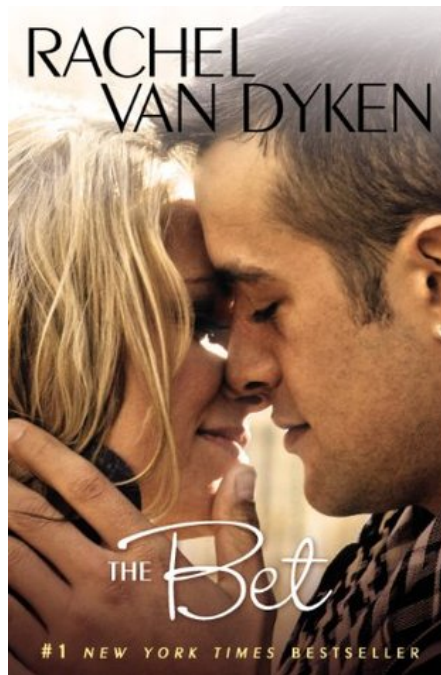




The Bet

Rachel Van Dyken

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The Bet Rachel Van Dyken

"I have a proposition for you." Kacey should have run the minute those words left Seattle millionaire Jake Titus's mouth. It's been years since Kacey's seen her childhood friend Jake, but the minute Jake mentions his ill grandmother, Kacey is ready to do anything for the sweet old woman. And if that means pretending they're engaged for her sake-so be it.

But Kacey wasn't counting on Jake's older brother Travis still being there. She calls him "Satan" for a reason: she's never forgotten the way he teased and taunted her. Yet when they meet again, Travis's gorgeous smile is a direct hit to her heart . . . and Kacey's more confused than ever. As the days pass, only one thing starts to become alarmingly clear-she never should have accepted Jake's deal . . .

The Bet Details

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Author : Rachel Van Dyken

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Genre : Romance, New Adult, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance, Humor, Funny

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From Reader Review *The Bet* for online ebook

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

If you know my history with romance novels, you'll know I'm not real good at reading them right most of the time. Mainly because . . .

One exception to my ongoing list of failures has been Rachel Van Dyken, so when I saw my library had a selection I had not yet read I was all . . .

This is the part where I talk about the tired trope and whatnot. If you are still a naïve thinker who believes NA romance stories can be "spoiled" it's probably best you leave now.

Still here? Alright, let's roll. The plotline for *The Bet* is that Kacey has agreed to go back to her hometown and pretend to be her former bestie Jake's fiancé for the weekend. Due to some *stuff and things* that happened in the past, our leading lady is a bit worried that she will end up taking her role too serious and fall for Jake's charm. Upon their arrival we meet Travis – Jake's brother. Brothers, you say????
Uhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh **YES PLEASE AND THANKY BABY JEEBUS! . . .**

Travis spent his childhood tormenting Kasey, but momma's little baby is all groweds up now. It doesn't take long for Kasey to realize that her worries of crossing a line with Jake are pretty much nonexistent as he has become a superdillhole. Travis, on the other hand, is *nothing* like he was as a kid . . .

"Don't forget to buckle up, princess. I drive like I ride."

You know what that means, right???? (Spoiler Alert: BOOOIIIINNNNNNNNG!) I had to spend some quality time in the bathroom 'cause Mr. Kelly had a shot of getting some action!!!!

Throw in a sassy granny, the inevitable will they/won't they drama, plenty of humor, a great delivery and pretty perfect pacing and I'm one satisfied customer . . .

Many thanks to the porny librarian who keeps me in supply of no-cost smut!

Tricia says

I just do not understand the high ratings on this one. The characters in this book were extremely immature. Adults who acted as if they were preteens. If you are interested in this book, please take the time to read the 1 and 2 star reviews on Amazon before purchasing. Just about everyone is how I felt reading this book, and much more accurate than the 5 star reviews!

Christy says

“Sometimes, when life gets hard, and people make you angry or even when you're scared, the best response is laughter. Laugh in the face of fear, in the face of what scares you the most. It's the only way to get you through the things that bring you to tears.”

?*The Bet* is one of those books that brought the laughs. If you're looking for something light and easy that will keep a smile on your face, this would be a good one to pick up.

