



High Stakes

Nikki Groom

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High Stakes is the conclusion to The Kingdom Series. It is not a stand alone. Holding Aces is book 1 and should be read first.

Nothing lasts forever....

Arianna Fraser knew it was a too good to be true. With her ex-boyfriend still threatening to destroy her, Arianna and Denham King have to fight harder than ever to battle the odds. But when danger closes in and everything she loves is on the line, it's up to Arianna to make the ultimate sacrifice to save those that mean the most to her. She must choose between what she wants and what she loves. A choice no woman should ever have to make. Unless Arianna can find a way to have both.

High Stakes Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Nikki Groom

Format :

Genre : Novels, Contemporary

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From Reader Review High Stakes for online ebook

Jen says

So High Stakes picks up right where the first book left off with Jonny in the room with Ari. The drama from that meeting carries on throughout the rest of the book. We learn more about Denham's protective side since he has had to play that role for his family ever since his father died. Unsure as to who's past is beginning to haunt them, Ari and Denham's relationship is put to the test. There are a few twists and turns, strange things begin to happen And Ari is forced to make a difficult decision, with the stakes high, does she stay and fight or run?

I really enjoyed the wrap-up of Ari and Denham's story. There were a few times where I was wanting to shake her And make her tell Denham some things instead of trying to take care of it on her own. It's no secret that Jonny is not a good guy in this story. I was very happy with the karma that came around for him. I really hope that Nikki gives Spike and Lottie and Tara their own books. With the things they had to go through I really want them to get their happy endings.

***An advance reading copy of High Stakes by Nikki Groom was generously provided to me in exchange for an honest review.

Michelle says

Arianna and Denham's story continues in book two of the Kingdom Series. She's told Denham the secrets of her past, of the abuse, of the ex that she ran from. But there are some things you can't protect someone from. There are times when you are too blind to all the players in the game to catch the bluff and time when even a man like Denham King can't always save the day. But one thing is certain. He's falling for his stunner, for the girl that might just be nothing but trouble. But in the game of life, she's worth every gamble.

Oh, Denham King. He lacked the asshole gene that I typically crave in my heroes, but he made up for it with the sweet bits and the times he let his caveman show. However, Arianna grated on my nerves. There were so many times I wanted to scream at her to open her mouth and just tell Denham things, things that might have changed the game. But in the end, I don't think all the pieces would have fallen into place the way they did, had she been more honest.

I was surprised by the shift in the plot. Part of the twist was predictable, but just a small sliver of it... the rest of it came out of left field and really made the story in the end. The way this book ends makes me wonder what lies in the future. Will Lottie and Spike get a spin off? Will Tara grow up a bit and get a chance at her own story? I really hope so.

Images coming soon

Kim Duncan says

Ok so where do I start???? Let me just say this book made me wanna slap my mama! Twice! Mrs. Groom just has a way with her characters that makes you believe she is one of the characters in her book. I finished this book in about 3 hrs. That's how good it kept me hooked.

Ok so this book picks up where Holding Aces left off with Ari alone in the room with Jonny. Out of the 2 this is probably my favorite. There is just so much more going on. Ari is still coming terms with what happened but doesn't let it rule her life in this book. She takes more chances and we really get to see how she "rises from ashes" if you will. And Denham? Oh sweet baby Jesus. I just love him! He takes what he wants, and what he wants is Ari and he will have her. Denham is so sweet and caring but total Alpha male when he needs to be without being all possessive and you just wish you could have your own Denham.

So in this book, the main focus Jonny and the steps Denham takes to protect Ari whether she likes it or not. We see more of Amy (grade A b**ch), We meet Mrs. King and let me just say I love her, Aaron makes a surprising visit and finally Jonny. Jonny made me wanna go get ax and chop him to little bitty bits!! ok insane moment over, sorry lol. Anywho, Ari stays strong thru everything going on even though she just wants to run away and hide. But she stays bc of Denham and she's just simply tired. The ending just made me want to cry and do a happy dance all at the same time. I won't say much more bc I don't wanna ruin the book but I will say you won't regret buying this book! I hope Spike and Lottie get to have their own book after all that's happened bc they deserve it! Oh and I hope Tara gets one too!

