



## Worked Up

*Tessa Bailey*

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## Worked Up Tessa Bailey

Factory mechanic Duke Crawford just wants to watch SportsCenter in peace. Unfortunately, living with four divorcee sisters doesn't provide much silence, nor does it change his stance on relationships. But when a fellow commitment-phobe stumbles into his life, getting him good and worked up, he can't deny his protective instincts.

Samantha Waverly's brother just put her in an impossible situation. The only way out? Marry huge, gruff, gladiator look-alike Duke—for show, of course. She doesn't make promises—she knows too well how easily they can be broken—and this is no exception.

As the blistering attraction between them grows, the lines around the no-strings relationship blur. But Duke and Samantha's marriage is only for show...or is it?

## Worked Up Details

Date : Published August 1st 2016 by Entangled: Brazen

ISBN :

Author : Tessa Bailey

Format : Kindle Edition 186 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Adult Fiction, Erotica

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## From Reader Review Worked Up for online ebook

### Wendy'sThoughts says

#### 5- Yes, I said 5 Real People Stars

\* \* \* \* \* *IT'S LIVE!!*

There is a saying - "For Every Lid, There is a Pot"...which can be interpreted in many ways. As someone who has worked in Employment, we used that phrase meaning there is a job out there for everyone... just need to figure out what and find it. In life and romance....There is that special someone for everyone and they just need to be in the right place at the right time...and open to experience it. Tessa Bailey takes this premise, shoots it full of steroids and we benefit from it big time. For these main characters could be found Anywhere...They are not the socialite or billionaire... they are not the hedge fund traders or attorneys... nor are they running their own businesses and media darlings. They are people who look like us, act like the regular, have serious commitment phobias which seem to be common place today...and somehow cross paths. For me, it was fantastic!

This is the third installment of the Made in Jersey series. I started with the first one, liked it and missed reading the second one. Although there are references regarding the past characters, it did not impact this story. You could read this and not feel like you were missing something.

And oh this story....To set the tone so you will get the full impact of what I am talking about, the location is Hook, New Jersey....only a stone's throw from Manhattan but seems as if it is another place and time all together. It is a company town... there is a type of Plant which provides the main source of income for the inhabitants and generations have been born, lived and died there without ever leaving. Recently, the new owner of the plant has made himself known by walking through monthly and his actions have not made him a popular figure...

The local dive bar/hangout is called the Third Shift where regulars have their beers, stare at the big screen on the wall catching whatever sport is in season. It isn't fancy and when a new unknown face comes through the doors, all will look to see who the hell it is....assessing whether a second look is worthy.

Samantha Waverly is that woman who always seems to be in another place even when standing before you...She will get this far off look in her eye and you know in that moment she is seeing things no one else would ever be able to see. For Samantha is an artist through and through...It has been her saving grace during all her times of sorrow and rejection. It has been there for her when parents were not....and luckily, it has provided her with a career as an illustrator and also feeds her dreams. Every where Samantha goes, her sketchbook is there. Her hands must sketch what her mind sees and it is in these sketches where her heart lives.

She was taught at a very early age to never trust the love professed to her... to never open fully to anyone... because the pain of when that professed love is taken away...it can and will break you.

Samantha learned well and even with her stepbrother taking her in and providing for her...She always knew there were strings attached to his actions...he couldn't help himself...it was his way.

Now she finds herself in Hook; she has arranged to have The Meeting with her stepbrother. He will not be pleased because she has called off an arrangement of sorts...a promise to him and instead of just letting him know over the phone... she is doing the correct thing; telling him in person. She knows this will not go well...

but she has steeled herself for the outcome.

Which is why she is standing in The Third Shift trying to sit on a stool without getting everyone's attention. She gives her order to the bartender and one of her never-ending wealth of silly puns crosses her mind and makes Samantha quietly giggle. She realizes how insane she must seem; Hot and sweating from the heat, giggling like a loon and dropping the very tissue packet she needs to dab her face and chest. Upon rising too quickly, she slams her head on the underside of the bar.

Great, Samantha...Why don't you just put a neon sign around your neck to draw more attention to yourself....Her artist's eye is taking everything in and at the end of the bar she sees a Goliath...Blinking a couple of times to check if this vision of Man is real or from her banged head, she looks again and there he is ... But now Goliath is STARING back at her! This man is a force...Big, Broad with Shoulders, Chest to fills out two seats.... and Legs thick like tree trunks... And his Hands....rough and callused...His stare is so intense but not welcoming at all... in fact, he is now looking quite pissed but not directly at her....but to the men coming close to her, offering her a drink....

