



And the next Thing You Know . . .

Chase Taylor Hackett

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Not the one you're waiting for . . .

Jeffrey Bornic is getting over his ex. Really. So what if the rising-star attorney is angrily sleeping his way through most of Manhattan's male population? When the time is right, the perfect partner will show up. And Jeffrey knows exactly what he'll be like: an ambitious, polished professional who'll make the ideal other half of a fabulous power couple.

Theo McPherson is definitely not that guy. He's a short, fiery red-head who works in the arts and wears sneakers held together with duct tape. If it weren't for the fact that Theo is his best friend's little (literally) brother, Jeff would be crossing the street to avoid him. Theo, meanwhile, has nothing but contempt for guys in suits, and seems to have deliberately set out to make Jeff's life miserable, all while grinning at him in that exasperating way that he has.

At least it's hard for Jeff to keep moping over his ex when he's butting heads with Theo—and suddenly wondering if the last guy he'd ever fall for might be exactly that . . .

And the next Thing You Know . . . Details

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From Reader Review And the next Thing You Know . . . for online ebook

annob says

Pleasant story with a colourful character cast. Jeffrey the big time lawyer and Theo the carefree songwriter. Oddly, it felt a bit like re-reading the same story as in the previous book. Don't know why when this one focussed on the main villain from book 1, and Theo had a very different personality to Roger in the first book.

I did enjoy the snark, bickering, banter and the courting Jeff embarks on to gain the attention of the not so easily impressed Theo. The scene after 'Hamilton' was excellent, and my heart went out for poor Jeff in that one. But in the end I didn't buy that a character like Jeff, so career and prestige oriented, would (view spoiler).

On the whole I enjoyed reading this book, but the romance didn't work quite as well as in the previous one in the series.

Trio says

What a fantastically talented new author! I can't wait to see what Chase Taylor Hackett comes up with next. The characters were so beautifully developed and I loved watching them emerge throughout the story. The chemistry between Jeffrey and Theo was so realistic, this was the perfect enemies to lovers story.

Seriously, I found myself laughing out loud (embarrassingly often) at all the clever situations Hackett contrives for these guys. Amazingly fresh and creative, I truly couldn't guess what would happen next and it was a blast.

Also, I've gotta say, as a NYC resident it is so much fun to read stories that take place here and it's clear Hackett enjoys this unique place as much as I do. As a transplant from Minnesota I could completely identify with Theo - we mid-westerners really do smile and talk to strangers and most New Yorkers are very welcoming and receptive when it happens. That brunch scene, the description of the tables basically on top of each other and all six diners having a conversation...! Some of the most interesting people I've met have been just waiting on line or riding on trains.

I've got to go back and read Where Do I Start?, I'm sure it's fabulous. Clearly you can read And the next Thing You Know . . . as a stand-alone since I just did, or read them out of order as I shall.

Huge kudos to Chase Taylor Hackett, great job!

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley for the purpose of this review

? Todd says

Profuse Gushing Alert!

I loved this story so freaking hard. Period.

Once "**Jeffrey**" (not **Jeff**) met **Theo** for lunch with Jeffrey's best friend, Rebecca, Theo's sister, then immediately proceeded to nip any of Theo's thoughts of future "*dates*" in the bud, I was sold. That shit was pure comic genius.

"... I've just come off a pretty bad break-up," I said with a touch of melancholy in my voice, a carefully practiced sadness in the eyes, "and I'm simply not ready to jump into a relationship or dating or anything right now, okay? I know, I'm probably just too sensitive." There was a noise from the other side of the table—it was almost, not quite, a snort. "But please, no hard feelings, all right, Theo?"

"I'm sorry?"

"Don't take this the wrong way! You're clearly a great guy—fabulous really—and honestly, it's just a question of lousy timing. It's totally my loss."

Fabulous really! <-- *snort* Yes, I fucking died then and there, guys.