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Jo says

4.5 stars

Tears in my eyes?

Sense of completion and ending?

Needing a story for the side characters?

Yes. Yes. And HELL YES.

This sequel in the series was heart warming, heart shattering, breath holdingly (yeah, this review needs a made up word!) amazing!

Holding Aces left us holding our breath! Thank goodness I had High Stakes to delve and dive straight into and what a book!

The premise of the story is very insta-love but both characters had such upsetting pasts that you needed them to find one another and heal together and live for the day as one.

I adored all of the characters. From Arianna's loud mouthed bestie, Lottie, to Denham's right hand man, Jack and back again to their exes, Jonny and Amy. That's right. I liked the exes. They played their parts perfectly and I loved to hate them. I lived to hate them.

Fighting for their love was never going to be easy but my goodness what a TWIST at 80%. The last 20% of the book had me guessing and coming up wrong at each turn. This is the point where it became edge of the seat, nail biting kind of good.

I won't lie. I shed tears. I felt anger. I was dejected and low. But I also experienced highs and smiles and a soaring heart. But that ending? Mixed feelings. I can't help but feel the King family hasn't had their perfect ending. Dennam, yes. Tara and Spike, definitely not. Please, Nikki, write their books too! And Little But Loud Lottie, *sobs* bless her poor heart.

Read these books, you won't regret it!

She's the Queen of his heart.
He's the King of her love.
They're an army of two.

Badass Bloggettes says

What can I say about this second book in the Kingdom Series except WOW.

I was so anxious to get this book, Holding Aces Nikki's first book to me was amazing, so breathtaking and well written, and it kept you on your toes and wanting more. Well High Stakes, gives you that and so much more. I can honestly say I was blown away but this second book, the way it has been written was brilliant, careful and very well thought out.

So we leave off in Holding Aces where Arianna's past (Jonny) has come back to haunt her and he induces her with something to knock her out. I was desperate to see where this was going and to see how things transpired for Ari and Denham as well as Jonny. I think I can safely say that everyone who read Holding Aces was a stunned as I was at the end and desperate to find out if Denham comes out as Ari's knight in shining armour, well I know I was.

So we know Jonny is evil just by what we have read before but it is not until this book until we find out exactly how evil and twisted he is. The way he is portrayed in this book shows just how good a writer Nikki is, the description on how he treats Ari is amazing. You can just see it all in your mind's eye. *"You're mine. You'll always be mine."* His voice is controlled. Calculated. His words fade with every second that passes. *"You'll come back to me, I own you. You'll see"*. This to me show how pure evil Jonny is

Things take a strange direction with Jonny that many people may not think will happen, what is Jonny's plan, why does he do what he does.

Ari is strong, she is a fighter and getting more assertive as she grows with Denham and grow to love and trust him. Denham also needs to get things off his chest, he needs to deal with his deamons and together they believe they can do this. “Well then. That’s settled, we carry on as normal. I want to work, I want to go out for coffee with my mom and your mom, I will not hide away like a timid little mouse any longer, if it means I am free for fifty days or fifty years I am going to make each moment count”

When I read this statement from Ari, I just fist pumped the air and said out loud **“YOU GO GIRL”** I loved how she got her mojo right there knowing what she wanted and going for it.

Denham is the King and Ari is his queen, he shows her with his actions just how much he wants to protect her and keep her safe which she loves although she still want to have her own freedom to get her life back together and see where her future will go.

Lottie and Spike appear again in this book and you got to love Lottie, she say’s what she thinks and it is so refreshing, she is amazing and Spike just adores her as does Denham and Ari and even Denham’s mom. We are introduced to Dana Denham and Spike’s mom and she is amazing, so down to earth she is lovely, I loved her straight away.

I would love to say that things are all plain sailing for both Denham and Ari but they don’t, Jonny still lingers and makes things more difficult for both Denham and Ari, he seems to appear everywhere and causes stress and problems for Ari, these two have a lot of trials and tribulations ahead of them, the thing is do they survive or not that is something you will need to find out for yourself when you read the book.