Samantha is pondering how to handle this as she doesn't have all that much experience in this bar and drinking thing, when Goliath stomps over and tells the guys to beat it and leave her be....They skaddle like scared rats and she turns to him and thinks Presumptuous!

Duke Crawford cannot believe what he has just done. All he wanted to do was watch SportsCenter in peace with a cold one in his hand. He certainly can't seem to do that back at his home...his 4 sister have returned to the homestead after 4 messed up divorces...He loves all of his sisters but with hearing all of the complaints, knowing how all of the men in their lives did them wrong...he has vowed to never get tangled up with a serious relationship...Men are crap and he is part of that tribe....He has his life; did the time in the service, is the top mechanic at the Plant and has his group of friends and family who depend on him.

So why the hell did he feel compelled to step in and block those workers from the plant... Could it be her amazing, curvy figure, or her smart inquiring eyes...or maybe it was he knew she was better than Hook and deserved some peace and quiet while she worked that sketchbook of hers...Damn she was cute....

Samantha heard the fleeing men call this giant Duke and after a moment, she turned to ask if he did that for all the women in the bar...He said no and changing the subject, asked what she was doing with the sketchpad...

And it there in this exchange where things start to happen.... For Samantha is without Guile and Duke is a man who has been captivated by this rare treasure of a woman....Both of these people are just one of many on the planet... yet as they start to talk and the rhythm and flow of their words happen... sparks are happening...both never thought they would feel these types of connections...

She sees him as more then just a mechanic...She first sees him a Goliath, full of bluster ....after talking she feels him as safe refuge... an ole' salt of the Earth Sea Captain...she sees so much with her pen and paper, he is taken by all of it. He offers her wonderful egg sandwiches and she decides to accept. This all leads to more conversation, sparks, laughs and insight to more of how amazing both are to each other.

It becomes dangerous for Duke... his lower regions are planning a mutiny....he is starting to feel pain from the hurt but cannot deny how much he is pulled toward this woman. He takes her to where she is staying, gives her his number should she need anything and fights the desire to take her there against any surface....As he is walking to his truck, his phone rings and it is Samantha telling him she Needs....He comes

back and asks what does she need...

A Good Night Kiss....

Oh, Holy Hell... Even though Duke is careful not to overpower and crush her to his chest, he gives Samantha the kiss of tender lips and slamming body....and her slight moan kills him....He pulls away because he knows if he doesn't there will be no controlling him... and she deserves so much better than that.

Ok, this is just the tip of the iceberg on the type of chemistry these two have for each other.... and I want to stress there is a real story, plot points and meaningful life lessons here. It is Tessa Bailey, after all, and she knows how to craft a compelling tale.

But oh, be still my heart. This man Duke....He is not this sculpted, six pack guy.... so pretty with eyelashes you would wish were yours....and no, he doesn't have a fancy career or secret trust-fund so money is no object and trips to Cancun are the norm...

No, he has something so much better...

A Uncensored Dirty, Dirty, Naughty Mouth....Coupled with an Admitted Controlling Caveman Streak when it comes to Samantha. The things he says will cause you to shudder...the way he manhandles her will give you goosebumps....and the way he loves her, wants to protect her from any pain...will fill your heart.

HE. IS. THAT. GOOD.

These two have the same issues in the beginning - Commitment phobia- Duke just realizes sooner that his need, desire and love for this woman outweighs any of his doubts. Samantha's history and her relationship with her stepbrother is so ingrained... it will cause her to become stronger and need to understand what happened before does not mean it will happen again.

If you haven't figured out by now I LOVED this book, then there maybe be no future in my reviewing process...because as soon as I finished this book.... I wanted to start it all over again and pretend I knew nothing of what was coming.

If you can believe in almost love at first sight, are ok with a bossy, sexy, mega man-man and want to feel like you are the most important thing in his life....then you should read this book.