This is a story about childhood best friends Kacey and Jake. But it's not just about them. Jake's older brother, Travis is in the mix. You see Jake and Kacey were always best friends, even dated for a while, but Travis is the guy who's always cared for Kacey. She just didn't know it. Travis and Kacey's relationship as children/teens was less than sweet and loving. They picked on each other in a good natured way.

Kacey has been away from the Titus boys for a while, but when Jake needs her help with a 'fake engagement' he makes her an offer she can't refuse....

I was so confused the first bit of this book. I had no idea if I was supposed to like Jake or hate him. I wasn't sure if I was supposed to love Travis, or if Jake was the one who would get his act together and steal Kacey's heart. At first I thought... love triangle? Really? But by the end you realize there was never any competition. One man truly cares for and loves Kacey and one doesn't. Not the way she deserves anyway.

All these characters were great in different ways, but there was one that stood out above the rest. The grandma. She was fun, spunky, and laugh out loud funny. I really want to read the next book just to get more grandma!

I listened to the audio version and it was one of those cases where I think it was more enjoyable in audio than reading. The narration was great, you could tell the narrators were really getting into the story and that's always fun! Sometimes you just need a light read to listen to that will make you laugh and smile. If you're looking for a hilarious, quirky and sweet romance, this is one I'd recommend!

Jennifer says

Sweet and sexy with lots of humor and emotion. I'm really starting to like this author. Looking forward to following this series!

My favorite quote:

"Sometimes, when life gets hard, and people make you angry or even when you're scared, the best response is laughter. Laugh in the face of fear, in the face of what scares you the most. It's the only way to get you through the things that bring you to tears."

Rachel Van Dyken's adult contemporary romance series: The Bet includes the following installments as of October 2017:

#1-The Bet

#2-The Wager

#3-The Dare

Mo says

I must say this was a nice surprise. Have never read this author before but must have come across it here on Goodreads. It was romantic, funny, smart, sexy (without too much sex - well, without hardly any sex and certainly none of it graphic). Two brothers, one girl. Could get messy. No, it didn't, well not really. Kind of reminded me a bit of the old film, Sabrina. I loved Travis. Kinda liked Jake.... but he was a bit to smoozy for me - is there such a word? Think you know what I mean. Will definitely check out some other books by this author. It was nice get away from reality for a while and forget about all the troubles in the world and live in someone else's fluffy little world for a while.

Anna says

This was a cute fun read ! Some awkward moments followed by heart warming full on awwwwwwwwww moments ;). This Travis is a Breath of fresh air ! He said he was going to marry her! He knew this at the firm age of like ten ! His honest thoughts and crush on Kacey - just so adorable. Bonus points for this Travis Titus : 1) he was sentimental (kept stuffed animal he named after her) 2) he kept her parents memories alive 3) his fear of big bad bears 4) he finally right hooked his brother 5) his determination to surprise her and make her happy 6) his use and love of Benadryl !!! Lol. He evoked a momentary pharmaceutical the-heat-is on! Nuff said. This Travis is a keeper ♥too!

If you have a desire for a quick, cute and easy reading give this a try. I give this ♥♥♥♥♥ 4 cavity-inducing sweet stars!

Shreya says

Why the hell does this book have a "below 4" rating???? Why?? Why???

It's a real good one, girls & it has every single thing that we loooooove... :)

1> Childhood crush

2> Super-sexy guys..Yep, as in more than one...Moreover they are right bit of cocky!! Just the way we love them

3> The heroine is not bad too...(Actually couldn't keep tabs on her while salivating for one of the guys... ;) :)
hint Travis)

4> Totally loveable family members including a crazy Granny...:D Oh yes, I loved her...

5> It has quite a bit of humour in it... The dialogues were witty..

6>Great, slow building romance!!

7>Last but not the least,hot hot love- making...

I couldn't stay away from the story...Make sure to check this one out..
I'm sure you guys will love it... :)

Serena.. Sery-ously? says

Recensione del II volume

Recensione del III volume

****ATTENZIONE: Recensione piena di spoiler, cattivella e totalmente demolitrice; se vi è piaciuto il libro o volete leggerlo (no, dai, non fatelo. Davvero.) non fa per voi :D****

Dicono del libro:

“Ma è un libro sulla droga? No perché pare che i protagonisti ne facciano uso...” (Giovane della comunità di recupero)

“Ah sì, come no, l'autrice.. L'autrice è stata nostra paziente dopo una brutta caduta dal seggiolone” (Infermiera dell'ospedale pediatrico in cui la Van Dyken è stata paziente per un trauma alla testa”)

“Boh, vbb, io xò tnt cretineria tt insieme mica l'avevo mai vista” (14enne shoccata dalla porcheria che ha letto mentre mandavaa un whatsapp e un twitter)

Questo libro è la PORACCIAGGINE stampata su carta, un grido di dolore degli alberi: non si fa Rachel, non lo sai che poi gli alberi piangono??

