



Nothing Personal

Rosalind James

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When you wish upon a star . . .

Alec Kincaid has never met the obstacle he couldn't overcome—or the woman who could resist him. And it's not going to happen now, not with his star shining more brightly than ever in the high-stakes arena of San Francisco's software industry.

Desiree Harlin doesn't believe in fairy tales, and she doesn't waste time wishing. She's learned the hard way that dreams don't come true. And with her reputation and hard-won security on the line, succumbing to temptation isn't an option.

But not everyone is what they appear to be, and even stars sometimes fall.

Nothing Personal Details

Date : Published October 18th 2013 (first published October 16th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Rosalind James

Format : ebook

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review Nothing Personal for online ebook

Kim says

The book was well written. There were some truths about the tech industry and what douche bags the men in that industry can be (probably goes for a lot of other industries, too). I liked the heroine, but didn't like how she so easily compromised one of her major principles. I didn't like the hero at all - a VERY recently reformed manwhore who admitted he took what he could get when a woman offered it and didn't have any problem flaunting it in his preacher father's face. He seemed overprivileged and just kind of jerky. I guess all of the expensive dinners and whatever were supposed to be romantic, but it seemed like he was trying too hard and probably something he did with all of his other women - too smarmy. The mystery/suspense part of this seemed odd and not so necessary. And the "set up" seemed way too convoluted, but was supposed to prove how intelligent Rae was. I don't know. Maybe I was just in the wrong frame of mind for this and I do have issues with a manwhore hero. I'd kind of like to read the first in the series about his brother Gabe, but I know it will have Alec in it and I don't want to read about him anymore. I might pick up the third one about their sister, though.

Ruth says

Totally different feel than book 1, but still a winner. The audio was fantastic and added to the story. Can't wait to read more.

books are love says

This was a fun book. Alec started out to me a little cocky and overbearing but you see that you can't judge a book by its cover when it comes to him. He is really a sweet, respectful kind guy who is really starting to want to find someone to be with. His partners in the business are fun to a point. Although we see that not all is as it seems there as well.

Desiree or Rae as she now likes is stubborn and determined. A go get um woman who has succeeded in a world that not many before her have. She is independent and a wee bit frustrating at times. needs to learn to go with the flow with things. Sometimes its easier to just be and let things ride themselves out than attack it full force.

the story of these two is a fun one. I love how Rae keeps Alec at bay and he keeps trying. He's like the energizer bunny he keeps going and going. When it finally explodes its wonderful to see.

There is a bit of intrigue as well. What I don't get is why though? Why risk everything for something so insignificant? But the Rae and Alec story overshadows this and lets you see that love is worth the risk.

A nice book to curl up when it is raining and get lost in.

KB Wayne says

3.5 stars

(not so much a review, more an impression)

I am just so happy Rosalind James writes. I've now read many books by her (the two [thus far] in her Kincaid series and the five in her Escape to New Zealand series) and I am always left with the same takeaway: she writes modern romance with smart, strong, independent, scared, imperfect, dependent women -- *real* women. As a smart, strong, independent, scared, imperfect, dependent woman myself, I like that. No, I *love* that. I love that the women in her stories aren't unable to tie their own shoelaces, that none of them play the "damsel in distress" card, that none of them make the reader roll their eyes and think "idiot." I love that none of the women in her stories need to be rescued or saved by a man. The men may help, the men may love, the men may caretake, but even without the men the women will ultimately be okay. I love that the women in her stories have hurts and fears which may color some of their behaviors. I love that the women in her stories work hard at being honest with themselves as well as with their male paramours -- they are neither manipulative nor deceptive.

I love that Rosalind James doesn't pander to her readers. I love that she writes (mostly) coherently (I do have a nit with how she incorrectly uses quotation marks [she uses an end quote even though the next paragraph starts with the same character still speaking -- every time it takes me a moment to realize "ah, same person *still* speaking" which would've been indicated to the reader by using quotation marks correctly] but that is *so* minor compared to what else is being self-published these days!), using appropriate language but never feeling the need to show off how smart she is (you know how some authors get a bit precious about their linguistic prowess ...). I enjoy how thoroughly we are enmeshed in the subject matter -- the author clearly does her research but it never reads as dry or like an educational tome.