So, as you might imagine, as the story began, "*Jeffrey*" had a very high opinion of himself, and Theo loved nothing more than putting a bitch in their place. Stat.

This story was so rife with snark and banter, as these two polar opposites sparred off against one another, it was such a delight to witness, so I was all in right from the start.

Then you have Tommy, Jeff's ex-boyfriend's best friend, who just happened to be working at Jeff's law firm now. When Tommy and Theo, aka Twinks United, got together, Jeff seriously had to watch his back. Which was awesome to see the confident, arrogant, prick of an attorney brought down so handily.

I loved Tommy so much that I've pretty much decide that I *must* go back and read book 1, which I'd previously decided to skip. Tommy was an amazing supporting character and made me laugh so hard.

Snark and banter (cough-flirting-cough) aside, the main drama in the story came from a truly terrible thing that Jeff did behind Rebecca's back to further his career, plus Jeff wasn't out to his very conservative family.

When Jeff's awful deed was discovered by Theo, that was THE END of the Jeff & Theo show. Permanently. Maybe. Okay, for a while. This is a romance, after all. ;-)

The story definitely included a good number of genuine feels. Like the red shoe laces. *GAH* I loved that scene so hard and may or may not have swooned just an itty bit. Allegedly.

One thing that the book did not have, though, was on-page steam. Those scenes were entirely glossed over; however, while I would have undoubtedly enjoyed them, I didn't ultimately feel that they were necessary for the story to feel complete.

There was one 'almost' cheating scene, where Jeff was in feeling denial and had told Theo that he had "no interest" in them sleeping together again, which did piss me off. But, of course, Theo being Theo showed up and put the kibosh on that little Grindr "meat and greet" so hard. It was a funny scene, but made me think

much less of Jeff, at least for a while.

For the SJW types out there, I must also mention that the MC's weren't the most sensitive when it came to referring to others as fat, ugly, old, balding, girly, and the like. I didn't find including those particular derogatory words added *anything* to the story, instead, they made me cringe when I saw them on-page. So just a warning, there before buying this book.

The story ends with Theo and Jeff happily together, exclusively, and planning their future, so I really enjoyed it. Tommy also got a final chapter, with his romantic future looking decidedly up, so yay for that, too.

While the story was not perfect, it was pretty damned perfect for me, so I'd rate it at around 4.5 stars.

My copy of the book was provided by the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for a fair, unbiased review.

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Rohit says

You know when, until now you've only known about one kind of edging (wink-wink) and then, you read a book which makes you stand over the cliff and you're literally just standing there, numb because nothing is happening. Boy was I disappointed! Like their first intimate moment I was almost on the verge of extreme fanboy-ing and was like "KISS! KISS! KISS!", there wasn't even a fucking kiss. Are ya kidding me?

Fuck my libido, right?

(That's a RuPaul reference, for the uninformed.)

And I was like, I'm a reader, I'd get back at you. You just watch me, I'll cut one star off your rating! But then the happy tears took over. Oh my god! Maybe it was some kind of weird hormonal effect due to my viral fever or I don't know what, but this book had me making googly eyes and crying happy tears and imagining, if I could have what they have, even an inch, I'm locking that mofo down right that minute.

So, yeah, after a long time, I had genuine smiles and laughs and I was so happy from crying and crying from being happy. I know, I know! I was an emotional little shite.

Whatever, despite the absence of hot smexy scenes, I had a lot of heart thumping moments, falling in love over and over with these characters, loving their banter, especially their banter and just enjoying a light hearted romance which syncs and may be a bit trope-y but the writing is so refined that you can't help but appreciate those moments.

Shin Mon Thway says

So obviously, I'm the odd one out here. ? 5 of my friends loved this, raved about it and savored every part of it. Sadly, not me. ? I gave this book everything I have and I had to DNF at 70%. ? If you know me and you've been following me for long, you must know that I ***never*** DNF books. I'm the kind of gal who marks the books in "to-read" section again for later if I have trouble reading them. This is the very first book in my two years of oath to never DNF books again that I had to give up. ?

