



## As Good As New

*Jennifer Dawson*

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## As Good As New Jennifer Dawson

"An author to watch out for." --*RT Book Reviews*

He was the high school hottie. She was the teacher's pet. But in private, none of that mattered...

At the tender age of six, Penelope Watkins fell for her best friend's brother, Evan Donovan, future hunk. By the time they were teenagers, they were having heart-to-hearts...and hot and heavy top secret make-out sessions. All that changed when Evan's father suddenly died. Abruptly, Penelope lost him to grief--and to his true love: football. But now an injury had ended Evan's NFL career. The notorious bad boy was in a depression no one could penetrate, except maybe the one woman who still knew him best--and still wanted him most...

Penelope is the last person Evan wants to witness the wreck he's become. So when she shows up at his door he's less than welcoming--even though the sight of her brings back the same old rush of desire. As a teenager, the emotions overwhelmed him. Now, when he wanted to be overwhelmed, Penelope wasn't playing. She was telling the golden boy it was time to man up. It may have taken a concussion for Evan to realize it, but that's exactly what he wants to do--starting with her...

## Praise for Jennifer Dawson

"Witty repartee, memorable secondary characters, and powerful attraction skillfully handled will have readers eager for the next in the series." --*Publishers Weekly* on *Take a Chance on Me*

## As Good As New Details

Date : Published March 29th 2016 by Zebra

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Author : Jennifer Dawson

Format : Kindle Edition 320 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Sports and Games, Sports, Contemporary

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### ? Jeri's Book Attic ? I like says

“As Good As New” is not my first book by Jennifer Dawson – but it was my first from the “Something New” series – and I can honestly state that it is indeed readable as a standalone novel.

After reading “Crave” last year it was no question for me that I was going to like this authors writing style (unless she would have changed something significantly) – So it was an easy decision to pick up this book as the plot seemed more than interesting.

And I was not disappointed.

I am honestly not sure if I really “liked” Evan very much in the beginning – he seem superficial at best.

But Penelope was an easy likeable character. I loved her from minute one.

And I wanted to “high five” her when she read Evan the riot act in his apartment to set him straight.

If a book features a second chance love – I would like it to be like this – strong characters that show their ability to grow and change without loosing themselves in the process.

Recommendable read

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### ? Kimberly says

#### Coffee Dates with As Good As New:

**First date:** Evan Donovan suffered an injury that ended his NFL career. This go lucky playboy is taking it hard and his family is concerned. Nothing seems to snap him out of his depression. Penelope Watkins still has feelings for the boy she kissed in the Donovan basement and decides to break her own code and give him a piece of her mind. The chemistry between Penelope and Evan is off the charts. How the two of them have kept their hands of each other is beyond me. Their denial is electrifying the city. Dawson immediately had

me rooting for them. They belong together even if he will muck it up and she will deny it.

**Second date:** Penelope has no one to confide in, and there is no one to meddle or nudge this brewing romance....that is until one of my favorite characters spots the elephant in the room. I laughed watching Penelope squirm. Evan is determined to reconnect and Penelope who practical melts when he touches her insists they return to friends. \*shakes head\* When these two finally give in to their physical needs and Evan claims her, the screen on my kindle melted. It was all that I wanted and more. The Something New series has a small-town vibe to it, and I loved all the updates on past couples and family. When this clan gets together, you never know what will happen.

**Third date:** One of the things I love about Dawson is the depth she brings to her characters as she puts them through growing pains. Even though Evan knows what he wants, he fumbles the ball a few times and Penelope was as nervous as a new kitten. The story was low on angst despite Penelope's fears and while I wanted her to be as strong in her personal life as she is in the boardroom I understood her fears. A weekend get together with all the Donovan's and their friends had me flipping the pages towards our HEA and I ended this date grinning like a fool.

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Copy provided by publisher, This review was originally posted on Caffeinated Book Reviewer

### **nick says**

I quite liked this one although there were moments of frustrations. Still the chemistry was hot, the pairing was fun and I absolutely loved the meddling family!