Io mi chiedo sinceramente perché le persone si sveglino, saltino la colazione e tutt'ad un tratto si accenda loro una lampadina che gli suggerisce di scrivere un libro.

Ma.. anche no, sai? Non è che ora tutti devono farlo.. Ti piace scrivere? Anche a me piacerebbe mangiare nutella e non ingrassare, ma visto che non è possibile il nostro rimane un amore platonico. Ordunque.. Perché se io rinuncio alla Nutella (e mi costa, eh) tu – che non hai una storia che possa fregiarsi di questo nome e

soprattutto zero capacità di riportare quelle due idee farlocche che ti ritrovi per iscritto.. Ecco, perché tu dovresti essere uno scrittore??

ARGH!

Bene, detto ciò passiamo al libro; direi di sorvolare sull'ennesima scelta penosa della copertina italiana, tanto ormai sembra essere una gara a chi sceglie le più brutte e insignificanti con bonus extra se la donna presa a rappresentare cotanta storia sembra essersi appena fatta una dose massiccia di LSD, con lo sguardo perso nel vuoto che però potrebbe sembrare allo scaltro lettore quello di una donna che riflette sui massimi destini del mondo.. Direi che palesemente la Nord a questo giro ha sbancato proprio!

La storia, se così vogliamo chiamarla, fa già acqua nella trama (ed è tutto dire se gli editori non sono riusciti nemmeno a dissimulare qui la presenza di una storia che vale, tipo L'Oreal): Jake, donnaiolo e cazzone miliardario chiede alla sua amica d'infanzia (con cui però non si sentono più perché la vita è brutta e ingiusta gnè gnè gnè gnè) di far finta di essere la sua fidanzata per un weekend, con tanto di brillocco da 392394384394 carati, per far credere alla sua famiglia (e al consiglio d'amministrazione della sua ricchissima e fichissima azienda di famiglia) di aver messo la testa a posto, di non uscire più con le spogliarelliste e bon, vissero felici e contenti.

Domanda difficile per i nostri ascoltatori: quanti (finti) scrupoli si fa Kacey a dir di sì e soprattutto.. Quando tempo ci mette a capitolare e ad accettare di fare una cosa simile, nonostante abbia frequentato per anni i genitori e la nonna di Jake e che dunque la conoscono come fosse parte della loro famiglia?

... Bravi, bene: la risposta è un paio e dieci minuti. Fa credere al lettore che NOOOOOO la cosa non si può fare perché Jake CATTIVONE (nonché bastardo egoista) l'ha ferita mortalmente.. Però lei deve finire l'università, ha debiti da pagare.. Cosa vuoi che sia la morale (Ingannare la famiglia che ti ha cresciuto come se ne facessi parte) o l'amor proprio (mi ha spezzato il cuore, ha tradito la mia fiducia, non sarò mai più la stessa, **SONO CALIMERO, PICCOLO E NERO E NESSUNO MI VORRÀ PIU' BENE, NGUE' NGUE' NGUE'**) quando si tratta di fare un favore al tuo vecchio e caro amico e soprattutto essere pagata per questo (squallore in 3,2,1...)?

Niente e così i due mettono in moto la farsa del fidanzamento e vanno a casa di lui.. Dove ad aspettarli c'è Travis.

E voi direte.. Chi è Travis? Il focoso ex? L'amante mascherato? Il nonno di Heidi?!

No, un poraccio rincoglionito che dall'età di otto anni è innamorato di Kacey e per farglielo capire le fa i dispetti (tragico. Giuro, un rincoglionito perso) e la 'tortura' tanto che la dolce Kacey lo ha soprannominato "Satana". Ovviamente a lei prende un coccolone, i due si insultano nemmeno avessero dodici anni (sì, la maturità del personaggio è inesistente. Dicono di avere 22 e 24 anni.. Ma non dategli retta, una mela acerba è tranquillamente più matura di loro tre messi insieme) e il lettore assiste impotente ad una manfrina che grida "DISAGIO" da tutti i pori.