So when she releases a new book I gladly purchase and read it.

Now about "Nothing Personal": while it wasn't my favorite of her books I still quite liked it. I happened to prefer the first in this series ("Welcome to Paradise") but that may have had more to do with the setting and how captivated I was by "Welcome to Paradise"'s historical mission and its quirky cast of characters.

Rae (nee Desiree) Harlin is a thirty-one year-old MBA, terrific with logistics, a real self-starter and self-made in every sense of the word. Alec Kincaid, thirty-three, is a tech wunderkind working on his next (hopefully successful) start-up; he and his long-time tech partner, Joe, appeal to a VC for funding. They'll receive the funding with the caveat that the VC will choose the CFO, and their choice is Rae. And so it goes.

We know nothing about Rae's previous love life, but we do learn she comes from very humble beginnings and put herself through undergrad and grad school by a lot of hard work, as in waitressing jobs. We know that Alec is a twin (his brother, Gabe, is the male lead in "Welcome to Paradise") and very successful with women, as in sex partners but no dating, no relationships. Even though Rae might not be traditionally gorgeous or sexy, she is uber-smart and capable, and for Alec, those add greatly to Rae's sex appeal.

This is a dialogue-heavy book (another thing I adore!), so through both professional and personal conversations we learn about the characters as well as watch their attraction develop and grow. We also were given interesting insight into Rae and Alec by the author's detailed descriptions of their respective homes' interiors and their reactions to the other's home -- I thought it was a subtle and unique way for us to learn

more about Rae and Alec. I liked that.

It feels to this reader that the Escape to New Zealand series is steamier, sexier than this series; this series (the Kincaids) seems more romance-driven than sex. There's some fun sex but it didn't feel like as much as in the New Zealand books. Or maybe I'm getting sex-jaded ... ha ha.

And, because there always has to be majuscule-t Tension, there was a subplot involving corporate espionage (which made me think of Elisabeth Naughton's wonderful "Wait For Me"] -- if you enjoyed "Nothing Personal" definitely check "Wait For Me" out!). But I was so happy that the Tension was not about a miscommunication between Rae and Alec -- you know the kind that has you pulling out your hair in other stories, thinking "this is so immature and unrealistic!" Again, I loved that Rae and Alec were a team, felt confident in one another's affections, and worked together both at work and at home.

So even though this wasn't my favorite story (in all fairness, earlier this century I was a VC and my husband had a start-up in Silicon Valley, so maybe it was too close to home for me?), I did still really enjoy it. I loved the characters, how adult and real they are, I loved all the dialogue, and I just love the author's imagination, research, writing. I've written it before and I'll write it again: Rosalind James writes romances for smart, interested, interesting, strong, real readers. Yea!

Sara Carver says

Just as good as book one

This book was good. I really liked the first book so I decided to read this one, now I am going to read book three!

Lea says

I loved this book! In fact I loved, Loved, LOVED this book! I really didn't think that Alec's story could possibly be as good as Gabe and Mira's but I was wrong (I'm sorry Ms. James I'll never doubt you again!). This may be my new favorite by Ms. James (though they are all wonderful, I have not read one that I didn't enjoy and re-read multiple times) and I've already read it twice.

Alec is a Silicon Valley genius with a new start-up and the backers have decided they want "adult supervision", enter Desirée (Rae) Harlin. The chemistry between these two is pretty hot and I really enjoyed watching them try to fight their attraction. I loved how the relationship developed between these two, watching them get to know each other and explore their past (they knew each other when they were younger but were not close). Another thing I really enjoyed was watching them interact with their families. There is a scene between Alec and Gabe about stoves and knowing they're hot without having to touch them that made me smile, there's nothing quite like a little brother looking for payback (cause 10 minutes younger is still younger). The only thing that could have made this book better would have been more Stanley (because all books need more Stanley and if you want to know what I mean you'll just have to read Welcome to Paradise) but since I have no idea where you could have put him I guess I'll live without. The suspense element in this book was really good and not too predictable (it was a small group; there were only so many possible suspects). And as I have come to expect from Ms. James the sex was well written and very hot. Yes you have to wait to the second half of the book but that just allows the tension to build and the characters to

get to know each other.