It actually started out fun and great ... until 20%. Theo is obviously bitchy but seems to be fun and has some twisted sense of humor ... or so I thought. And then it came. ? Both MCs are not nice people .. no scratch that. It's just the comparison of who's the bigger asshole between the two. **But I find Jeff tolerable while Theo is one of the most vile, selfish, inconsiderate, clingy, hateful, pathetic, mean, inhumane and pessimistic people I've unfortunately ever had the pleasure to read.** Lol ?

From 20% of the book, I was just constantly grimacing and my forehead is having serious frowns while reading. And I had to take breaks every 30 mins because I'd end up throwing away my kindle or smashing it to pieces. ? This book was provided as an ARC from netgalley and one thing I hate more than DNFing books is DNFing ARCs. ? I owe the authors that much to read the book until the end to write a coherent review with unbiased opinions. ? But when I get to 70% of this book, in order to be able to continue to read it, I decided to take a break for a while and I ended up bingewatching an anime *which I didn't even like* on Netflix for 4 hours because I was afraid to continue to read. ? Let's just say, it was the last straw on the camel's back. ? I just can't handle how negative and pathetic Theo is. ?? If I were the other MC in this novel, this would have turned out as a crime novel and not a romance one. ? And obviously, I don't have enough sense of humor to enjoy Theo's thoughts and banters, but hey, you might. ?

That being said, was this book just full of awful things? No, it's not. ? **One thing that seriously impressed me was the author's style of writing. I saw reviews that it was confusing and difficult to read. But for me, I think it was a refreshing and unique style of writing. The entire book is written by first person narratives and opinions. How cool is that! ?♥??** But the author has published two books so far and all MCs in both books seem to be assholes. ? At least, the ones in this novel definitely are. Will I ever pick up any of the author's book again in the future? Nah .. I don't think so. Unless, he ventures into some other characteristics of MCs, I don't think I'll be able to read the books. ? I'm actually ok with assholes because I love kidnapppers, murderers, psychotic MCs. But obviously Theo is worse than an Ahole. ? There's being bitchy and there's being bitchy. You get my point. ?

But by all means, if you are intrigued in this book, give it a go! ? You'd either give it one star and hate it to death or you'd give it 5 stars and you'd love it. Hopefully! ? And remember that reading books are like choosing skincare. Lol ? What works for my skin might not work for you and vice versa. Obviously, this book is not for me and I don't have tolerance for such MCs. Actually, I want more people to read this book because I'm dying to know about other people's opinions. ? I'll keep track on reviews on this book. ??

Some characteristics of Theo from the novel: ?

Jeff didn't even like me. Did he? He certainly didn't act like he liked me. So why would he take me out on a date? And even so, it wasn't my fault if he thought it was a date. I didn't say that it was. He didn't say that it was. If he had said it was a date, I'd have straightened him out. I'd have told him to forget about it. I'd have told him to kiss my flying buttress. I'd have told him—I wasn't the answer to anybody's midlife crisis.

I mean, Theo was thoroughly irritating, a pebble in the shoe. And the way he looked up at me—like he was always making fun of me—just made me want to deck him. And he was way too little to punch. Excuse me, too short, not too little.

“What have you got against football?” “You're right! Professional football—what's not to love? Let's see, you have a bunch of wife-beating, dog-baiting, homophobic rapists who get paid gazillions to play a game.”

“Nooooooo...it's not—” “Ye-ah, it...sort of is. I understand the new b.f. is here too.” “Fletch?” “Ye-ah. That guy.” “You knew this before, and you weren't going to tell me. You were just going to blindside me with it.” “That was pretty much the original plan, yeah—you know, catch you off-guard, watch you squirm uncomfortably, that sort of thing.” “You really are a little shit, aren't you?”

2 a unique, refreshing style writing but the worst MC ever star
????