A casa di questi deficienti le figure genitoriali non sono tanto meglio di loro e quindi sono cretini tanto quanto loro. Vogliono celebrare il matrimonio la settimana dopo (ma che problema sociale hai di grazia??!) e credono, per un astruso collegamento degli astri che il lettore non può cogliere che Kacey sia incinta.

Insomma, BOOM, l'hanno sparata enorme..

Jake, che povero cristo è affetto dalla tripla personalità, inserisce la personalità macha (dopo averci reso partecipe di mille pippe mentali su come sarebbe stato se non avesse rovinato tutto con lei) e decide che OH, mica può star dietro a Kacey.. Cioè, l'ha portata a casa e se la deve pure sorbire? Insomma, prende, lascia la cena coi parenti, smolla la fidanzata e va a far sesso con la focosa SamantHa (l'acca, mi raccomando, altrimenti levate tutta la focosità di questo personaggio che risulta essere piatto come un foglio di carta velina - **COME SE INVECE GLI ALTRI BRILLASSERO PER SPESSORE CARATTERIALE EH..**), che ha fatto venire direttamente da Seattle (o da dove vivono. Insomma, Samantha con l'acca ha preso l'aereo per vedersi con Jake che non riesce a tenerlo nei pantaloni due giorni); Kacey dunque che altro può fare, povera crista pure lei, se non rifugiarsi da Travis, la sua NEMESI (lo chiama così. Giuro), che odia con tutto il cuore perché è dispettoso e da bambina la faceva sempre piangere (RIUSCITE A SENTIRE IL

PATHOS?).. Eh, beh, normale, no? Insomma, vanno in cucina, flirtano, si rimbeccano e:

Lui la lasciò subito andare. «Dai, portiamo di là la torta prima che pensino che mi hai pugnalato.» «Penserebbero bene», borbottò lei, anche se non era proprio quello che aveva in mente. Cospargergli il corpo di lamponi e poi leccarli? Sì. Violenza? Sì, ma solo sessuale.

... No words. Perché poi la cosa peggiora, precipita e diventa un nonsense completo:

Chissà, forse fu solo per la frustrazione, per il desiderio represso, sta di fatto che Kacey si alzò, si mise a cavalcioni su Travis e spalmò la torta sul quel viso splendido, gridando: «Adesso ti prendo!» In teoria, i Titus avrebbero dovuto ridere, invece rimasero in silenzio.

Cioè, capite? I Titus avrebbero dovuto **RIDERE**: chi non troverebbe comica la scenetta della fidanzata del figlio che si mette a cavalcioni sull'**altro** figlio? Ah ah ah, io mi sto scompisciando dalle risate, giuro. Travis si comporta da vecchio scemunito e Kacey, altra ritardata rara, non capisce che sta nascondendo i suoi profondissimi sentimenti e lo reputa uno stronzo.. Fatto sta che bisticciano un altro po' come due ragazzini a cui il lettore darebbe volentieri una mazzata sui denti e finiscono per vedere un film insieme.

Ora, quale espediente ha un povero scrittore per far avvicinare due persone che teoricamente si odiano ma che in realtà sono solo troppo cretine per parlare come gli adulti che in realtà sono?

.. Esatto, un film di paura, così che la donna sola e indifesa possa trovare conforto tra le braccia possenti e scolpite (sì, perché Travis è un figo da paura.. Avevate dubbi??) del maschio alfa.

PIETA'.

PIETA' DOPPIA, perché il film scelto dall'autrice, sperando di risultare **un sacco simpatica** (Ci torno sul suo stile, tranquilli!) è nientepopodimeno che.. "Alice nel paese delle meraviglie", ritenuto spaventosissimo da Kacey per lo stregatto.

MA CHE TI DROGHI???

Vabbé, vi lascio cinque minuti per assorbire la cosa e prepararvi all'eclatante colpo di scena successivo che nessuno si sarebbe mai aspettato.. I due si scolano due bottiglie di vino e la passione chiama: baci bollenti e il quasi sesso interrotti dalla nonnina che passa:

«Travis! Kacey!» Nadine si portò una mano al cuore. Oddio. Ecco. La nonna lo aveva appena beccato mentre stava per scoparsi la fidanzata di suo fratello. Ci sarebbe rimasta secca. Lo sapeva. «Kacey, quel reggiseno è davvero carino. Rosa. Dovrei prendermene uno anch'io», disse invece la nonna.