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### **FULL REVIEW**

As a big fan of this series and Jennifer Dawson's writing, I was excited to dive into As Good as New. While for the most part I enjoyed the story, there were a few elements that made this one my least favorite installment in the series.

What makes this series so great for me are the characters. It's definitely where Jennifer Dawson shines at. Penelope, the main character in this book, was one I liked initially. She was headstrong, smart and hardworking - what's not to like? But throughout the book, she really started to bother me with how she treated Evan. I understood why she was so hesitant about him, but even when he had proved over and over again that he was determined to make things work between them, she would push him away and then pull him back in. For me, the constant push and pull got old very fast. Evan, on the other hand, evoked the opposite reaction to me. I was very very wary of him in the beginning and I was sure that I wouldn't like him very much because of his manwhore ways, which I found to be excessive. However, he grew on me with his willingness to forego his old ways and show Penelope that they were right for each other. Having suffered an injury that ended his career, Evan was in a tough position, but I was happy to see him slowly mature throughout the book and find out what he wanted to do with his life.

While I was annoyed by Penelope's constant push and pull, I did enjoy the romance overall because the chemistry was there and it was smoking. I also thought there was nice balance between the emotional side of their relationship and the sexy times, which is always a must for me to enjoy a romance novel. I did roll my

eyes though when the big understanding, that I've come to expect from romance novels, came because it was so predictable. My favorite part of As Good as New wasn't the romance, however - it was all the friendships and the sibling relationships. Penelope's girlfriends were all so great. I loved this gang from the start and in this title, I fell even harder for them. Their banter, the teasing and the support they provided each other made my heart so happy. Evan's relationship with his brother, Shane, wasn't the best since they were both really bullheaded, so it took a lot of fixing to repair it and I loved that journey.

In the end, As Good as New was a mixed bag for me. I liked parts and others frustrated me, but no way am I regretting this book because it was entertaining. It might not be my favorite book, but I highly recommend this series overall if you're in the mood for romances, friendships and bromances.

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## NiCoLeTa E. says

\*\*\*4 "Young love dies hard" stars\*\*\*

I adore the "Undone" series by Jennifer Dawson and when I saw this title on NetGalley, I couldn't help but ask for it!!! This one is nothing like the other series, but i liked it equally...

I liked that it wasn't reminding me the other series and i liked that it was more light...

The only thing that i didn't like was that while i was reading it, i was wondering about the previous books and now, I'm dying to learn all of the other Donovan's stories!!!

The only sure thing is that Jennifer Dawson knows how to create beautiful characters and god, she knows how to built the sexual tension between the two main characters...

I mean, i was going wild with all this sexual atmosphere!!!

Penelope was a very organised and workaholic woman. Every aspect of her life was in order, except her own heart...

Since she was six years old, her heart was drumming wild for her best friend's brother, Evan. Twenty five years had passed from that time, and her heart is insisting to tremble near to Evan, even though from outside, she seems very composed whenever she is around him...

Her secret is safe since nobody knows about this crazy infatuation of hers.

After all, she knows very well that she and Evan are miles apart... Except that, she doesn't appreciate his ways of life...

*"She'd always made rash decisions where Evan was concerned.*

*Clearly age hadn't cured her.*

*Later, much later... she'd contemplate her actions."*

Evan Donovan is a football star who is living for his sport, women and partying... He was always the black sheep between the rest of his family and he was keeping add fuel in the fire...

Also he loved to get in the nose of his sister's best friend, Penelope... and to stay away from her as far as

possible!

***"He had too many regrets in his life. Too many bright promises unfulfilled. He didn't know what was going on between them, but he couldn't afford any more mistakes with her. He at least wanted a chance to make some sorts of amends."***

An accident in the field will force Penelope and Evan to come closer...

Evan after his accident and the ending of his career, he is so depressed and he is spending his days with a bottle of alcohol to keep him company... His family is so worried about him...

Penelope whom by an unwritten rule, she is a part of the Donovan family can't stand this situation longer and she is deciding to take the matter in her hands...