A review copy was provided by the author via NetGalley for an honest and unbiased review ?

Isaiah says

I got an ARC in return for an honest review from NetGalley.

This is the second book in a series that I got because there was a dog on the cover of the first one. By the end of that book I really disliked Jeffrey, which is why I almost didn't grab this book because Jeffrey is the main character. This book was so worth it. I can't even express how much this book was the perfect book for me at this exact moment. Jeffrey actually grew on me and he grew on me quick. Everything makes so much sense now. I really misjudged him and I have to give props to Hackett for making me go from thinking that torture was ok to loving an attorney! (Did I mention I work in a law office so attorneys are a group of people I have strong opinions on?)

This was such a passionate enemies to lovers situation that I was so captivated in. I could see myself in Theo so well. I am also short (shorter than Theo), but I wear a slightly larger shoe than him. Theo actually has to shop in the kid's section for shoes btw. Why that matters to me, I will never know but it was a wonderful little detail that just made Theo more endearing and helped further along his need to be seen as bigger than he was. He was a total chihuahua. He was bitchy, tiny, and under it all scared.

Rebecca was not as fleshed out as I would have liked, but I liked that she was a powerful female attorney with a power for harassing her brother. The way she reacted to things was pretty comical and I am glad she was a character. I would love to learn more about her, though there is an implication that there is a potential sequel with a budding new couple by the end (PLEASE!).

I was promised a cute dog in this book as well. There were many cute dogs, but the cutest had to be Theo. He was very much a human incarnation of a puppy. I'm not even mad about that. It was wonderful, though the chihuahua mix at the end of the book would have been my first place dog otherwise. He was old, ugly, and just my type of dog. I would have adopted him and spoiled him rotten in a heartbeat.

I was laughing out loud so often. I was probably giggling more than the boys were. I am pretty sure that my grandmother and my coworkers think I am nuts for how much I have been giggling and just generally not doing anything but grasping onto my Kindle for dear life.

I did have issues with the book: MEN CAN RAPE MEN. Do I need to repeat myself? Men can and do rape men. There is a huge issue of sexual assault in the gay male community (I can go on about the bar in SF that actually has a table in it that if you are at it it means you are open season to anyone and it is not labeled so people are assaulted on a regular basis there or about how people make prison rape jokes all the time or how men are not taken seriously when they report rape. Have I made myself clear?) This line of thinking almost put me off the story. I was hoping that there wasn't another issue like that in the story and thankfully there wasn't anything else as glaringly awful as that. There were a few scenes where there was talk about sexual harassment and cheating, but that was handled much better. I am so disappointed that I even have one bad thing to say about the book. There was so much good and I was so close to saying this book was perfect. SO CLOSE.

While I would have also liked to have more on page sex (there was only one scene that even remotely got close), I liked how it left the story to be more about the romance and less about the sex. That is a hard line to walk in romance, especially in M/M romance, so in this case I think the author made the right choice by not including graphic sex scenes. Though can I beg for a spin off novella of just straight up sex scenes between the characters of these books? PLEASE.

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Santy says

We meet a very different Jeffery here than the one in Book 1 and I loved it. He began as his usual ass self and all but I always knew there was more to him than just being an arrogant, overbearing character and I'm so glad this book showed it. It also showed that he had a good heart hidden underneath all of that and also that he deserved his HEA. Even if it was to be paired with the crazy Tasmanian devil hellcat that was Theo.

Theo, Theo, Theo. Where do I even presume to begin with Theo? I will say this much first: though he made me laugh with his snark, wit and saucy comebacks (his texts with Madison anyone??), I never truly really warmed up to him like I did Jeff.

Why you may ask? Well it's quite simple really. Theo was immature. I mean really, REALLY immature. He was such a rude, chaos-inducing, unrepentant, self-absorbed brat in my humble opinion. He always had to get his way. And who throws a real life ear-splitting, foot-kicking tantrum at age 24? Theo that's who.