I loved this book, love this series and I can't wait for more!!

Kathleen says

In Welcome To Paradise, the first book in The Kincaids series, the reader was briefly introduced to Alec Kincaid, Gabe's playboy twin brother. Now author Rosalind James gives her readers a treat in Nothing Personal, which continues the Kincaid boys story with the focus on Alec. Alec is a software developer from San Francisco, who is working on his latest start-up venture. When he seeks funding from a venture capital company, the deal is contingent upon their insistence of naming Desiree Harlin as CFO of the new company. Can these two independent business people keep their professional relationship strictly nothing personal?

Just when I thought author Rosalind James couldn't top her awesome Escape To New Zealand series, she goes and proves me wrong with The Kincaids series. I was a goner for Gabe and Mira's very sigh worthy steamy romance in Welcome To Paradise, so I anticipated more of the same for Alec and Desiree ("Rae") in Nothing Personal, and I can most definitely say that I wasn't disappointed!

You can't help but get drawn into Alec and Rae's story: they're both independent, intelligent, strong career-minded people; he's got a reputation for being a player, while she is a no-nonsense type of woman and a non-believer in fairy tale romances; so when they are thrown together there are sparks of attraction but can it go anywhere?

Author Rosalind James has a way of weaving a steamy tale of romance that is slow-burning and sensuous. I really enjoyed that she allowed Alec and Rae's relationship to naturally develop even though there was instant attraction, they took the time to get to know one another. While the main focus of the storyline is on the development of their relationship, I really enjoyed the individual changes that takes place: Alex's player status changes when he becomes interested in Rae, while Rae learns to open up and show her intimate and vulnerable side. What I liked most of all besides the steamy romance scenes that I've come to love from all of the author's novels, was the witty banter between Alex and Rae, they kept me thoroughly entertained and smirking. And if that isn't enough to keep the reader turning the pages, the author throws in some mystery and intrigue involving corporate espionage and high-tech security into the mix.

With a quirky cast of characters who are realistic and have unique personalities, issues and personal baggage; witty dialogue and dramatic interactions; a touch of mystery and intrigue; and a sigh worthy steamy romance that only author Rosalind James can weave, Nothing Personal is a wonderful romance novel that will leave the reader with a warm and fuzzy feeling and yearning for more!

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book tour event hosted by Reading Addiction Blog Tours.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

Nora Black says

I received this book free of charge from the author in exchange for an honest review.(boy and am I glad, else I might never have discovered this amazing author.)

Originally posted on Extaordinaryreads

If it were at all possible I would give this book 10 out of five stars

A really smooth read that targets and hits all the sweet spots

from the get go. This machine rolls and does not know how to spell roil, it is superbly greased with lashings of choicely measured yards of entertainment. This tale is expertly crafted to deliver exactly what it's end market is looking for. Seldom, if ever, have I come across a more professionally written work. This author has, obviously, polished the concept and execution of the modern romance, I doubt if any reader who prefers the genre will find it anything other than perfect. However, that is not to say that others, perhaps coming across it without design, will not enjoy it, also. The characters are well rounded, the cringe moments embarrassingly evocative (we've all been there, and felt exactly that!), and the dam-wall of restricted emotion, both threatening and keenly relishing. Yes, you will enjoy it, I reckon the author would give you a money back guarantee on that one, and no it's not literature, despite its quick, witty and eloquent turn of phrase. This is feel-good-fiction at its best, and it delivers it's measured shoots with spot-on timing and perfect rhythm.