Oh, and I have a very strong, sneaky suspicion, the Stepbrother who is out and gay... is having a fling with the private security guard at the Plant... and Ms. Bailey is gearing up for a M/M romance....Very interesting and Hawt!

~~~~~ **Before Reading** ~~~~~

*Wait a minute...*

*Did I just find out Tessa Bailey has the guts to make*

*a Working Man who is not...*

*Lanky, Rich and with Cheekbones Chiseled out of Marble...*

*the Love Interest in this book?????*

*Yup, she did and I say it is about time!*

*Bring it on Tessa...*

*Give me a Man that I could see walking down the street...*

***Give me this person with rough hands and a dirty talking mind but has the decency to respect women and thinks he needs to keep a distance....***

***I am all in!***

***Worked Up... Boy, am I!***

**Worked Up (Made in Jersey, #3) August 1st, 2016**

*A gifted copy was provided by Entangled Publishing, LLC via NetGalley for an honest review.*

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**Nicola says**

Once upon a time there was a reader who loved Tessa Bailey's books. Loved the alpha but ever so slightly vulnerable dirty talking men and the ladies who kept them on their toes. But one day she fell a little bit out of love with them because storyline was sacrificed for sex and dirty talk and she was sad that this love affair was on the rocks. **However...**

***"There were men. And then there was Duke Crawford."***

I'll be damned, it's been a while coming but one word. Duke. Yes he has a bit of a mouth on him and yes at times, though not always, it was a bit OTT, but I can let that ride and take it for what it is because I loved him and this couple actually had a story; something that has been lacking in Tessa Bailey's books for me the past 12 months or so. He's not your usual literary hero. He is indeed as per the intro, a man bear--a Goliath proportioned chap with a hairy chest, rough hands and a bit of a beer belly who just wants to watch SportsCenter. And the poor sod can't get a moments peace to do so because his four younger sisters, all divorced, live with him and his best mate, wife and their daughter live above his garage.

Note: Goliath + tiny girl:

Children's illustrator, Sam is the one to knock him well and truly off his stride and she's quirky, funny, sweet and relatable! Because she suffers from the same diseases as me: making groanworthy puns and being a tad on the clumsy side. When she arrives in Hook to see her brother and encounters the brick wall with a hero-complex that is Duke, the sparks fly and they have an electric chemistry, with each pulling out unexpected feelings in the other.

***"Even your slight beer belly is doing funny things...to me.***

*Worked Up* worked much better for me. It was funny and sexy and at times quite sweet, and I think you have to accept that Tessa Bailey heroes do edge on the cruder side of the dirty talking scale. But when she

showcases a couple's softer side rather than them ripping each other's clothes off every five minutes, and gives them a story that has that bit more to it, then she does hit the mark.

*Copy received courtesy of Entangled Publishing via NetGalley for an honest and unbiased opinion.*

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## **Aisling Zena says**

### **4 bossy dirty talker stars**

If you don't like insta-love/lust I'd suggest staying away from this.

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

Samantha found herself in Hook, the a little town of New Jersey, with some time to spare until a life defining meeting with her brother, Renner, the factory owner and biggest employer in town. When she walked into The Third Shift, the only real bar there, she was hoping to some distraction from her problems and to pass by as unnoticed as possible. A mission that revealed itself impossible in a town where everyone knew everybody and she stood out like a sore thumb. She sure drew attention, even from someone for whom a woman was the last thing on his mind.

Duke just wanted some peace and quiet to enjoy his Sport Center and beer away from the chaos his sisters had created in his house. Now that he was working as a factory repair mechanic after getting injured and retiring from the military, that was all he aimed for. He thought the Third Shift was that safe haven, but when an enticing and quirky brunette walked through the front door. He could not resist her, and his peace was from that moment on lost. In the best way!

These characters were simply extraordinary! But Duke, wow, he was in a league of his own. He was far from the typical romance novel hero, and that just made me (and Samantha) love him more. He was a true man's man! And she gives his perfect description.

**Mother Mary. There were men. And then there was Duke Crawford. He wasn't pretty or sculpted. Didn't have the kind of physique that would land him on the pages of a calendar or on a "hot bodies" board on Pinterest. No no. Duke was husky and covered in hair. A bear among mere cubs. His muscles were slabs she wouldn't be able to lift if they were separated into individual muscle packs. Muscle packs? You're losing it.**

Of course the chemistry was immediate, and hard for them to fight, but both had serious draw back when he came to relationships, not to their past love lives, but what they witnessed – in Duke's case-, and what they suffered – Samantha's heartbreak caused her stepfather.