*After all, she knows Evan better than everyone else...*

***"This was the last time she'd put herself in this situation. After tonight, she'd work on forgetting. She'd forgotten once, she could forget again.***

***She just needed to make it through this night untouched.***

***Because, if he touched her, she was finished."***

The only thing that she could never imagine was that Evan would take an u-turn and that he will decide to rebuilt the past...

*Their secretly past!!! The one that nobody knew except from both of them...*

That turn scares her and excites her at the same time, even though that she is refusing to admit it.

Evan was her dream boy after all, but in the past, he had hurt her so damn much...

*How can she trust him???*

***"This is what you need to understand, Pen, what you never did get. All that power I had over you, that's exactly the power you had over me."***

Evan, from the other hand, knows his mistakes toward Penelope too well. But he can't deny longer his feelings... Feelings that never got away even though his huge efforts...

Now, he is ready to accept them and to chase before the only person that means something to him. But how can persuade Penelope that his feelings are real and that he won't bail away from her, for once again???

The battle is too difficult, but he is determined to not give up...

*So will he manage to rebuilt the past???*

***"I'm doing what I should have done all along."***

***"I don't know what that means."***

***"It means I'm going to fight for you, and I'm going to win."***

Well, i loved very much Evan and Penelope...

Yep, Evan had made mistakes in the past, but he had good reasons for that... No, he didn't copy well the last

fifteen years and he made many stupid things, but i loved him in the presence. From the moment that he accepted that Penelope was the one for him, he was so determined to show her the depth of his heart.

He wanted to prove her that he was worthy of her... And i liked this determination and his patience...

*"She looked like the girl he used to know and this strange, mysterious woman she'd become. Like everything he'd loved about the past, and everything he feared about the future. She looked like sex and life. Like something too wild to contain and too addictive to let go."*

Why I liked Evan's patience??? Well, Penelope was making it really hard for him...

Yep, she was heartbroken but all this thinking of hers was doing only bad. She just couldn't let go of the past and she was being unfair to Evan. She was very insecure in everything that had to do with him and she wasn't making any efforts and that was pissing me off...

*"It was so much easier when he was some wild, out-of-control jock who cared about nothing but partying and football. Who treated her like she didn't exist. That was a man she could hate. But since his injury he'd changed. Now he was more like the boy from the basement."*

Well, those two together were like an electric discharge... Everything around them were catching fire when they were in the same room. And the sex was wild!!!

*Yep, organised Penny was like a wild cat in her private moments!!! Bahahahaha....*

Finally, i would like to say that i loved all the Donovans and their loved ones... I liked the way they were loving Penelope as was their own blood... But i was a little bit furious with them that they didn't believe in Evan so much!!!

But they were having, all of them, so lovely personalities and they were so tight between them...  
Yep, i want like crazy to read their own stories... I'm so curious!!!

**\*\*\*ARC kindly provided via NetGalley for the exchange of an honest review\*\*\***

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### **XxTainaxX says**

[ He's the kind that will parade super models in front of the girl whose virginity he took, was cruel to immediately after, and whose heart he broke... for years and purposefully. After he loses his career a

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### **Lisa says**

*E-ARC received thanks to the publisher and Netgalley.*

Penelope had been in love with her best friend's brother Evan for years, and for a short stint she thought they had something...until Evan ditched her. \*cue gasp in the audience\* Fast forward a decade or so, Evan's career was cut short, spiraling him out of control, until Penelope out of the goodness of her heart slapped him back into reality (literally) and dun dun dun...

OH MAN

in my The Name of the Game review I asked myself, how is Jennifer Dawson gonna top the awesomeness that is James and Gracie because YOU GUYS, James and Gracie are SO PERFECT I cannot even imagine how any couple could beat them

but Ms. Dawson managed to outdone herself again because THIS??? is so great ughhhhhh I still couldn't give it a 5 because James and Gracie are still the King and Queen of my OTP list but Evan and Pen are Real Close

but then there's also Shane and Cecilia, whom I also love NOW DO YOU SEE MY PROBLEM

ok the thing I love most about Jen Dawson's books is her **characters**. I'm very invested in them in their happiness, and I can't help but to root for them. Evan has his dumbass moments (BOY DID HE HAVE THEM) and Penelope has her frustrating ones (HE LOVES YOU!! HE LOVES YOU!!!, I wailed for the umpteenth time),

but either way all relationships takes work and *this* relationship? TONS. I love how Evan works hard to prove himself to Penelope that he can take care of her, to get her to trust him and in their relationship. I love how Penelope has to work to believe that she actually deserves a whole lot more than she thinks. It just feels *real* to me.

