filled with longing, as the two of them try to find some middle ground while battling an intense attraction. Ruggiero's writing voice is modern, fresh, and funny, with plenty of romance and musical inspiration. Her love of music comes shining through in this sexy debut novella--especially when the hero is on stage performing. It will transport you back to a time when Sting was on stage, and your teenage self was swaying to the music.

Grade: A

Diane says

This collection is really great and the writing is top notch. I really liked the sweet emotional connection between each of the couples in this anthology that reminded me of my college experience many years ago. I'm far from being a New Adult but this genre of romance is especially poignant to me and one that I enjoy very much. Even better, the musical theme transported me right back to my personal soundtrack of the '80's and all the memories I have of that period in my life. I highly recommend this anthology and the great writing of this group of authors. I received a free copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Talk Supe says

I'm going to come clean, I only planned to read Karen Booth's piece and I decided super last minute to give the rest a gander. Now there are a few stories that I enjoyed aside from Save A Prayer, but it was more half and half for me.

Save A Prayer by Karen Booth: Banks Forest! Squee!!! You have to read her Chris Penman books if you haven't yet. if you have and enjoyed it, Graham! I wish this was longer, I do love reconciliation stories, and Graham and Claire have a lot more to tell than this cliff notes version. Of course I'm being self-serving because I want more. Subjectivity aside, I love this throwback when the band was at the height of its career, One Direction's got nothing on Banks Forest! Oh the cameos from other Brit pop bands was so good I was having a conniption from its awesomeness!

867-5309 by Jenny Holiday: This is like a John Hughes movie minus the boom box and trench coat. We instead have a blue poufy prom dress, a graffiti artist, and a condemned art building. I love the build up of the romance, made me giddy.

Drummer Girl by AJ Pine: Reality Bites minus the angst and awkwardness. Imagine your life changing for the better in just one night and finding your first love at that? Awesomesauce right?!

I skipped, skimmed, and DNFD the rest. Believe me, I tried but it got to the point where it feels tedious. The storylines just didn't work for me and ill leave it at that.

I love this anthology as a whole even if there were shorties I didn't like. The stories revolve around music and there were a lot of 80's pop culture references that made me very excited like the Swatch watches, teased and crimped hair, outrageous fashion, and in eye-blinding colors and style. At the same time, the stories have a strong coming-of-age/new adult vibe to it minus the over the top drama. Reading the stories made me very nostalgic and sure gave me the feels. This is a great collection and I'm hoping that all the couples featured here are still "together" at present.

Lia Riley says

Really fun concept, fabulously executed stories. Full review to come.

Tracy says

SAVE A PRAYER - KAREN BOOTH (5stars)

Angie is a photographer and has landed her dream job with Music Maker magazine. Her new assignment is to spend 3 days with a famous band, one her ex boyfriend plays in.

Graham got dumped for cheating on Angie yet even with their time apart he still loves her and wants her back, he's willing to do anything to prove it to her.

This was a lovely story and the characters were perfect. It was an emotional journey for both of them, but you could feel the love they shared... Perfect!!!

NEED YOU TONIGHT - GWEN HAYES (4stars)

Becky had her first EVERYTHING with Jacob from their first kiss when she was 8 and he was 10. For 13 years their relationship has been on/off, but she loves him with all her heart and has never stopped.

Jacob has loved Becky for 13 years also but due to circumstances beyond his control, he has had to push her away... Breaking his own heart as well as hers.

She has 2 huge secrets that finally get revealed and once he's over the shock, he sets in motion and sorts out his situation, so they can finally be together, or is it too late?

KICKSTART MY HEART - AUTUMN LAKE JONES (5stars)

Mallory moves to LA after her father goes to prison and lands her first job, starring in a music video and that's where her life changes forever, when she meets Chaser.

Chaser can't take his eyes off her once he sees her. 2 things in his life are important to him and that's his band and his dad's MC.

He gives her some much needed support and they grow closer and a relationship begins... What will she think when she discovers Chaser's dad is a MC President? What will Chaser think when he discovers she's a Russian Mafia Princess? Will they get to live their HEA? Or is too much at stake and pulls them apart forever? Autumn has done it again and written a perfect story with everything you need for it to be perfect!!!