Truth was that's what happened in relationships. One person inevitably let down the other. And he had too much respect for women to make one miserable on his account. Never. Happening. But their magnetism was impossible to overlook, and Duke fast realized that he wanted Sam more than anything in his life, that she was worth the fighting for. And there was no way in hell he would allow anyone

else to steal her from him.

**Christ, the girl busted a hole in his gut every time she looked his direction, and at the same time somehow patching up all the holes inflicted over the years.**

She created so many foreign and unexpected feelings in him, that the poor guy had no way how to react to those other than jumping the gun and making a life changing proposal. Samantha was as sweet, smart and creativity – which fitted well with her career as children's books illustrator -, she had a gentle soul, a quirky manner, and a no bound, overworking imagination that it was delightful to read about. All that and her personal brand of sassy really got Duke. She really brought his caveman nature to surface, or better yet, barbaric – like she imagined him sometimes – and it couldn't have been more delicious to see.

Like she soon discovered Duke was all growl and no true bite (unless she wanted, LOL) and behind his bear like appearance and vibe he was a sweet and gentle soul, a true marshmallow, that protected, cherished and cared for those he loved, more than he did for himself. A truly golden hearted soul.

**"You claim to be a commitment-phobe, but you're just a big imposter, aren't you? Even to yourself."**

A good soul with one insanely FILTHY MOUTH, we have to say! And let's take a moment here to discuss this IMPORTANT matter because, Sweet Baby Jesus!!!! Tessa Bailey always creates the best dirty talkers in this genre, but DUKE, oh Lordy, he really took it to a whole new level!!!

**"I'm going to wear your come all night, sweetheart. Right where it's meant to be. On my cock, like a badge of fucking honor. I'm going to run my hand over it when no one's looking, feel that dampness and remember the sweet pussy it came from."**

Tessa always gives us amazing sex scenes too, and these two were simply EXPLOSIVE! I honestly think this book should come with a special warning on that regard, because it sure isn't for the faint of heart, and hot flashes and tingling areas are most definitely guaranteed. So BEWARE!!!

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### **Erika says**

4.5 stars!

I LOVED Duke -- seriously loved this hero. He was gruff, super protective, generous to a fault, courageous, sexy, and super possessive! I liked that he wasn't your typical drop dead gorgeous hero. He was hairy and even had a small beer belly. :D

I loved Samantha too. She was quirky, intelligent and sweet.

I loved Duke and Samantha's romance.

This book had humor, smoking hot sex, sweet affection, tension and tenderness. Might have been a 5 star but I was very unhappy with how the Renner (Samantha's brother) storyline played out. He was a major dick who didn't seem to have any real affection for Samantha.

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## Jen says

### 4.25 Third Shift Stars

*“I feel like if I... break apart, I’ll be put back together differently. I don’t know.”*

*“What if I let you put me back together differently, too?”*

All Duke really wants out of life is a little peace and quiet at the end of the day. If he has to hang out at the local dive bar to escape a house full of divorced sisters, so be it. All hope of keeping his spare time uneventful vanishes the moment Samantha enters the bar. And during *Sportscenter*, no less. What’s a surly commitment-phobe to do when a pretty lady needs a little rescuing?

Sam isn’t looking to get hit on, she just needs to kill some time in tiny Hook, NJ until she has a chance to meet with her brother and explain a few things. Mainly, why she broke the engagement he was counting on her to keep for the sake of his business. She may be a little socially awkward but she can handle a couple of men flirting with her in a bar. So why is the giant of a man across the bar taking it upon himself to make her his business? And feed her late night egg sandwiches?

Duke and Sam are rarities not often found in the book romance world; they’re true to life people. Duke isn’t a ripped billionaire looking to impregnate a virgin, nor is he a manwhore hoping to hook up with a convenient vajayjay. He’s a factory mechanic with no plans to commit and he’s fabulous! I can’t remember the last time I read a story where the male protagonist didn’t feel completely confident in his ability to flirt with and seduce a woman. I gotta say, all of that confidence can get a little repetitive, which is why Duke was such a welcome change. He admits to rarely hooking up and his fumbling moves prove that to be the case. Not that he doesn’t fit the Tessa Bailey definition of a dirty talker to a tee.

*“Stop worrying about h-hurting me...you f-feel amazing.”*

*“That right?” Duke almost roared, turned on to an incredible degree. “So I don’t have to worry about you pouting all day tomorrow, because that big cock you’re riding made your pussy hurt?”*