There are some moments in this book where you will go , **“WTH” and “OMG”** it is that good but I promise you, this book will not be a disappointment to anyone who reads it.

Helen Stothard says

There were so many twists in this one I've got whiplash from trying to keep up. The times I wanted to slap that stupid girl, but had to keep reminding myself she really didn't know any better.

She's an incredibly strong character, and whilst at times her actions were uncomfortably predictable, I did have a soft spot for her.

Good supporting characters, interesting plot and a bad guy you really hate. Enjoyable read.

Sheena Lumsden says

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Mandy says

SO my opinion is a little biased since I was contracted to help edit this one, but I don't take on clients that I can't believe in. Nikki Groom is an author I believe in. She has true storyteller talent. High Stakes was a beautiful conclusion to The Kingdom series and I enjoyed reading it immensely. Even before edits were done

and that is saying something. I cannot stand errors and mediocre books. High Stakes has drama, action, romance, friendship, laughs and the sexy times with Mr. Denham King. I love that man! His character is not your typical a-hole. He's a good guy and his protective streak makes me swoon every time. The market is saturated with new authors, but I truly believe that Nikki Groom is an author worth reading. I am proud to have had the opportunity to work on High Stakes and I am excited for others to experience it!

Sammy ?? says

For a first series this was good. I just had a few issues. It felt like a few books I'd read before mixing together to make this story drama packed. It's also felt quite predictable.

Gwen ~the Book Diva says

4.5 stars! I have a huge crush on Denham King! A sexy alpha. High Stakes was a great follow up book to Holding Aces.. I loved the world that Nikki Groom has created. I could visualize every and feel all the emotions. The Kingdom was even a character in the story. It represented so many things, not just a hotel but a life. I think I held my breathe the last 20%. Too good! I am a huge fan! I'm hoping for spin offs. *fingers* crossed!

Cath says

Not a bad series for a debut but as my book buddy Sam said "it's like 10 books we've already read before rolled into 1". The constant use of her being called "Stunner" and "Trouble" irritated me. I'm not a big fan of pet names unless it's Babe or Darlin'! But it was ok.....

Christie«SHBBblogger» says

[Yes (hide spoiler)]

Rhonda says

Amazing!

I was given an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review. I will be purchasing my own copy of this book as I must have it added to my library!

I love a book with mystery & romance!! My heart rate was up through 90+% of this book. I think I fell in love with Denham all over again!!!

Love & life is a gamble. This sequel to Holding Aces shows us the gamble that Denham & Ari deal with for

their love as her past & his past attempt to tear them apart. Ari has an ex-fiance that abused her & an ex-husband that hit her. Her trust is minimal & her belief in herself is even less. Denham's is holding his family & business after the death of his father. His ex-girlfriend is a real nasty thing & likes to cause trouble for them. Together, Ari & Denham are stronger & can have that winning hand.

The story begins with the cliffhanger from *Holding Aces* with Ari being tormented by ??? My heart is so heavy for this girl & what she is going through & has gone through. She just cannot catch a break. Nikki brings you many twists & turns for her & Denham.

The writing in this book is done so well that you find yourself with feelings for all of the characters & leaves you wanting more. Thank goodness for imagination because if this truly is the final book in this series I can imagine what all of the characters are doing now. If Nikki should decide to bring us more, I will be one of the first to add it to my TBR list.

Keep your eyes peeled Nikki Groom is an author to watch.

***kawehi.reviews says**

? I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!! ?

High Stakes concludes the story of Denham and Arianna. With outside forces targeting the both of them and spinning a deadly game of cat and mouse, both Denham and Arianna must face their biggest hurdle yet as devious exes, secrets, deceit, tricky business transactions and espionage, revelations, and blackmail come into light and are determined to split the two of them apart!!

Two things are for certain before this book is over: stakes and tensions will rise and bloodshed will be spilled.

Who's will it be? And will Denham and Arianna ever get the happily ever after they so desperately crave?

Well readers, be prepared for a bumpy read as we come to the tumultuous conclusion of "Ariham"!! Author Nikki Groom, you better consider writing a spin off with Lottie and Spike's story woman!! Omigah, me feels!

Chris- Bookaddict says

Full review to come