THE FIXER - JENNY HOLIDAY (5stars)

Jenny is all about fixing anything she can and everything she can't. She is editor of the college newspaper and her new project is to save the art building, and she will do what ever she needs to do to get things to go her way!

Matthew is an artist, known to most as a genius. His mentor is trying to help him to express more emotion in his art, which is difficult for him as he is closed off and just wants to concentrate on finishing college.

With Jenny in full force, his opinion of her being a stuck up rich kid changes as they grow closer. He gets scared of his feelings and disappears for a few days. Then he goes to his mentor who helps him win her back with a beautiful gesture and a giant piece of art!!!

DRUMMER GIRL - AJ PINE (5stars)

Samantha gets talked into going out to celebrate the night before Graduation with Claire, her best friend and roommate. They go to a bar and there is a band playing live called London Calling and as soon as Samantha's eyes meet the drummers you can feel the attraction directly through the pages.

Ben and his band mates are playing one more show before they leave for England the following day. The last thing he could have imagined was the feelings that ran through him when he spotted Samantha in the crowd. Picking her for the bands 'drummers choice' and singing a song by the band on her t-shirt, starts one hell of an amazing journey.

They spend the night together and after the amazing mind blowing sex they spend hours talking and getting to know as much as possible about each other. The following morning a huge twist begins and changes the direction of lives forever. Do you believe in love at first sight? You will after you finish this kickass story... Perfection!!!

YOUNG TEACHER - BOBBI RUGGIERO (4stars)

Julia is a perfectionist in literally everything she does in her life, including owning her own ad company. Being a control freak, she needs total organisation in her daily routines. She visits the local cafe daily for her lunch... This is where she meets Matthew who works at the shop.

Matthew has a hectic life of working in the cafe, teaching guitar lessons and playing in his band of whom are just about to make it to the next stage of stardom.

The journey they take is a rollercoaster ride... She worries about their age difference (shes 11 years older) and she worries about everything else, the main being her loss of control. He just wants to be with her and is willing to show and prove it to her any way he can. Can she open up enough to let him into her heart? Will he be able to show her that his feelings are true and deep? Will they get their HEA? Or will she close of forever?

JUST LIKE HEAVEN - RACHEL COWELL (4stars)

Sarah is a 20 year old virgin, who has dedicated her life to getting straight As in school and college and to get into med school. The moment she walks into her first class of the semester and she meets her new TA, Josh... Her life as she knows it, ends!

Josh is almost finished his college degree that he's working hard on so he can focus on being accepted into research for ovarian cancer, the evil that killed his mum. He can't stop the attraction that he feels for Sarah, even though he knows its wrong.

They start to grow close but after their first night of sex, she gets scared and avoids him for a while. Then a huge twist happens and then the story takes on a different journey! I enjoyed this story and i loved how it turned out in the end!!!

I definately recommend this book for HEA readers that also love a little excitement between the characters. All in all a really good light read with lots of emotions that flow through each and every story!!!

Reviewed by Tracy @ Ladies Of Love Book Blog And Graphics

Jen says

Note 1: This review is currently limited to Drummer Girl by AJ Pine, but I will be editing it once I've

finished all the other stories in the anthology. :) The full review for the anthology will also be posted on my blog.

Note 2: This ARC was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Samantha Walsh is at the cusp of a life she's planned for years. She's graduating at the top of her class and already has a job ready and waiting for her, but all it takes is spending the night before graduation with Ben McCarthy, drummer for an up and coming band that seems to be on the cusp of something great. Sometimes, all it takes is one person in that one moment to make you take stock of your life and wonder if there may be something even better waiting for you if only you choose to switch lanes and take a different route. The thing about plans is that they can always be changed. It's merely a matter of deciding to make those changes, and that's what Sam's up against when she meets Ben. She has plans and as much as she's drawn to Ben and loves music as much as he does, altering her long-held plans is a no-go for her. But being with Ben for even a few hours makes her wish she could because if she doesn't she may be left spending the rest of her life wondering "What if?"