*“No.” She shuddered on top of him. “Maybe.”*

I don’t think it’ll come as a shock to anyone who’s ever picked up a Tessa Bailey Entangled Brazen book that these two are smokin’ hot together. The chemistry between Duke and Samantha was immediate and the sexytimes scenes did not disappoint.

If I have a complaint, it’s that the story managed to drag a little towards the end. I would’ve appreciated more exploration into the commitment issues both Duke and Sam were dealing with. Yes, I realize these books aren’t made to delve deep but both characters, especially Duke, seemed to recover from their commitment aversions in the blink of an eye. I wasn’t necessarily feeling the insta-love.

Tessa Bailey has become a go to author for me when I need a hot and engaging read. *Worked Up* most definitely checked those boxes and while I’m not sure if the *Made in Jersey* series has plans to continue, I wouldn’t mind some future Duke and Sam updates. Who do I talk to about that, anyway?

*ARC provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review*

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### **Cyndi says**

I truly enjoyed this book! Duke was an amazing hero! Not only had he been celibate for what seemed like a long time, but he was thoughtful and sweet and took care of everyone! Sam was a good heroine- kind and funny, but I didn't like her pushing Duke away. They had great rapport and their steamy times were hot, hot, hot! I will definitely read this one again!

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

Duke Crawford, a factory mechanic, shares his home with his three divorced sisters. He doesn't date, hell he really doesn't have time for women at all. He just wants to sit at home and enjoy SportsCenter in peace. You see Duke is a bit of a commitment phobe. That is until Samantha Waverly walks into Third Shift, and suddenly SportsCenter is overrated. Thing is, Sam is a bit of a commitment phobe herself. Can two people so against "forever" find it in each other?

**"Are you on a five-way text with them?" "Yes. Biggest mistake of my life." He pulled out onto the dark street, hitting the blinker and turning right. "It's like the mafia, these group texts. Once you're in, you're in for life."**

**"He had four broken-hearted sisters living in his house, each with their own personal ex-husband voodoo doll."**

GAAAAHHH....Where do I even start with this review. This was by FAR my ABSOLUTE favorite of the series. Sam ran circles around the heroines of the first two books. She was FUNNY and ENDEARING and not for even ONE second annoying. I'm straight up in love with Samantha.

**"All I know is I overhead Luanne calling Old News's songs 'panty droppers' in one of the most traumatic moments of my life." He sauntered forward, boots thudding on the porch. "So I'm coming, sweetheart. Because your panties aren't dropping unless I make them."**

**"Mother Mary. There were men. And then there was Duke Crawford. He wasn't pretty or sculpted. Didn't have the kind of physique that would land him on the pages of a calendar or on a "hot bodies" board on Pinterest. No no. Duke was husky and covered in hair. A bear among mere cubs"**

Duke...Where do I even start. I loved Duke in all his dirty talking, hairy, goliath, glory. He was a PERFECT hero. He was sweet, but still held onto his "alpha-ness" He wasn't a man-whore in the least. He was a gentle giant with a heart of gold.

**"Those are things you need to be sure about, sweetheart. My mouth finding yours for a kiss, no matter the audience. Chasing away men who think they're worthy of your puns."**

Watching these two fall in love was EPIC. By FAR and AWAY the best couple of the series so far. I laughed and cried. I wore a smile a mile wide. I was sad when it ended and I wanted more. My curiosity was also piqued by a certain pairing that I hope (Lord do I HOPE) will be coming our way soon. Two HUGE thumbs up for this one from yours truly...

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**Elizabeth says**

**"He was completely lost for this woman."**

**Worked Up** is the third book in the Made in Jersey Series. Although it can be read as a stand-alone, the characters are interconnected throughout the series. Tessa Bailey is steaming up Kindles everywhere once again with this smoking hot romance that will certainly get you **Worked Up**.

Duke Crawford is the town "big guy" who takes care of his four sisters, loves to throw back a cold one at the local bar, and lives for sports center. He is a bit of a relationship phobe who is driven to work hard and live life to its fullest without saddling himself to one woman. When Samantha Waverly rolls into town, she flips his plan completely upside down!

**"Yeah. Tonight, she'd set herself up for a fall."**

**"The ownership in his eyes, the way he'd touched her...there must have been a small, long-denied piece of Samantha that craved the chance to belong to someone, as sure as they belonged to her."**

Samantha rolls into town with one purpose and Duke Crawford wasn't exactly what she had in mind. When Duke offers to help her out, there is an instant connection between the two. Samantha is more than concerned about getting tied up with anyone. She has worked hard to protect herself, but considering her current dilemma, Duke might just be the answer to all of her worries. When Duke and Samantha come together, the chemistry is sizzling, and when the emotional connection is made, they both are terrified! Duke will do anything to convince Samantha that she is made for him!

