



Spiked Lemonade

Shari J. Ryan

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I traded in my Navy uniform and short hair for tats and a scruffy beard to become a man on the run. Moving from town to town, taking comfort in hot cars and fast women was the only way I could outrun the nightmares.

Then I met her...

Looking like a Southern Belle in a small Texas town, all layered in pretty dresses and perfume, I call her beautiful.

She calls me a perv.

This beauty won't admit I have something she wants (wink, wink, nudge, nudge), or that I'm the one she's looking for, but I love that she has something I never knew I needed.

I may be labeled as a jerk, but she's going to fall in love with me, and I'm going to make her cuss and drink whisky instead of lemonade. Why? Because sometimes beauty comes with a dirty mouth and sometimes your lemonade needs to be spiked.

Spiked Lemonade Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Shari J. Ryan

Format :

Genre : War, Military Fiction, Romance, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review Spiked Lemonade for online ebook

Elizabeth says

I got about halfway into this book and had to call it quits. For some reason this story and I just did not connect.

ZETTER says

Taking A Walk On the Wild!!!

Jags aka Jason Andrew Gaits was a former Navy medic and best-friend of Tango from **TAG** and **YOU'RE IT**. After all he saw and experience while in the service, when he came home things were equally bad on home soil. An incident made him give up his uniform, he got some tattoos and was dealing with demons from his past.

Sasha Caldwell was in a relationship with a man who tried to kill her and her best-friend Cali's family. She met Jags but decided to avoid him and his womanizer ways. Despite his ways, Sasha knew that Jags had a heart of gold.

Tango and Cali wanted their best friends to get to know each other better, even though Sasha wasn't up to it. She couldn't deny the attraction she felt towards Jags. The latter felt the same way but he also felt like he couldn't outrun his demons.

Jags thought he was no good for Sasha what he didn't know was that he was just what she needed in her life to make her come alive. They decided to give themselves a chance at happiness, Sasha came out of her shell while Jags kept falling in love with her each passing day.

Liked that Jags and Bambi aka Greta (the woman he helped years ago after a bombing attack) were friends. They both lost a lot that fateful day and felt haunted.

SPIKED LEMONADE is a standalone novel by Shari J. Ryan. It was enthralling, humorous and oh so combustible. Loved how Jags was able to break through Sasha's defensive walls. Having Cali, Tango and Tyler a part of this incredible journey was well done.

Their makeshift family was one of the most cutest and loyal family ever. If you love dirty mouth alphas, a smarty pants five years old kid, friends who are more like sisters and a shy beautiful woman discovering her wings. This book is for you. Shari J. Ryan did a magnificent job.

Emily Maynard says

First, many thanks to the author, who provided a free copy of Spiked Lemonade to this reader in exchange for an honest review.

While not technically part of any series, Spiked Lemonade features characters from two of Shari's previous books, Tag, and its follow up novella, You're It. I have not read either of these, so I went into this not knowing much about it other than what my BFF told me about it when she was reading it some time ago. I'm told that the beginning of Sasha and Jag's story originated in You're It, and while it was explained well in the beginning of this story how all these characters knew each other, for my own understanding, I found myself wishing that I had read You're It first.

That being said, I think Jags is probably hands down my favorite of all of Shari's male leads. Every now and then you run across a character that you enjoy so much that you sit back and say, "You know, I'd like to buy them a beer." Patricia Briggs' Mercy Thompson is one of those characters for me, as is Tyrion Lannister from Game of Thrones - and Deadpool, can't forget Deadpool - and now Jags has his own seat at the bar. I loved his perty, screwed up, foul mouthed butt. Him and Sasha could not be any more polar opposites. She's a lady - a real Southern belle, and butter wouldn't melt in her mouth. She's naive, she's innocent, and she's gotten herself into a dangerous situation with an ex-boyfriend. Her life was literally on the line, and Jags has a hand in helping her out. These two - they were like magnets; he couldn't resist goading her and she couldn't help reacting to him, despite her protests to the contrary.

It's not all fun and games - there is a deeper story to these characters. Jags is a medic who has seen too much, and part of his cocky don't-care attitude is a cover for a man just feels too much. Sasha, for all her class, has been raised in a bubble of how life is supposed to be like, and finds herself completely lost when she is exposed to how the real world works. That bubble is closing in around her, and she is gasping for air. Also I have to mention a secondary character, Greta, better known as Bambi - her story heartbreakingly well done. I loved her from the moment I met her.