Overall, I've never been one to be able to eloquently express why I love a book #ITried but I'm more than excited to see what Jen's gonna offer next.

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**Talltree says**

No way in hell!!

See: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

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**Irene says**

4.5 stars

As Good As New was a touching, heartfelt second chance love story, loved it!

When I read the excerpt of As Good As New at the end of The Name of the Game I couldn't wait for Evan & Penelope's book, I had to know how were these two who clearly shared a history and now couldn't stand each other ever going to fall in love?

I can honestly say this book delivered everything it promised. There was passion, angst, humor, family, misunderstandings, forgiveness and a beautiful couple who have loved each other for so long but didn't think they'd ever get their HEA.

For me this book ticked all the boxes, great characters that were complex, likable and at times totally frustrating, but all that added to my reading enjoyment.

In the beginning I wasn't sure I was going to like Evan, he was a jerk and his ego needed to be checked. I loved how Penelope was the one to kick his butt when noone else could get through his stubborn a\*\*. But as the story unfolded and we got to hear his thoughts my feelings for Evan started to change. I saw this man who clearly was in love but had no idea how to get Penelope to trust him after he'd broken her heart all those years ago. Sigh...

I totally understood Penelope's fears & hesitation. I would have the same insecurities and I totally got her.

It warmed my heart watching them finally open up and communicate honestly. It wasn't easy and at times it felt like they would never be able to forgive the past hurts. It was truly worth it as these two belonged together, they had a great connection and their chemistry was off the charts!

Another plus for me was getting to spend time the previous couples, especially James & Gracie from The Name of the Game (LOVE these two! OMG Gracie cracks me up and James still has a very special place in my heart)

Overall As Good As New was a heartwarming second chance love story that will keep you turning the pages, take you for an emotional ride and then leave you with a heart full of happy feels.

I highly recommend As Good As New and the Something New series, each book can be read as a standalone.

\*special note to the author Jennifer Dawson\*

Can we **PLEASE** get Sophie's, Sam's or Charlie's book? I don't want to say goodbye to the wonderful characters you've created.

*Thank you Kensington Books ~ Zebra via NetGalley for the advance copy.*

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### **Christine says**

I thought Jennifer Dawson really nailed the sexy rom-com with her The Name of the Game and then she went and outdid herself with this smoldering tale of two people who've lusted and loved and dreamed of each other for *years*. This book was steamy with a capital S - Penelope and Evan literally couldn't be in the same room without setting each other off.

I loved, loved, loved Penelope, even when she drove me crazy at the end with her insecurities. She's the kind

of strong, modern heroine you always wish for when reading a romance. She loves Evan but isn't a ditzy mess around him. Their tortured history means she may love him but she doesn't excuse or ignore his manwhoring ways. The scene where Penelope informs Evan's groupie wedding date that he doesn't even know her name is pure awesome. Penelope stands up for herself even when her heart is breaking.

Evan was a manwhoring idiot but redeemed himself when he realized he had to fight to be worthy of Penelope. That Evan had to find his way back to his family was fantastic, too. Any scene with his brother James from The Name of the Game was a bonus.

I admit I was kind of meh about the first two books in the series but was bowled over by how much I enjoyed this one as well as James and Grace's story. Looking forward to more from Jennifer Dawson. How about Sam's story??

Note: I received an ARC from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Shari Kay says**

Not interested in another manho

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

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### **Danielle says**

I absolutely loved this book by Dawson for many reason but one being it was a second chance of love story and I truly love those books most of all.

In this story we meet Penelope and Evan. Penelope is the COO for Evans brother but mostly she is a honorary member of their family. She grew up with the Donovan siblings and had a major crush on Evan. Only by the time she reaches high school her and Evan were secretly seeing each other. They became close, talked about many things and she lost her virginity to him but after his father died he pulled away from her and they have been staying away from each other ever since.