Whenever he didn't get his way, or things went contrary to how he wanted them to, cue the mean petty actions and vicious verbal attacks. I don't know whether those actions were as a result of the weird complex he had concerning his stature or if was simply the immaturity I mentioned earlier.

I WILL admit that in the last big standoff with Jeff, Theo was 100% justified. However, I couldn't help but notice that it wasn't as dramatic as any of his earlier fits in the book. My conclusion therefore was that, our dear Theo loved to be the center of attention earlier and it was only that time that he was genuinely understandably heartbroken.

As you may have inferred from the blurb, from the get go these two were at each other's throats poking, pinching, kicking(Theo), teasing, humiliating(also Theo) just to come out on top. The banter from these clashes? Golden. Très Golden. I couldn't stop laughing/sniggering/smirking all throughout.

To best describe the relationship these two had, I would like to call upon the wise words of Theo's sister Rebecca who summed it up perfectly:

"... 'You're both really smart and at the same time total idiots. And you both occasionally feel compelled to be mind-boggling assholes. Match made in heaven.' "

Now I cannot possibly finish this review without mentioning the light in my darkness, the water in my desert, the apple of my eye, the sugar in my tea... TOMMY.

Tommy was a scene-stealer anytime he came on page. With the perfect balance of intellect, sass and fabulosity all rolled into one twinkly package, Tommy further cemented his place as my favourite character in this series.

PSA: I need that Tommy book and I need it yesterday Mr. Chase Taylor Hackett! I believe in you!! *makes grabby hands*

*****eARC Provided by Publisher in exchange For An Honest, Unbiased Review *****

Renée says

So freakin' funny! The snark in this one is worth its weight in gold. I liked the book for that alone. But what held it back for me was that I never grew to like either of the MCs. And no steam :((didn't deduct stars for this, but I would've liked to at least experience their first kiss).

Sandra says

4.5 stars.

This was freaking AWESOME!!!!

I didn't like Jeffrey (don't call him Jeff) in the first book in this series, because he came across as a pompous ass, and I don't usually have time for the arrogant, cocky, snobby, hot-shot attorney kind of person.

But this book was delicious fun - I had a blast watching Jeffrey get cut to size by Theo.

Let me set the stage, okay?

Jeffrey is best friends and co-workers with Rebecca who is Theo's older sister. This is important information. Theo is currently occupying his sister's fold-out couch, because his douche sort of boyfriend has maybe found greener pastures.

First scene, Jeffrey, still smarting from the break-up (how dare Roger leave him for Fletcher, the reformed cheater), is supposed to meet Rebecca in a restaurant for lunch and instead finds Theo at the table. Presuming that Rebecca is trying to set him up, Jeffrey informs Theo that, sadly, he's not interested in dating right now, because *sniffles* that break-up is still hurting him, but please don't take it personally, Theo, because surely you're fabulous, really.

Theo, having no idea what Jeffrey is going on about, immediately makes mince-meat of the self-important prick who presumes to know anything about anything.

And thus, their hate-ship is born.

The book is chockful of snark and sarcasm, and the witty back and forth between Jeffrey and Theo had me in stitches. And yet, even through my giggles, I could see a vulnerability in both of them, something they would categorically deny if asked, but simmering just beneath the surface. For all his pompousness, Jeffrey was really hurt by Roger choosing Fletcher, and for all his bravado at 5'6" and skinny, Theo was just hiding behind a mask constructed of his cutting remarks. Jeffrey is also not as cold and calculating as he likes to portray himself, even if Theo doesn't quite see it right away. That thing with the red shoelaces though - total win. And that was only icing on the Jeffrey-is-really-a-marshmallow cake. Because, see, Jeffrey doesn't even realize it himself for a long time - the super cool and collected at all times go-getter lawyer - that's a mask too.

Shenanigans - this book had them. Snappy dialogue, self-deprecating humor, a brilliant use of the enemies-to-lovers trope, this was everything I had hoped for and more.