This is billed as a romantic comedy, and it delivers. There is romance, and it's hilarious, often at the same time. But it's not just a romantic comedy, there is drama, action and suspense. There is a twist at the end of this story that I most definitely did not see coming, and it was that twist that earned this book's five stars from me. This author keeps earning high ratings from me, every time I open one of her books. I can't wait to see what she does next.

Renee says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for a honest review for Stephanie's Book Reports.

Jags is a Navy medic whose seen more in his lifetime than any of us can imagine or understand unless you've experienced it yourself. Lost and trying to find himself he roams from place to place trying to out run his nightmares. Then in small town Texas he met Sasha. His polar opposite in every way. She's the prim and proper southern belle. Can such polar opposites, one with a dirty might and one who blushes when he uses it, ever find their way together in this crazy world?

I've read just about everything Shari Ryan has written. I love her books and generally end up at some point with my heart shattered and put back together. She's good at that. A little to good but I love every second of it. If you've read her previous books you know what I am talking about. When you pick up Spiked Lemonade you know right away this book is different from what she usually writes. I fell for Jags in the Prologue. He's actually quiet dreamy and his mouth just cracked me up. He's a good guy all tatted up with a beard whose running from things he's seen and experienced in his past. Then he meets his polar opposite in Sasha. From that point on he's hooked and knows this is the woman for him. Sasha on the other hand is having none of it. Here is where I got worried. I wanted to like Sasha as much as I liked Jags from the second I met him. I didn't though and that worried me. A lot. I swear she got on my nerves so bad I wanted to shake her. If you find yourself with this little delima too I strongly recommend not putting the book down and giving up. You're going to miss something absolutely amazing if you do.

Spiked Lemonade is not at all what I expected from the beginning. It turned into something meaningful and quiet frankly beautiful. It's a story of growth and finding ones self. Of not being what everyone expects you to be but what makes you happy. It's living your life to the fullest and having no regrets because life is short. Shari Ryan has written a book about this journey with emotions you won't see coming till your laughing your head off or shedding tears. I'm so glad I didn't give up on Sasha. It's not often a character surprises me. Sasha however did.

Michelle says

Spiked Lemonade is my second book from Shari J. Ryan and I went into this expecting a sweet romance that was going to be packed with a ton of emotion.

Jags is a former Navy medic who has endured and seen far more than any one person should have to. Looking to live a carefree life he hides behind the mask of his dirty mouth and who-gives-a-shit attitude but that façade cracks just a bit when he meets Sasha. In all her class and pureness, Sasha is struggling with the crass man that has her cringing but excited all at the same time.

This book started off a bit shaky for me. The transition between the first few chapters left me feeling like I was missing something. I felt like I got dropped into the middle of a story by the time Sasha and Jags are both in the same room together, it was a bit off putting, but I figured that things would eventually fall into place.

As I got deeper into the story – I loved the way Sasha and Jags interacted. The sarcastic, the reserved, the crass, all of it. Watching Sasha come into her own a little bit at a time was a fun experience, until it started to break my heart.

Towards the end of this book, emotions hit me out of nowhere. It snuck up on me so damn fast. I loved it. When I first started this book, I was worried about being able to finish it and by the end, I didn't want it to be over. I love it when the story and the characters win me over.

The involvement of Tango and Cali was a little overwhelming at times. From looking at a few other reviews, I discovered that these two are crossover characters (and I'll be checking out their books too), but they sort of were tossed in here without giving us too much about them. I felt like I was missing something, like I was expected to know who these characters were vs. getting to know them through this book.

Overall this book hit some marks perfectly and missed a few. A solid overall read though and the last 20% of the story really made this book for me.

Richelle Robinson says

We have good girl, Sasha and alpha male with a soft side, Jags. They are complete opposites and like the old saying goes those usually attract. I loved Jags in this book but Sasha was such a stick in the mud. She was very high strung, very judgmental and quick to have her nose in the air. As the book progresses she finally loses up and I was able to tolerate her better. Her best friend Cali and her husband Tango made this book for me!! They are so hilarious and I loved their relationship. Ok, back to Jags and Sasha, they go through some stuff before they finally get it together. Sasha, has an ex boyfriend, Landon who is stalking her and won't stop until he gets her back. I was expecting more when it came to this part of the storyline but it kinda felt flat for me. This book does have some hilarious laugh out loud moments. The romantic comedy aspect of this book was great but the suspense fell flat. I will definitely be checking out Cali and Tango's book since I liked them so much. Oh and I can't forget Bambi! I hope we get a story about her as she is another interesting character. Ryan is a new to me author and I was impressed with my first book by her.

arc was given for honest review

For more reviews check me out at: <http://www.shellysbookcorner.com>

Book Loving Fairy-Blog says

Star Rating: 4 stars

Amazing!