Evan dreamed of being in the NFL but in order to do that he had to let Penelope go because he knew that wasn't the life for her. When his career suddenly ends he starts drinking and pushing his family away until Penelope shows up to knock some sense into him. Evan is now trying to get his life back on track and win back the only girl he has ever loved but it's not going to be an easy task.

Evan started out as a real jerk but slowly you could see how much he wanted to not only improve for himself but to be the man Penelope knows he could be. He is smart, determined, funny and definitely has some swoon worthy moments. Penelope was also smart, successful, independent but she didn't trust so easily when it came to Evan which is understandable.

I enjoyed the storyline from the beginning to the very end. Although this started off as a typical second chance romance Dawson made it special with Penelope second guessing herself and pushing Evan away even though she loved him.

One of my favorite parts is when level headed Penelope gets drunk. It was funny yet was so right for her to show some feelings that she kept hidden inside for way too long.

Of course in true Dawson fashion she wrote some really hot sex scenes that had me saying damn Penelope is one lucky girl! Lol And Evan yummy!! This couple just steamed up the pages!

I loved seeing the previous characters from other books and loved when they all interacted. It was like going on a family reunion. I didn't realize how much I missed these characters until I read this book.

Hopefully Dawson won't stop this series now and it will continue to grow.

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### **Linda Sims says**

Penelope has been in love with Evan her whole life, she's best friends with his sister and spent a lot of time in their home while growing up. Evan was the hottest boy in high school, but Penny knew he'd never look at her. They were friends till it became more, then he broke her heart and left to play pro football. During the next 15 years they were in each other's company numerous times, Evan always had a beautiful woman on his arm. Then Evan has a career ending injury, he's loses himself in drinking and feeling sorry for himself. His family try to get him to pull himself together without success. Penny decides it's time to read him the riot act. It's the first time in all the years that she's been alone with him all those feelings she had buried come back to life and neither of them know how to handle those feelings.

This is a first read for me by this author, plus I've not read any of the previous books in this series, but that didn't affect my enjoyment of this as it was easy to pick up what had gone before. I started out by disliking Evan quite a bit while all my sympathy was with Penny. But by the end Evan had grown on me while Penny became a bit annoying with all her indecisiveness and dithering about. It was easy to assume at the start that now Evan's career in football was over and the supermodels he dated would disappear he was resorting to picking up things with Penny, after all he'd constantly seemed to try and keep her jealous by flaunting all the other women he had in front of her, so yes I wasn't keen on him. But he really proved himself for me. Overall this was well written all the characters were well drawn and the situations throughout were realistic it was easy to connect with the story.

ARC courtesy of the publisher via NetGalley

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### **Ivy Deluca says**

Excuse the abbreviated review. Just adopted a puppy (my boy EJ!) and as of right now, I have the attention span of a puppy, so I'm going to keep this as succinct as possible.

-Still loving Ms. Dawson's writing and her ability to take standard romantic tropes and write the ish out of them.

-Evan and Penelope's chemistry is crazy-hot. There's a scene where they're building up to kissing (not even kissing, mind you) and I needed a fan. When it finally gets to sex, it was top notch.

-Evan has his dumb bunny moments but I did love his sincerity. For the record Evan, telling your girl about sexploits in an attempt to show it's always been about her is NOT a bright bulb move.

-Penelope is hesitant but after what Evan did to her, essentially emotionally gutting her then walking away 15 years ago, I get why. The trust had to build and Ms. Dawson did a fab job of doing that.

Incredibly chemistry and strong characters made this a standout in the series and another enjoyable romance from Ms. Dawson. I continue to be impressed with her writing and I'm looking forward to her next book.