Devour this :-

"Here being the bombardment of noise, the roar of diesel engines and the ebbing and flowing whoosh of traffic, the battering rat-a-tat-tat of jackhammers, the blast of horns. And the constant visual stimulation, the rush of people on the sidewalks, the signs and posters and marketing slogans, all calling out to be noticed, clamoring that he pay attention. The voices, talking to him, talking at him, talking around him. And all the electronics. Texts and emails and phone calls and the ever-present Internet. The sheer level of stimulation that had been battering him... "

It will pull a smile out of you, but with just the right touch of sprinkled intelligent humor to make it un-cheesy. Rather it is quite charming, and altogether lovely.

The reserve of barely constrained tumultuous, feeling the release of which we anticipate with delicious expectancy.

Pam says

Nothing Personal is the second in the Kincaid series by Rosalind James. It is Alec's story. It is another great book and easy to read. It is best if read in one sitting as it is difficult to put down. The plot is an interesting one and the characters are dynamite.

Alec Kincaid is feeling a little out of sorts since he came home from the filming of the reality series, America Alive. He still remembers how pleasant it was being out on the Homestead with wonderful people, well, maybe with a couple of exceptions. However, he must get himself together to meet his financiers. Hopefully

they will finance his next move in computer software. However, this time the Board wants a little more control of the finances and security. So, they place Rae Harlin to take her place in his business. She is to organize his business, find them premises, organize those premises to hold his company, set up the finances and employee manual, hire those who were to work with her, help the others with their employees, and keep an eye out on sabotage. This is her life's work and she is very good at it. It does help Alec that she is beautiful but that doesn't help his other partners, Brandon and Joe. They have no choice but to begrudgingly accept her, financing depends on it.

Rae Harlin starts off with a secret. She grew up in the same town as Alec and knows his family well. She can work with this; but what will Alec do if he ever recognizes her or when his family tells him who she is. She sets out to do her job and do it well. She makes things run smoothly for Alec and his partners so they can do their jobs better. Things are working out pretty well until Alec falls for Rae and she for him. How will this work out in the office? How can they avoid each other?

Then, they find out there is someone in the office who is selling their code. Alec and Joe have worked very hard for this and do not want to see it go to someone else. The trouble is they have no idea who it might be. It has to be someone who has either Alec's or Joe's passwords. The plot thickens. Can they figure out who it is before the beta form of their code is lost? Can they trust each other, Brandon, and Joe?

Elena Johansen says

I always have to give props to office romances where the characters actually work, and here, well, they work overtime. Seriously.

But the very nature of this story is its own downfall. The major point of conflict between Rae and Alex is that she's been assigned to his company as oversight--so for her to end up sleeping with him is bad news for everyone. He knows it, she knows it, and yet, attraction and emotion prove too much and she falls into bed with him anyway.

Honestly, they're both to blame--her for compromising her position, and him for encouraging a secret office affair--but in the actual moment, it seemed to me that Alex was taking advantage of Rae's weakened emotional state, because of the stress of her grandmother's health problems. One can argue that she initiated and he was only trying to comfort her, but really, he knew what was at stake too, and should have been the clear-headed one. (His twin brother Gabe, who I adored in the first book in this series? Never would have done that. He was a stand-up guy through and through.)

I get that Alex is supposed to be the casual ladies' man, and Rae is the one who changes him for the better because he actually gets emotionally involved, but his redemption isn't complete as James perhaps intends it to be. I still find him to be a jerk a lot of the time.

And don't even get me started on the corporate espionage subplot. It started too late in the book to seem like more than an afterthought, and the climax was so obviously a setup for Rae to prove her smarts. Not impressed.

All that being said, I do have the third and final book in the series, and I intend to read it. Hopefully this was just a hiccup in quality.

Jonel Boyko says

This is an intricately written novel by an adult for adults. James melds the workforce with the world outside the workplace to create a masterpiece you won't be able to put down. That said, at the beginning the story flitted around so much between the different aspects of everyday life for the two main characters that it was a bit hard to get into. This straightened out quickly and then I could barely put it down.

The chapter titles instead of numbers actually add to the story. They add a sense of foreboding without giving anything major away. James references things that many may not recognize but that definitely add to the storyline if you do. I mean, really, anyone who can reference Star Wars is a star in my books. Allusion and metaphor definitely make their play in this novel, drawing you further and further into the mural that James paints for her audience.