Just amazing!

I will say I cried like a baby in just the prologue. It was that good, all of the emotions that were poured into this book were amazing.

JAGs, the corpsman who has a horrible past because of what he has seen. Comes together and pulls his life together but it isn't alone. Can a southern belle get inside this guarded man?

Sasha, a woman who is stuck in a life role that she has seen her entire life takes a back seat and watches it unfold and a realization hits her hard. Will her life turn out just like she has seen all of her life or will she make a change so it doesn't happen to her?

I loved this story. It has a lot of truth in it and being able to relate to the characters and their lives is what pushes you to want more and more and eventually when it's over all you want is for it to never end because it is just to hard to let them go.

This book has it's hilarious moments that's for sure because JAGs is just alpha to his core with a dirty as hell mouth and mind and I loved it. Shari has a way of writing and I immediately want to read her books, this won't be the last book I read of hers that is for sure.

-Michele Y

Christine says

Barely finished this one.

I started this one not sure what was happening, but I was curious and wanted to continue. Then I thought that this was a love triangle with the hero trying to decide between two women. I have no idea what was going on.

I was reading and was liking it, but then at 60% it fell flat and I barely finished it.

Heather Blauth Ambrosino says

I read Spiked Lemonade in return for an honest review.

Spiked Lemonade gets 5 stars from me, because it is sexy and sweet but it is also suspenseful, hilarious, and emotional. Sparks fly like crazy with the two main characters and I am so glad that these two opposites attract! Many scenes made me laugh out loud, blush with embarrassment or sing along to the awesome 80's music! I loved hearing this story through both perspectives of Jags and Sasha and getting a glimpse at what both characters were feeling. There are a few climaxes - both in the plot and between the characters ;) - that make this story quite the romantic and steamy, comedy! It is a must read - both hot and hilarious!

If you've read TAG and fallen in love with Cali and Tango, like me, they're back in Spiked Lemonade - and I looooved getting to spend more time with them too!

Suzi (Obsessive Reading Disorder) says

This is my first book by this author and both the title and synopsis drew me in. This is a stand alone but there are characters from another series that show up in this book. I thought their history was very easy to catch up on without having read Tag's book first.

This is a classic bad boy meets too innocent lady and sparks fly book. Jags is a former military medic with lots of ghosts haunting him day and night. Sasha is a true southern lady. No swear words out of her mouth, ever. She always is looking for the good in people and tries to keep up appearances. But Sasha has had her world implode recently and what she puts out on the surface is hiding the fear and insecurity in her life.

There is a fair bit of suspense in this novel along with the romance. I enjoyed the banter between Jags and Sasha and with their friends. I also really championed Sasha needing to be true to herself or in this case actually find out who she was. The secondary characters were all intriguing as well. I loved the side story of Bambi and Jags. Good people right there!

I look forward to reading more books by this author in the future!

*ARC received for an honest review.

BB Belle says

I received a copy of this book in return for an honest review on behalf of Bangor Belles Book Besties.

This is the first book of this author's that i have read, and i pretty much enjoyed it.

Jags is Ex Navy and has seen more death and destruction than anyone should have to. He's spent the last few years since leaving the services, being a nomad, getting attached to no one, neither emotionally nor physically. After all ya gotta scratch that itch right? He's hot, sexy, foul mouthed, tattooed, and really is at a point in his life where he doesn't give a *h** as long as there is hot cars and loose women !

He returns to Texas to help out a friend and his wife and in that process he meets Sasha (the wife's best friend) Sasha is everything he should never want. She's hot, gorgeous.. but she's the total opposite, she's judgmental, moral, good girl, snobbish and she hates him. But unfortunately neither of their hearts or bodies agree and the attraction just won't be abated. Hot steamy session's partnered with a good dose of humour !

I really liked Jags, he was funny, smart, and truly alpha. His banter with Sasha had me in fits of laughter, although he never really showed a serious side, you always knew it was there and he was a man you could rely on. Sasha i wasn't so keen on, i found her personality winney and juvenile and didn't really take to her.

As the story progress there are some good plot twists that definitely keep you turning the pages. A good enjoyable read, but i think i'd have loved him to have ended up with Bambi !!!