\*\*ARC provided by publisher via netgalley for review\*\*

For more reviews, visit

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## A Klue says

Having really enjoyed all three previous books in this series, it pains this NetGalley reviewer to admit this one felt off the mark. Mainly because I had issues with the hero's past character/moral compass and the heroine's judgment. It was hard to feel sympathy for Evan, who was with lots of other girls, starting as a teen, even while supposedly being in love and fooling around with the heroine, Penelope, in the family basement. Yes, you guessed it. She became his dirty little secret. You see, Pen was a close family friend who was more like an adopted family member. She made the mistake of meeting Evan downstairs, after the midnight hour, for late night chats/ eventual make-out sessions, all while he was taking full advantage of the groupie cheerleaders who offered themselves up to him due to his high school football status. They both kept quiet about it. Yes, she knew about his other girlfriends. So shame on her, as well.

I also didn't get how dearly beloved/soon departed, dear old dad pulled Evan aside and lectured him about giving up Pen (when he accidentally saw them together) because his upcoming NFL career was going to lead to even more random girls. Where was a stern talking to about becoming a real man by respecting women/not using them and respecting himself enough not to continue to be a man whore? At least an "I expect better from you, son" speech was in order. You would think this strong knit family would have wanted to instill their family values upon Evan. If nothing else, lecture him about unwanted pregnancies and STDs. No, he seemed to get a pass, because he was destined to live the god-like life of a football player, on and off the field, and all its inevitable entitlements...money and loose women.

Not surprisingly, he dumps Pen after being her first and flaunts/parades other women in front of her for years. Again, Dad, thanks for nothing! We are supposed to buy into his excuse he sincerely thought it was for her own good. When he finally does make a permanent play for Pen, she's supposed to be consoled by the fact he always thought of her while being intimate with countless supermodels/bimbos. Oh, isn't that sweet...not! Even going so far as to tell her specifics about one of his multiple person sexcapades (because he needed to get the guilt off his chest). Yeah, that play/decision didn't work out so well for him, folks.

So we, along with his family and friends, are supposed to feel sorry for him because he can no longer play football due to a concussion. I say it was too bad he wasn't kicked in the groin instead, my fellow romance book loving friends. Maybe a blow to the family jewels would remind him of the concept of karma. As much as I liked Pen's feistiness and determination not to be hurt by Evan again, I found myself thinking she could

have used a knock to her noggin a time or two to bring her to her senses, as well. Though she would often verbally put him in his place, she was always too quick to forgive him, because, after all, he was so hot and under her skin.

Being the good girl she is, Pen does swallow her pride/pain and tries to rescue Evan from himself, since his family has been unsuccessful. We learn he has always loved her, partly because she wasn't attracted to him just because of his football skills. But apparently not enough to give up his groupies, huh?

Yes, there was tons of angst...lots of chemistry/very steamy scenes...a hero who is honestly, sincerely, desperately redeeming himself...a family who doesn't even want them together due to his past pattern of behavior and self-centeredness...which they helped create...a feisty heroine who becomes so insecure in her worry about the same notions she keeps pushing him away...The ending result was a rather exhausting read without any significant dramatic events to push it along.

Here's to hoping you can forgive and forget better than this reviewer. I'm still holding a grudge, against him and especially dear old dad. I'm glad Pen got her HEA though and the hero is no longer a player. I have a feeling Shane, Evan's older brother, will make certain it stays that way. Otherwise, he won't have any qualms about using his fists, not just words, to protect Pen.

Title: As Good as New, Series: Something New (Book 4), Author: Jennifer Dawson, Pages: 320, stand-alone, HEA, feisty but insecure heroine, hero was a player on and off the field.

Book 1 – Take a Chance on Me, 2/4/14, Pages: 352 (Maddie & Mitch)

Book 2 – The Winner Takes All, 12/2/14, Pages: 368 (Shane & Cecilia)

Book 3 – The Name of the Game, 9/29/15, Pages: 352 (Gracie & James)

Book 4 – As Good as New, 3/29/16, Pages: 320, (Penelope & Evan)

(This review is based on ARC generously provided via NetGalley in exchange for an honest, unbiased opinion. No compensation was paid to the reviewer nor is there any affiliation between the reviewer and author/publisher.)

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## **Gi's Spot Reviews says**

What a disgusting pig for male MC... Don't even want to think about it...

Self note:

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

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