AJ Pine has always been able to come up with beautiful love stories that tug at your heartstrings, but she has never failed to make me stop and think about what I would do if I were in the same situation as the main characters in her books. With Drummer Girl, she's put together a novella-length tale that highlights how choosing to live out the dreams and plans of other people isn't truly living. This is a story of how making the conscious choice of going after your dreams takes courage and may not always be easy, but living a life without regrets is the only way to really live. This short story gets five stars. ♥

Elaine says

Rating: 3.5 to 5 - overall 4/5

What a brilliant, diverse collection of seven romance novellas! Each is set in the 1980s and has a song from that era as its stimuli - and we all know there was some great music around at that time, even those not alive to experience it personally will recognise many of the artists and groups.

I am pleased to say that I enjoyed all the fun, romantic stories in the collection. Their time settings may be the same but no two stories are alike, they standalone in plot and characters but all are well written, often with what I assume are deliberate disguised references to the music which inspired them. The characters are well developed and they are all great novellas to escape back in time to this intriguing era, with no mobile phones or modern technology to aid or hinder the development of relationships! This is a great taste of life back in that era in a variety of different situations. Leading characters from four out of the seven stories are from bands but regardless of whether they are band members or not, each author has created their own inimitable, well developed, leading couple starring in their own romance.

This is a great collection - each is ideal for when you're looking for a novella that is well written, entertaining and engaging! It doesn't matter what order you read them in, they're all independent of each other and I have no hesitation in highly recommending them!

The authors and their stories are:

Karen Booth - Save a Prayer,

Gwen Hayes - Need You Tonight,

Autumn Jones Lake - Kickstart My Heart,

Jenny Holiday - For a Good Time, Call Jenny

AJ Pine - Drummer Girl,

Bobbi Ruggiero - Young Teacher,

Rachel Cowell - Just Like Heaven

Many thanks to Jenny Holiday for gifting me an eARC of this collection in exchange for this, my honest review! Please note, there may be some changes to titles, etc in the release version of this collection.

Casey says

Find this review and more at [Ramblings From This Chick](#)

'80s Mix Tape is the second Romance Rewind Anthology and features short stories from Karen Booth, Gwen Hayes, Autumn Jones Lake, Jenny Holiday, A.J. Pine, Bobbi Ruggiero, and Rachel Cowell. Each story can be read as a standalone.

Save a Prayer-Karen Booth

Rating: 3 Stars

Save a Prayer by Karen Booth was actually the first story I have ever read from her. I really liked the characters and they had a ton of history and a solid connection. Angie and Graham were together until his band made it big and she caught him cheating on her. She dumped him and has been trying to move on with her life ever since. Ten months later she gets a huge career opportunity to photograph his band for a magazine. Graham realizes his mistake and knows that he needs to do whatever it takes to get her back. But can he convince Angie to give him another shot, or will she view it as the opportunity to have a one night stand with her ex?

While I did like these two and I felt like their connection was still there, this one just didn't fully work for me. Things seemed to be smoothed over far too easily considering that Graham had cheated on Angie and hadn't really made an effort to make things right before she just appeared again. It seemed to work out more because of the circumstances, rather than him actually making it happen. I also felt like Graham was a bit all over the place. One minute he was full steam ahead with making Angie his again and never letting her go, even going so far as to randomly propose, the next minute he was freaking out about a future with her and what that meant. There were some enjoyable moments, but this one just seemed to be a bit rushed and convenient.

Need You Tonight-Gwen Hayes

Rating: 4 Stars

Gwen Hayes is another new to me author, so I had no idea what to expect with her story Need You Tonight.

I really enjoyed this one! I will definitely be looking for more from Gwen Hayes in the future. Becky McDonald and Jacob Stone have had feelings for one another since they were kids. They always planned on ending up together until one night changed everything. Having been on the run for a crime he didn't commit, Jacob is shocked when he runs into Becky in an airport. Knowing that it is dangerous for them to be together, Jacob finds that he needs one more night with Becky if that is all he can get. But Becky has a secret that she has been keeping as well, and it could change everything. With the feelings they have always had for one another, both of them know that one more night will never be enough.

I really liked these two. They had so much between them, and I couldn't get enough. It was obvious that their feelings ran deep and that it had only ever been each other. I really loved that they had always only felt that way about the other, despite everything that had happened. Becky and Jacob clearly belonged together, but life had other plans for them. I did think that the ending was a bit abrupt, but this was one of my favorites from the anthology.