Looking forward to reading more of this authors work.

Ashley says

This was my first read by Shari J. Ryan but it won't be my last. It had a little bit of everything. It was cute and funny, sexy and sad, there was even some suspense.

They say opposites attract and that couldn't be more true for Jags and Shasha. They really are spiked lemonade. I absolutely adored Jags with his grizzly looks and his selfless ways. Shasha was a little harder to like but once she left that southern belle routine behind I did. I also loved the crazy banter between Cali and Tango! (I just realized they have their own books....next on my list.)

I was surprised and heartbroken for Bambi and her niece. It wasn't something I seen coming and I would LOVE to read something from their POV.

I loved when Shasha was drunk and said cocking instead of talking and it was just sort of the new word from then on. I think I'll even start saying it.

Barb Shuler says

First off, I was a beta reader for this story. That in no way takes an effect on my review. I loved this book from page 1.

The characters, the setting and the dynamics make this Romantic Comedy even more awesome. There are aspects of suspense, some intense moments that lead to some serious laughs. You have so many emotions and actions in one book that you get lost in each and every page. We first met both Jags and Sasha in Shari's novella, You're It, but do not worry, you do not have to read it first, unless you want to.

I love Jags, hard core. (and I'm not a beard chick but.. yeah he is yummy) I want to steal him and never let him go. Ha. And Sasha, dear sweet, I don't have a clue Sasha... I can't help but love her too. Weird for me but that is how it goes. You have a gruff, hardcore looking man who has seen more hurt and death in his life than anyone should have to deal with. You have a sweet, sassy (at times) southern belle who is shelter, coddled and has no clue of what the real world holds. Not only that but the two of them together are like night and day. Until they're not.

Callie, good lord her and Tango give this poor girl nightmares in a whole new way but its that kind of connection that you share with your bestfriend that keeps them in this place of needing to stay safe yet, not wanting to be a burden. Sasha is... a brat. There, I said it. LOL She is the kind of girl in school that always got A's, never had a hair out of place and was student body president. Jags, oh man, the big, burly, tatted up ex navy medic is a bear. So you have 'goldilocks' and Papa bear who have trouble fighting the attraction, the need to be close and the need to stay apart because they are so different.

Sasha, as I said was pampered. Jags wouldn't know pampered if it jumped out in front of him and sucked him off. Just saying. He is so far out of her grasps yet he is pulled in by her willingness to let him flirt, turn her cheeks pink and make her squirm. lets not forget the escapades they get into in a dark bathroom during a storm. And, oh man the shower, the things that bathroom could tell us all about if it could talk. The misunderstandings, moments of clarity and the chaos that has become Sasha's new life make things hard for her to wrap herself around what is right in front of her. The real threat that is waiting on her. the determination for Jags to save her... it's all a lot for her to take in. She has to fight to keep herself together.

In the end they both learn a valuable lesson. No one can fight your path out of the forest if you aren't willing to do it for yourself. Goldilocks got to sample the porridge, question is does she come to her senses and decide to take it all in. Let it warm her and keep her safe, or does she run and hide in another bubble and stop living the way she should. The way she could if she would open her heart to the man that has wormed his way into her life. Even if he was unwanted in the beginning.

Tiffany says

What a great story!! I laughed, was scared and felt all kinds of crazy emotions. So happy I won an ARC of Spiked Lemonade, I got to experience a great love. I love Shari's writing. Go one click today!

Melanie (mells_view) says

I actually DNF at like 35% I'll estimate, I already deleted the book. It just wasn't my cup of tea. It claims to be a romantic comedy, but I didn't get to any romance and I definitely didn't think anything was very funny. I read some comments that I think were supposed to be considered funny, but they just missed the mark for me.

The writing of the prologue was actually REALLY good, but it was deep and dark... Not comedy at all. I wasn't sure I was reading the right book but I really really liked the prologue. It just wasn't what I had expected.

Then the prologue was tied into the present and I was confused about whether this was a love triangle or like some sort of mystery. Like was the girl at the hotel the girl from the prologue because if so she was either lying about her age or that was a continuity issue.

I don't know. The writing was good. The story just wasn't for me and didn't make sense so much of the time. Like is this a follow up to another book? Because some of the characters had back stories that I felt like I needed to know more of. They kept being alluded to, "you know how I am, running away." Ok are you running away? Should I already know why? What?

The blurb and the prologue are great. That's where it ended for me. *shrugs shoulders*