**"If it does hurt in the morning, I'll find somewhere private to cup you in my hand. Right where it's sore. I'll apologize and give you a nice, easy rub. Kiss the sexy mouth that took**

me to the throat.”

“Church, work, restaurants, up the pathway to the house. I’m going to hold an umbrella over your head when it’s raining. I’m going to carry you when you’re sick. Carry your sketchbooks, too. I’ll do that for my sweetheart. I’ll do everything.”

Told in dual POV, **Worked Up** is a passionate sexy romance with endearing characters and a heartwarming plot. Duke is one of my favorite characters from the series, and it was quite a treat to witness him finally meeting his match. Samantha is a vibrant heroine, and her awkward, quirky actions were laugh out loud funny! The supporting characters continue to enhance this small town and keep me coming back for more!

Overall, **Worked Up** is another winning read from Tessa Bailey. If you are looking for a smoking hot romance with amazing characters and an endearing plot, look no further because Duke and Samantha deliver quite a treat! I look forward to many more Tessa Bailey greatness to come!

\*\*\*Made in Jersey\*\*\*

**\*An ARC was generously provided by the author in exchange for an honest review. ARC won in Shh.. Summer Buzz Book Event 2016!**

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**Amanda says**

**5 'freaking hot' stars**

With the overwhelming number of romance I read throughout the years, honestly, reading sex scenes can sometimes be a chore \*gasp\*, they can be so methodical, or they just sorta blend together like any Tom, Dick and Harry. But in **Worked Up**, I am thoroughly *worked up*. Forget wet panties, I’m so freaking **aroused** and **horny** that I want to jump my husband who is snoring away next to me.

First of all **Duke Crawford** is the man. I’m sure he is not everyone cup of beverage, but he is totally mine. He isn’t the stereotypical hero with the chiseled jaw, hair shorter at the side, longer on top, six pack abs, filthy rich, manwore with a tortured past. *Yawn*. Duke is freaking normal. He is a small town factory mechanic who live with his five divorced sisters. His appearance was described as something resembling a grizzly bear and he don’t bother with hook up. He sounds like a total *unicorn* in the romance world.

**Duke** is a self proclaimed commitment phobic, but full of commitment, to his job, his sisters and his friend. *Ironic, isn’t he?* He also has this white knight complex that he can’t help himself but to save the damsel in distress, or in this case, help out the new in town, **Samantha**, even if to get her a late night sandwich.

**Samantha Waverly** only plan to make a pit stop at the small town in New Jersey to meet up with her stepbrother to discuss on her business plan and broken engagement. What she didn't plan is to meet up with the big and gruff Duke, who was set on to hover over her every step. The man is freaking annoying and adorable at the same time.

I love love Duke and Samantha together and I would totally plan a threesome together with them. Duke is super cute with his manly appearance, gruff attitude, a total alpha male in the bedroom but with hint of vulnerability towards his own status. He is such a good man at heart that he finds fault in himself even before he does anything wrong.

Truthfully, this should feel very insta-love when I think about the length of the time they spent together. But when I was reading it, I don't feel it at all. Even during their first day of meeting, I'm dying for their first kiss. I'm so freaking aroused by their simmering sexual tension that I wanted them to go horizontal or vertical asap. And on their next day, I'm rooting for them to get married and start making babies together. That's how invested I am with their whirlwind romance.

Despite the short page length, things doesn't feel easy or simply. In fact, there is a good character development, a little angst, a lot of love and hotness in one short book. I'm totally sold.

p/s: Is it me or is Tessa Bailey planning a M/M for Renner and Milo. I think I might self combust thinking about the possibilities.

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### **Michelle says**

*ARC provided by publisher in exchange for an honest review*

*Oh, Duke Crawford!!!!* Tessa Bailey, you have truly outdone yourself with this sweet, sexy and scorching hot installment of the *Made In Jersey Series*. **Worked Up** was a gem of a read. Why? It's simple. There were no billionaires, actor, athlete, or cocky alpha hero. But there was Duke Crawford, a factory mechanic. Yes, a factory mechanic, a blue collar worker is your leading hero. So thank you, Tessa Bailey for writing a story that is about ordinary and real working class people, who doesn't need to be dined at five star restaurant but instead a simple egg sandwich can be the food to the heart.