A questo punto il disagio è diventato esistenziale. La Van Dyken prova a buttarla sull'ironia (certo, un'ironia un po' bacata la sua eh) ma è tutto talmente triste e osceno che non ho avuto nemmeno la forza di indignarmi per questi espedienti noti al mondo della critica come "allacazzodicane"..

Insomma, una cosa tira l'altra, la nonnetta li ha interrotti e il momento è sparito: tutti a letto; in quel mentre arriva Jake che ha preso un clamoroso due di picche da Samantha con l'acca perché ella si è lamentata di Kacey e quindi non se ne è fatto niente.. Tornato in sé Jake capisce quanto Kacey sia bella, figa, buona ecc e pensa di riprovarci, va da Kacey, la bacia (e che importa se codesta fanciulla fino a tre minuti prima si è spupazzata l'altro fratello) ma viene interrotto da Travis che stile uomo delle caverne si batte il petto e difende l'onore di Kacey e caccia via il fratello; morale della favola Travis e Kacey litigano perché fondamentalmente - e non mi stancherò di ripeterlo - sono due disadattati sociali e pure rincoglioniti e buonanotte a tutti.

Il giorno dopo Jake porta Kacey alla riunione delle superiori: tutti circondano Jake di attenzioni, le donne (ingrassate, invecchiate, brutte e acide - e che importa se hanno 22 anni e non 59.. Solo Jake e Kacey hanno mantenuto il fiore della loro gioventù) sono il corrispettivo femminile dei morti di figa e si strusciano come farebbe la tipa del permafless con il materasso a Jake, contentissimo di queste attenzioni.. Kacey, povera, triste anima incompresa, viene salvata da Travis e.. Non ricordo che fanno perché a quel punto ero troppo

Dopo una serie di scene rocambolesche (ma tu, tu scaltro lettore, avrai capito che si tratta di scene patetiche e raffazzonate alla meglio) i due si ritrovano, si amano, tutto chiarito e AMEN.

...Ma che storiaccia assurda e infame è??!

Oltre a questa povertà di trama lo stile della Van Dyken è uno dei PEGGIORI che io abbia mai avuto il dispiacere di incontrare in un libro; cioè, fa davvero davvero schifo!! Innanzi tutto un'ironia becera che ti fa muovere sulla sedia in preda ad un forte attacco di disagio puro (dai ce l'avete presente.. Come quando in sala cade il gelo dopo che qualcuno ha detto qualcosa di inappropriato) e che non fa ridere per niente; ha cercato di creare un personaggio figo come quello della nonna, ma a me ha trasmesso solo squallore, altroché!

Ma poi anche la costruzione della frase, i dialoghi, il.. TUTTO. Probabilmente il mio pupillo 13enne saprebbe scrivere un po' come lei (male eh, i suoi temi mi fanno dannare :D).

La Van Dyken purtroppo aveva mezza idea in testa e invece che scriverci un racconto breve (che avrebbe letto tra i suoi amici E BASTA) ha voluto fare il salto di qualità con un romanzo e quindi – essendo limitata- ha usato 283844848348383 volte l'espedito del deus ex machina: ogni volta che Travis e Kacey stanno per far sesso o si stanno avvicinando e risolvendo le loro infantili e infinite discussioni, interviene un elemento esterno di disturbo che definirlo ridicolo è fargli un complimento. A volte la storia non sembra essere un romance ma anzi, sembra che il lettore sia stato catapultato all'interno di un libro di fantascienza.. Per la miseria non sono credibili quelle cose!! (Vedasi la madre che arriva nel cuore della notte a chiedere se va tutto bene pur dormendo mooolto distante da lì o Travis il rincoglione che inciampa su un perizoma e ruzzola fino a strappare la tenda della doccia...) Io come lettrice mi sono sentita un po' insultata da questa demenza xD

I personaggi sono così piatti e insulsi che non vale la pena nemmeno parlarne; giusto di Kacey mi piacerebbe spendere due paroline: Kacey è bella, stupenda, infinita.. Ma non fa altro che sminuirsi; è LAGNOSA (fastidiosamente lagnosa), cretina (ma vabbé, sembra essere appannaggio delle protagoniste di questi libri-fotocopia) e, cosa ancora più sconcertante.. CATTIVA:

Travis tirò un pugno al tavolo, mettendo fine alla conversazione. «Scusate, credevo di aver visto un insetto.» Kacey inarcò un sopracciglio. «Davvero? Io non ho visto niente.» «C'era», replicò lui a denti stretti. «Sicuro che non te lo sei immaginato? In fondo conosciamo tutti il tuo amore per gli amici immaginari. Prendi per esempio il coniglietto. Dormi ancora con lui?» Travis fece un sorriso tirato. «Non lo so, Kacey, tu ti succhi ancora il pollice?» Lei strinse le palpebre. «Però, che risposta matura. Dimmi, ti provi ancora le battute nella mente per non balbettare o non ne hai più bisogno?» Sapeva di aver toccato un nervo scoperto.

«E, Travis, hai fatto pipì nei pantaloni?» «Certo, mamma, come no. Ho ventiquattro anni ma me la sono fatta addosso. Ma ti pare?» «Scusa, caro, è solo che sembra proprio che...» Indicò i suoi pantaloni e arrossì. «E poi mi ricordo che quand'eri piccolo...» Oh, no. «Quand'era piccolo cosa?» chiese Kacey, incuriosita. «Oh, gli capitava a volte di bagnare il letto e di fare brutti sogni, niente di che.» Kacey s'illuminò. «Ah, be', ma immagino che il coniglietto con cui dormiva gli fosse di grande conforto durante quelle notti difficili.» «Coniglietto?» domandarono Jake e il padre all'unisono.

Al di là di quanto male sono scritte le scene.. A me non hanno fatto ridere. Ma proprio per niente. Kacey, sei davvero una stronza cattiva, non so come altro definirti!!!

AAAHH, Il momento migliore di tutti!! LE CITAZIONI DEL CAPOLAVORO!!

*Goodreads non me le fa inserire perché la recensione è troppo lunga.. Le citazioni potete trovarle QUI

Christine says

Loved it!

So why a four star and not a five...well I'll explain in a bit.

Kacey's world was turned upside down after a fateful night where she not only loses her best friend but also her parents.

Jake has always been Kacey's best friend and protector from not just his older brother who terrorized her as a kid, but also mean teenage girls who did not understand their relationship.

Travis (Jake's older brother) has always been behind the scenes and the third wheel to this little equation. He has also been secretly crushing on Kacey since he was eight.

A few years later, Kacey gets a random phone call from her once ex-best-friend Jake who is now eccentric millionaire playboy and heir to the Titus throne. After a few bad choices he finds himself backed into a corner and is desperate to find a solution and knows that there is only one person who he can ask for help. Kacey.

He offers her a proposition. He asks her to be his pretend fiancée for the weekend and be available for random photo ops. It'll help get the board at Titus off his back for bringing such negative press to their respectable firm, but to also show his parents that he is a responsible mature adult who is capable of commitment. As her reward he will pay off her student loans which will make life so much easier for her.

Trouble is Travis her 'arch nemesis' will be present throughout the entire weekend and that is when the story gets...interesting.

Ok can I say that I loved this book. After chapter one I was hooked! Could not put it down.

Found myself sighing, swooning, grinning and laughing out loud throughout the story. Grandma has got to be the most hilarious grandparent ever! With her cheeky manner, shameless, cunning, manipulative mind, and her live life for the moment philosophy...she was just absolutely perfect!

I really enjoyed this book. But you ask, why four and not five? well here's why. I found the ending quite rushed. We reach a climactic point in the story where it gets all heated and interesting and then like a flash it's sorted and then the moments gone. I really do wish there was an Epilogue after the final chapter. I mean yeah it has a happy ending and all but it would have been nice for just a teensy bit more to their story, you know?

Otherwise, totally loved this book!

4 Stars

Tink Magoo is bad at reviews says

Where's Chuck Norris when you need him to punch some fictional characters in the face?!

When I was thinking about what to write here, I suddenly realized that I'm a hypocrite (well okay I already knew I was, this just highlighted it). I was going to say that Jake was plain nasty because he pays strippers

and prostitutes for sex and fuck knows what STD's he has. THEN I thought, 'hang on I read books where the heroine is a stripper or prostitute', I root for her and have never wondered what STD's she may have or thought that the hero in those books is nasty for wanting a relationship with her.