The characters in this novel are quite well developed. At the same time, they aren't over developed. You get to know everyone as real people. You also get to know them as you would if you were in the same situation.

This charismatic novel will keep you captivated from cover to cover, you'll enjoy it at the beginning and love it at the ending. It is a life changing story that really makes you think. I'd definitely read more by this intriguing author.

Please note that I received this novel free of charge from the author in exchange for an honest review.

D.E. says

Nothing Personal is the second book in Rosalind James' Kincaid series. This book tells the story of Alec Kincaid and Desiree Harlan. The two are thrown together when the venture capital company Alec deals with insists that Desiree be the CFO of Alec's latest company. In addition to the romance of Alec and Desiree, there is a security issue with the software that turns into a bit of a mystery to keep readers turning the pages. Although the characters of the previous Kincaid series book are involved in this book as well, it's not necessary to read the previous book before reading this novel.

James has another winner on her hands with Nothing Personal. The characters are very believable and the romance is hot, hot, hot. Desiree (Rae as she prefers to be called) is an intelligent and articulate woman. There are no hysterics or hissy fits in this novel – just a good story, which is well written and enjoyable to read. Although the 'mystery' is not very complicated and the perpetrator is somewhat obvious, it still added to the story. I like that, as in her previous books, Nothing Personal does not follow the predictable formula of a romance novel.

I did have some issues with the believability of Alec being a software programmer but also a hot guy player. While the rest of the programmers at Alec's company are the stereotypical IT men (sexist, lazy slobs), Alec's personality doesn't fit within this world. The software programmers were a bit too stereotypical as well. The degree of sexism they portray seems above and beyond reality.

I highly recommend this romance novel for those readers looking for an intelligent, unpredictable story.

I received a free copy of this book in return for an honest review.

Victoria (nocturnalintimacy) says

Kindle Unlimited.

I really like Rosalind James. This is another solid contemporary romance. I'd recommend reading the Kincaid's book 1 before grabbing this one. Nothing is pivotal to the plot, but it adds some perspective and depth to the story line.

Miss •koth?????• The Emerα?d P???cess® says

Good substitute writer for when you've gone through every Nora Roberts book out there.

Tabitha (Bows & Bullets Reviews) says

This review is also available on my blog, Bows & Bullets Reviews

You guys know I have been having issues writing reviews for a little while now, so I'm giving the mini-review idea a shot. What that means is I'll be pulling the description directly from Audible (or GoodReads) and then giving you my thoughts in a shorter manner than we are all perhaps accustomed to. I hope this will help get my creative mind back to flowing!

You get a good peek at Alec's personality in Welcome To Paradise, so I was pretty excited to get to see through his eyes this time. I knew his character would change some because he was portrayed as a bit of a man-whore in WTP and that mind-set doesn't really work in a romance. The guy has to give up the idea of sleeping with any woman other than the heroine. His change is subtle and believable. I found I liked his perspective quite a bit, but maybe not as much as his twins. The other side of this is Desiree. She's smart and spunky and very professional. She has really fought her way up to be where she is. She had very low beginnings in life and had to work her way through college, but she did it and she is awesome at her job.

The romance had a very believable feel. Though there is immediate attraction, there is no insta-love or immediate falling into bed together. Ray is very (VERY) attached to the rules and she doesn't like to break them when her job (and therefore her well-being) is on the line. It's a slow-build with an excellent payoff.

Overall, I enjoyed this novel. I only had a few issues with it. The main one was this is has a suspense element, but it was introduced a little too late in the novel for my tastes. You don't even get a hint of it until over halfway through the book. By that point, I was way too focused on the romantic element to care about someone trying to do bad things to harm Alec's business. Maybe that was just me, but I just didn't care and I thought the guilty party was extremely obvious from the first moment it was revealed that there was a foul-play being made.

Audio notes:

Emma Taylor does a good job narrating this. I'm very satisfied with her performance. She doesn't really go

above and beyond, but she does a good job and I would definitely be okay with listening to more of her work.

****Thank you to Esther Bochner at Audible for providing me with an audio copy in exchange for an honest review****