**Worked Up** is a story of heart, grit, raw emotions, and love. This is a story of two strangers. A girl from Manhattan, New York and a small-town boy from Hook, New Jersey. This is a story where two people who came from two different walks of life but had one thing in common. LOVE. Duke Crawford didn't need much to impress Samantha because he found a way to win her heart with his Goliath stature and his amazing egg sandwiches. But in all honesty, Duke is the true hero of this story. His kindness, honesty, vulnerability, and unyielding love for Samantha was beautiful. It was real and had me worked up begging and craving for more of Duke Crawford.

Tessa Bailey worked her brazen junkie magic on her readers as she wrote a story that was real, honest, and simple. I love getting lost in a story where the two main characters chemistry are felt throughout the pages.

Bailey paints a story where taking chances, hard work, and trust is the fundamental backbone in this love story. And for this Goliath man called Duke Crawford, he was able to win his woman not from brawn but with unyielding raw love. So if you are ready to meet Duke and the people of Hook, New Jersey then I would recommend you to go read and fall in love with a real love story where trust, hard work, and maybe an egg sandwich can be the key to a happily ever after.

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*Review can also be found on Four Chicks Flipping Pages: <http://fourchicksflippingpages.weebly.com>...Tessa Bailey*

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### **Soonya says**

Really liked the hero in this one.

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### **Coco.V says**

Once again Tessa Bailey delivered a wonderful, steamy read with lovable characters and a story that keeps you wanting more. Her books never fail to bring me happiness! And this one was no exception.

Worked Up follows the story of Duke Crawford and Samantha Waverly. Ex-military Duke is a factory machinery mechanic working for Samantha's stepbrother, Renner. He's living with his four divorcee sisters and his only guilty pleasure is watching SportsCenter in peace. But taking care of his siblings doesn't allow him so much peace. There are only a handful of certainties in Duke's life. One, baseball. Two, his tools, grease and working with his hands. Three, barbecuing on summer Saturdays. Four, He doesn't have any use for women, romantically speaking. But after meeting Sam at a local bar, there is one more certainty throwing to the mix, this wasn't going to be the last time he saw her.

Samantha is a children's book illustrator and lives in Manhattan. Sam loved her job and drawing filled every corner of her life. A broken promise made to her sibling, brought her to the little town of Hook, New Jersey. She's only there for the week-end to salvage the project she had been working on since college...her passion project. When Sam ventures into The Third Shift bar, she isn't prepare to catch the attention of a huge, rough and gruff Goliath of a man. She cannot help to draw idea of him, picturing him as a gladiator, a superhero, a warrior or a captain of a ship.

Soon, Duke and Sam are good and stuck. Their insta-attraction is so strong they both can't fight it, making them lose it. Whether he likes it or not, Sam awakes a raw possessiveness in Duke, a desire to protect her, a certified addiction to this woman. For Sam, her personal life had always played second fiddle to her career. She'd never stopped to consider the possibility of having both, without having to commit full time to the former. When Duke finds out the reason why Sam is so reluctant to meet with her brother, he comes up with the perfect solution to her situation. They should get married. Just a simple arrangement, a marriage of convenience with no strings attached between two big commitment phobes.

Duke and Sam's story was highly enjoyable and I loved them together. Sam is the perfect match for Duke.

She's the yin to his yang. I also liked Samantha a lot. She's strong yet vulnerable, quirky and sassy all wrapped up in a beautiful package. And the banter between the leads is just delightful.

The chemistry between these two sizzles and burns in the most delicious ways. The sex scenes are flawlessly and tastefully written. Loved Duke and his dirty talking. He's not your typical sexy book boyfriend, hot but not handsome man, an ordinary blue-collar leaving a simple life. And I did like the alpha-male qualities of this perfect imperfect hero. He's protective, possessive and ready to claim ownership of the heroine. Duke says and does all the naughty, over the top things I come to love in the world of romance. Each time I read one of Tessa Bailey's stories I know she'll make me swoon and lust after her male character.

***"We're going to fuck tonight. Your bed. Mine. On the floor. In the shower. Against the window. All. Goddamn. Night. You're going to know me from every angle when the sun comes up over New Jersey tomorrow."***

***"Go on, sweetheart...Tell them my name. Loud enough for them to remember it and tell the stories to their friends at breakfast. About the girl in the next room getting it so hard, they had to call security."***

I truly loved this sexy and believable story! If a well-written, steamy, fun and feel-good love story with strong and relatable characters is your thing, look no further. Oh and let's not forget the totally great supporting characters. :)