You see my point?! And even though I've realized that, I still don't like Jake for doing it.

Here's another thing - I had to check the blurb for this book several times because we kept getting Jake's POV. I wondered what the hell was going on - was this a story about a man whose turning himself around for the heroine or was it a story where she falls for the 'love of her life's' brother? Why do we need to read about Jake wanting her, not wanting her and also not wanting anyone else to have her. Fuck Jake.

Next ...

Kacey. She needed to open her fucking eyes and make everyone's life easier by getting 'doormat' tattooed on her forehead (not that it would take anyone long to see). Better yet, she could just FUCK OFF! I hate weak heroines. Everyone could see he didn't want her, I wanted to shout 'HELLO! YOU LOOK LIKE A FUCKING MUPPET, OPEN YOUR EYES'.

Travis. Initially I thought he was near perfect. Strong, determined, lovable. But all he seemed to do was bemoan the fact that he didn't have Kacey and Jake did. Grow a pair already and TALK to her properly.

To summarise -

Kacey needs a backbone.

Travis needs some balls.

And Jake needs to move to a tiny island where his next girlfriend will never have to meet any of his ex-sex partners (because there is an infinite list of them).

DNF at 30%

Vikki ~ *squee* lite ~ says

Ok, this was seriously adorable. Sweet, funny (laugh out loud funny), poignant, with just the right amount of cheese. Definitely an enjoyable (mostly) lighthearted read about childhood friends who finally (with some well meaning family manipulation) realize they are meant for each other.

"He'd wanted her more than Anything. His entire life. How many people could actually claim that? That for their entire existence, the one person they wanted to share eternity with, had never changed, never faltered. Her. It had always been her . . ."

Akanksha♥ Søren? says

This novel had the cutest prologue I've ever read. :D

I loveddddddddddd the book.

I want AMAZING, SUPER CUTE, BRILLANT AND JUST *swoon*

I want a continuation of this book!!! Like their story to continue!

Like I want more of the other brother too.

The story was wonderful and I loved the characters. Grandma was the best!

The witty bantering, the humor, the whole feeling of the book, I enjoyed it all..

The whole bet was ADORABLE! hehe

Do read this book!! Its Awesome~ :D

He knew for a fact Kacey loved princess stories. She would talk about how girls are supposed to be treated like princesses, and boys are supposed to be princes.

But how was he supposed to be a prince when there were no dragons to slay? How could he prove himself when there were no monsters?

Good thing he was the smartest kid in his class. He knew just what to do. All he had to do was cause the trouble and then save her from it.

Char was the truest type of friend. When Kacey cried, Char cried. When Kacey threatened to kill Jake, Char offered to pay for a hit man, and when Kacey finally moved on and only mentioned Jake as the man who shall not be named, Char went ahead and nicknamed him Bastard for her sake.

I wish we saw more of Char~ Her character seemed like someone I would totally love.

I hope this book continues and we see more into their lives, the ranch life and stuff and the empire Jake's building :P and maybe a baby for all I care! haha :D

Lisa Jayne says

5 I LOVE THIS BOOK STARS.

I, Lisa Jayne Woodward formally declare that I'm a self-confessed book butterfly junkie, sign me up for RA (romance anonymous). Failing that leave me in a padded cell with a shoot for food and this book to read over and over again. This has to be crowned best book of 2013 for me so far. It ticked all my romance story boxes and here are my thoughts ...

What's it all about?

Kacey is approached by her childhood friend, now millionaire Jake Titus who asks her to return to their childhood home and pretend they are engaged for the sake of his ill grandmother. It's been years since Kacey

has even ventured home or seen the Titus Brothers but she is ready to do anything for the sake of this elderly lady. Kacey has a history with Jake's older brother Travis they have a somewhat shaky past and she has never been able to forget the way he teased and taunted her. But when they meet again, sparks fly between these sworn enemies leaving Kacey more confused than ever. Only trouble is Kacey is supposed to be engaged to Jake. A series of hot encounters ensue and a whole host of miscommunication, secrets and unrequited love explodes when this couple meet again.

What did I love?