Kickstart My Heart-Autumn Jones Lake

Rating: 3 Stars

Autumn Jones Lake's Kickstart My Heart is also another first for me. This story had some great moments, but honestly it was just okay for me. It wasn't anything really memorable or special. After Mallory's father is sent to prison, she heads to LA to start over. She is excited to score her first job as an actress in an up and coming band's new music video. Chaser is hoping to make it big with his band and pursue music while he can since he knows that his dad has expectations for him down the road. While at first Mallory and Chaser don't appear to have anything in common, they quickly realize their lives are more alike than they thought.

I liked both Mallory and Chaser. My biggest issue here though was that I just didn't really feel their connection. These two definitely had heat and their lives were actually very similar, but I just wasn't really seeing any emotional connection form. The story felt rushed and a bit forced, and I think that left me feeling as though I just wasn't invested and couldn't really get into this one.

867-5309- Jenny Holiday

Rating: 2 Stars

867-5309 by Jenny Holiday was my least favorite of the anthology. As much as I wanted to like it, I just didn't connect at all and I was never able to feel invested in the story. Jenny Fields is the editor of her school's newspaper and is a crusader at heart. When the administration announces that they are going to be tearing down a historic art building, she sets out to save it. Knowing she needs an in with the art department and someone to back her, she sets her sights on the school's most talented art student Matthew Townsend. But Matthew has no interest in anything but his senior portfolio.

I wasn't able to connect with these characters at all. It wasn't that I disliked them, yet there wasn't really much that I liked either. I couldn't relate to them, and I found myself bored and wanting to skim their story. There just wasn't any real spark here and I wasn't seeing much of a connection with these two either.

Drummer Girl-A.J. Pine

Rating: 4 Stars

I was really excited to read Drummer Girl by A.J. Pine. I have read and loved several books from her, so I couldn't wait to get her story. I really loved Ben and Sam! Sam is set to graduate when her best friend talks her into going out for one last epic night before real life starts. She locks eyes with the sexy drummer of the

live band and things between them heat up. But Ben is set to leave for London the next day with his band and they know that one night is all they have. But as the night continues and their connection grows, they find themselves wondering what if?

I loved Ben and Sam together! These two were so perfect for one another and their connection was clear right away. I couldn't get enough of them together and despite how quick everything happened between them, it felt right. It was natural and their chemistry was off the charts. These two just understood one another, and I didn't want their story to end.

There was one thing here that bothered me, and that was a mistake when it came to the timeline of this story. The day this story starts on is May 13, 1989 and Sam is set to graduate when she makes a reference to Kelly Kapowski from *Saved by the Bell*. (she also references *Saved by the Bell* later on) I am a huge *Saved by the Bell* fan, so this one stuck out pretty big to me because *Saved by the Bell* didn't air until August 20th, 1989. Most people probably wouldn't have picked up on that, but it did bother me since that information is really easy to research and find online. Since this anthology is set in a different time period, I expect facts to be checked ahead of time and to be consistent with the time frame, so to me that was something that definitely should have been caught. Even with that mistake though, I really loved this story and it was my favorite of the anthology.

Young Teacher-Bobbi Ruggiero

Rating: 4 Stars

Young Teacher is my first read from Bobbi Ruggiero, and I really liked it! This one was absolutely adorable and I can't wait to read more from Bobbi Ruggiero. Julia is used to having control and hates surprises. She is always working and has little time for anything else. But she has a crush on the cute younger man that makes her sandwiches at lunch time. Matthew Gordon wants nothing more than for his band to make it big. But while he waits, he works making sandwiches and giving private guitar lessons on the side. So when Julia's friends give her a surprise birthday gift of guitar lessons, she is shocked to find none other than her sandwich making crush. But when Julia isn't great at the guitar and struggles with something she can't control, it threatens to ruin everything that she has been building with Matthew.

I really liked these two. Their story was so cute, and I loved how different they were. They worked perfectly together, and I couldn't get enough of them. I don't usually go for the older woman/younger guy stories, but this one really worked. These two had such a great connection and I just really enjoyed it from start to finish. Definitely one of my favorites from the anthology.

Just Like Heaven-Rachel Cowell

Rating: 3 Stars

Rachel Cowell is another new to me author, and her story was Just Like Heaven. This one had some cute moments, but it was just okay for me. Josh Chapman and Sarah Lattimore find themselves attracted to one another from the first moment they meet. Unfortunately for both of them, he is her TA and though there isn't a formal rule, it is known that TA's shouldn't have relationships with their students. But when it becomes impossible for them to avoid what is happening between them, they both quickly realize how much they both stand to lose if anyone finds out.