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**Lana ✨Dirty Girl Romance✨ says**

**4 #PMB Stars**

***"We're going to fuck tonight. Your bed. Mine. On the floor. In the shower. Against the window. All. Goddamn. Night. You're going to know me from every angle when the sun comes up over New Jersey tomorrow."***

Sweet.

Baby.

Jebus.

\*pervy shudder\*

I mean for the love of my ovaries! Holy cock this book was freaking hot! HOT I tells ya! Hands down my absolute favorite book in the series. #PMB for the win!

Firstly, I need to give Tessa props. Because let me tell you, people, it takes skill to take a man that's the size of a mountain with the beard and temperament of a mountain man, NOT have him be the typical ripped hero, give him a deliciously hairy chest, even a little bit of a beer belly, slap a dirty mouth on him, and have him turn out to be one of my favorite Tessa Bailey heroes to date. And considering I've read the woman's entire backlist, that's saying something mkay?! And the best part? Even though he wasn't the stereotypical romance hero with the ripped abs, he was still sexier than most of the ones I've read. Seriously. And his dirty mouth only had 1/8th to do with that.

*That's Duke's clit between your thighs, Samantha. No one touches that clit but Duke. You need it polished, teased, banged, or just plain slapped, who's the one you call? Be a good girl when you answer and I'll kiss it again later."*

See what I mean? Rarrrr!

But I digress. So back to the book. We've gotten to know Duke in Thrown Down as the poor man stuck with 4 divorced sisters and no time to himself for even 5 minutes of sports center. He doesn't talk much. He doesn't date much. And he's not exactly looking to add a woman into the mix when his 4 hellion sisters give him enough estrogen to choke a man twice his size. But then he walks into a bar and sees a gorgeous newcomer and sparks fly...

*She had him at the first pun*

Samantha Waverly is a children's book illustrator that's hoping to finally make her business dream come true. Only thing standing between her and her dream? A ridiculous addendum put into her loan contract by her brother, Renner, that requires her to be married. Le sigh. What's a girl to do? Take up the sexy mountain man on his offer for a marriage of convenience, of course! Doesn't hurt that he's possessive and a freaking rock star in bed that makes her body sing, right?

*You're going to have no doubt how much I appreciate being allowed to squeeze myself into your body. If I ever think you're unsure, my tongue will service you between the legs until there's no question. Until you scream the doubt free, along with my name.*

Yeah.

As I was saying....

But this book was so much more than what that synopsis implies. Sure there was a heavy dose of insta in play, but it totally worked for these characters. I adored Sam and her quirky personality. Each time she pulled out another cheesy pun, I liked her even more. As for Duke? Hello? Did you miss all my pervy praising on all things Duke previously? Pay attention dammit!

We also got a little peek into Renner and the man that just may have caught the ruthless business man's attention (le gasp). I'm pretty sure I'd part with an ovary to get my hands on that book already.

After being slightly disappointed by the previous two books in this series, I wasn't sure what to expect with this one. I'm beyond happy I gave it a chance because I seriously loved it! It was swoony, entertaining, and sexy as all get out. The perfect read to spend a steamy afternoon with!

*I don't want to be another responsibility to you.  
Let me be the place you lose yourself instead."*

*ARC courtesy of publisher in exchange for an honest review*

**Find me on:**

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## **Barbara? says**

### **\*\*5 Presumptuous Stars\*\***

Duke, a machine mechanic in the local factory was minding his own business watching the game in a bar. Samantha is an illustrator of children's books. She's in town to meet with her brother and goes to the bar to have a drink. The two meet and sparks fly.

I think I smiled the entire time I read this book. It just gave me all kinds of feel goods. It was sweet, funny and hot.

Duke is a great hero. He is always fixing something or helping others. He's a big growling bear who has no time for women or commitment. He was also that dirty-talker I love.

"I'm going to wear your come all night, sweetheart. Right where it's meant to be. On my cock, like a badge of fucking honor. I'm going to run my hand over it when no one's looking, feel that dampness and remember the sweet pussy it came from."

Samantha is the type of heroine I love. She was kind of nerdy and quirky. She's all the time "seeing" things in her mind and she draws them. She draws Duke as Goliath, a sea captain, and my favorite, a warrior. She seemed to have a sweet gentle nature. She had her own issues with commitment and the reason made me sad. But Duke won't let her go.

They were such a great couple together and they just fit. And I'm wondering...do we get a story of Renner and Milo?? I'll be anxiously awaiting...

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