'The Bet' boasts the best ever prologue, with a start like that one I knew that I would fall helplessly in love with this story. It has a cute love triangle vibe which is low on the angst with a romance filled healthy dose of heart-in-mouth style Unrequited love. I loved the Sibling rivalry, these brothers will demand you to fall head over in love with them. The Titus brothers are utterly Devine. Jake and Travis were both amazing characters but there is only one brother for me and that's Travis, he is completely dreamy and I could not get enough of this authors ability to write loveable characters. The hero and heroine are obvious candidates for forever sweethearts, a romance book can't host too much sweet for my reading taste and this book delivers. I can't possibly talk about what I loved without mentioning Grandma, she is one crazy, loveable granny and had me laughing out loud at her antics. Rachel Van Dyken knows how to write swoon worthy heart stopping, likeable stories. Here we have an amazing hero and a Funny, likeable 'I want to be best mates with this girl' heroine. 'The bet' is all of the above packed into four hours of true happiness and out there fabulous reading.

Final thoughts ...

I loved every Page of this book, if you love laugh out loud funny, book butterfly sexy, and books so sweet you may be put in a glucose overdose coma, this will be your next favourite read. I could not get enough of these characters, this is what romance is made of, I'm in complete book heaven. Go grab it romance junkies, enjoy ... Kisses.

****Anna Champion, my book bestie I owe my butterflies to your recommendation. Long live your one-click addiction, so that you can carry on finding these treasures.****

Tammy Walton Grant says

Colour me perplexed. Is this what "NA" books are? 21 and 23 year olds flailing about, finding love and discovering themselves? If so, this book ain't it.

It has the other pre-requisites: heroine orphaned tragically, alone in the world and struggling to finish college; the stunningly gorgeous male lead with a tortured (well, this guy had a stutter. Sort of tragic, no?) past, tons of money and a weird family.

Otherwise, it was a standard, run-of-the-mill contemporary romance. Heroine agrees to act a fiancée to the love of her life in order to fool his family and patch up love's career, then runs into love's older brother, who has been in love with HER all of his life. Comedic love triangle and assorted goofy family antics ensue.

The problem I had with this (and it's too bad, because otherwise I quite enjoy this trope) was that although the author says her characters are 21 and 23, they don't talk that way, dress that way, have jobs that fit, or, for the most part, act that way. Hero is supposed to be 23, talks like he's 30 and has owned and run a millionaire's ranch for years. WHAT? The ne'er do well brother, who we are told is 21, has taken over his parent's multi-million dollar company, is stalked by paparazzi and tabloid reporters and has been in multiple scandals with strippers. The only believable thing about all of that is the stripper part. The heroine, who is also supposed to be 21, is the only one who remotely acts her age, but certainly talks like a woman in her late 20s.

So there was that. And the whole high school thing from my updates. It got to be surreal by 2/3 of the way through the book, and that's when I started skimming.

The first half of the book felt as though the characters and story were written to be in their late 20s, early 30s. By the end of the book nothing much was making sense anymore.

Well, at least it was free.

KAS says

After reading the prologue, I had high hopes for this one. But as the story progressed, the immaturity of the characters was on full display along with "cheesy" dialogue.

Having enjoyed all my previous Rachel Van Dyken reads, I persevered through it hoping for the best.

Fifteen Years Ago

Travis, a stuttering eight year old, really likes Kacey and assumes he will marry her one day. After all, he was the oldest and well on his way to becoming a man. His attempts at showing Kacey he likes her always backfires and she ends up running away in tears and hating him.

Jake, Travis' six year old brother, likes Kacey too, and makes a bet with Travis that she would be marrying him. They each spit in their hands and shake on the million dollar bet.

Present Day

Kacey is sitting across from the one man she gave her heart to, and he is wanting a huge favor from her. Jake is asking her to fly back with him to their hometown and pretend to be his fiancé for the weekend. The bad press coverage (due to the stripper incident) is hurting his career and putting a strain on his relationship with his parents and grandmother. How is she supposed to spend an entire weekend with this Greek God of a man she has always loved and never gotten over? Jake has broken her heart twice, once in high school and again in college. Yet, here she stands, agreeing to his delusional plan, as he puts a three carat diamond ring on her finger. Oh how she wished it wasn't pretend. Jake owns her heart and he is about to break it into a million pieces all over again. Seeing his brother Travis after all these years won't be fun either. They can't stand each other.

My summation

Given the premise of the storyline, this could have been so much better, IMHO. Unfortunately, I had to constantly wince at the twenty-two year and twenty-three year old's childish behavior and silly conversation.