While I did like parts of this story and the characters, it wasn't my favorite. Josh and Sarah were cute together at times, but they were also super awkward. If I had to describe this story as a whole, awkward is the word I would use. It was even mentioned several times throughout the story as things were happening,

and it couldn't have been more accurate. I also had a tough time with how young and immature the characters seemed at times, even for their ages. Both Josh and Sarah both seemed to act younger than what they should have, and it went beyond them just being shy or anything. There was a sex scene in which Sarah starts giggling about what is happening and then can hardly even use the word penis, and it was seriously a huge turn off for me. It just made me cringe and lost all interest in what was happening.

Overall

Overall, this anthology was fun to read and I mostly enjoyed each of these. There were a few that I had some issues with, but I think that if you are a fan of NA stories and anthologies or love the '80s this is one worth checking out.

****ARC Provided by Author****

Miguel says

Before I get on to reviewing each short story, let me give my overall feelings for this anthology. I thought it was well-curated and well-written. It definitely gave me the authentic 80s vibe I was so looking forward to.

So without further ado, here are my thoughts on each story:

Save a Prayer by Karen Booth - **B+**

A really solid prelude to the anthology. I liked how Angie and Graham were so vibrant and real. You know that vibe you sometimes get when characters appear realer than they are?

Need You Tonight by Gwen Hayes - **C**

Overall, not a very memorable short and I don't really get what's going on with the plot and the characters.

Kickstart My Heart by Autumn Jones Lake - **F**

Meh. I say you skip this one.

867-5309 by Jenny Holiday - **A+++**

Hands-down my favourite short in this anthology. It combines many of my favourite things in one pretty package: art, quirky characters, and witty dialogue. How I wish this were longer.

Drummer Girl by AJ Pine - **A**

Even though at this point I'm sick of musical love interests, I still particularly enjoyed this music-related short. Probably because Pine so perfectly captures that feeling of first love *so freaking well*. I also wish this were longer.

Young Teacher by Bobbi Ruggiero - **B+**

I really enjoyed the chemistry between our two characters here. Again my only qualm is that *it ended too soon*. I would've liked to see more development in Julia and Matthew's characters but nonetheless, the feels were delivered.

Just Like Heaven by Rachel Cowell - A-

What a lovely ending this one was! Our two main characters were so adorable to death I can't even. For the nth time, how I wish this was longer!

Final Thoughts: Like most of my feelings towards anthologies, it saddens me that these lovely stories are just shorts. If any of you authors are reading this, please please please do consider writing them in full-length please. But I definitely recommend this anthology if you're looking for a something different or if you're a fan of NA fiction.

Vicki says

'80s Mix Tape is an anthology featuring eight novella's inspired by music (and taking place) in the 80's.

I enjoyed all of the stories in '80s Mix Tape. Each of the authors pulled me right into the plot and had me rooting for the main couple right away. They also did an excellent job of mentally placing me in the decade - acid wash jeans, high waisted pants, preppy polo shirts, crimped hair, no cell phones (gasp!), without pushing the time frame on the reader.

All of the stories were fun, romantic and sexy.

My favorite's were:

867-5309 by Jenny Holiday, about a college senior trying to save a building on her campus before she graduates and heads off to the real world, she enlists the help of one of the art majors on campus, and...slowly but surely they break down each others barriers.

Drummer Girl by A.J. Pine - A music student on the eve of her college graduation and perfectly planned out life meets an up and coming musician on the eve of what will hopefully be the music tour that helps his band make it big. They share an instant connection...this is an example of what I love about A.J. Pine's writing - the characters are so well written, that I feel like I'm in the book, rooting for them. Loved this one.

Young Teacher by Bobbi Ruggiero - A 30 something ad exec with a secret crush on the young manager at the sandwich shop she gets her lunch. But it turns out he's got a crush on her too. This was a great story, watching Julia deal with her insecurities and control issues, and Matthew work to break them down. I really loved both of the characters - would like more of these two!

Megan Erickson says

So fun! Love this concept. Stories were a blast. Full review to come.