Still, it's not all snark and banter aka foreplay here. Jeffrey does a crappy thing, and he knows it's a crappy thing, and he doesn't say anything about that crappy thing, even when he should have, and then it comes back to bite him in the ass. Hard. And it's the end of the Theo and Jeffrey comedy of errors.

Well, no, not really, of course, since this is a romance, after all. When Jeffrey realizes the crappy thing was really super crappy and had some really crappy consequences, he actually for once in his life puts someone else first, no matter the consequences to himself. And Jeffrey, spoiled, rich, arrogant little boy Jeffrey grows up and becomes a real man.

Theo too has some growing up to do. He has to learn that being short isn't the same as being helpless, but that sometimes it's okay to lean on others and let them help you. It doesn't make you a lesser person.

I will warn you though - this book isn't politically correct or sensitive to unkind language. The author didn't pull any punches, but also succeeded in making the characters feel more realistic this way. Because, let's face it, we all have unkind thoughts towards others on occasion, that's just human nature.

Additionally, and this is not an issue for me but may be for other readers, there is no on-page steam. While

Jeffrey and Theo get it on eventually, those scenes are completely fade-to-black and mentioned only in transition to the next scene. There is plenty of chemistry though, and I had no difficulty believing that their bedroom exploits were as explosive as their hate-ship in the beginning.

The old adage is true after all - there is but a thin line between love and hate, and the opposite of love is not hate, but indifference. Neither MC, despite their protestations, was indifferent to the other, and they went easily from hate to love, without meaning to, without realizing it at first, and without having planned for it. And in the process found in each other exactly that which they never knew they always wanted.

Brilliant!

I LOVED this book. Highly recommended.

** I received a free copy from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. **

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

2.5 Hearts

Um, don't mind me over here. In the corner. Hiding. In my box of shame.

I so wanted to love this. I really did.

Hackett wowed me with *Where Do I Start?* in how he made fall for Fletch, and I was all ready to be bowled over to do the same with douchecanoe Jeffrey. In a way I did. The guy actually grows a heart, moves beyond his self involved inclinations, all because he falls for someone who he wants to be better for. Luckily, Jeffrey finds that in Theo.

Oh Theo. Overall, I can see and understand where this guy is coming from, but there were just too many instances where his thought processes made me cringe uncomfortably, and to me, bordered on pure spite and childishness. If one ever ran hot and cold in extreme, Theo is that epitome, and I actually felt sorry for Jeffrey despite the many instances where he deserved Theo's wrath.

This goes above and beyond enemies to lovers, as Jeffrey and Theo go all out to push each other's buttons again and again and again. Now, while highly entertaining, this just did not appeal to what I want and need in a romance. So I can see why all the readers out there loved this hard, but in comparison to the first book this lacked the sweet sweet charm that I reveled in and so wanted from this. I just couldn't ever relax as I waited for the other shoe to drop on the next crazy drama that was going to come, and come it did. These two truly deserved each other.

Many many points to Hackett for great writing, humor, and eschewing typical romance tropes and expectations. This has all the smart snarky banter with the ultimate in one upmanship that any avid reader could want. I just needed a more solid reason to root for these two, wanting way more lovey dovey (not to mention some smexy smexy) and less hateful mean animosity. Perhaps bff-to-all Tommy, will find his HEA and be the icing on the cake!

Thank you to the author/publisher for a copy in exchange for an honest review

Aeren says

Me hubiese gustado darle las cinco y de hecho, hasta alrededor del 70% del libro, estaba convencida de que iba a por ellas, pero a aunque me he reído mucho y ellos me han encantado (a pesar de que Theo me puso un poco de los nervios) y hay que reconocer que el autor ha hecho un excelente trabajo con Jeffrey, al que en el libro anterior vemos como un absoluto giliplo***s, me es imposible considerarlo un libro redondo porque creo que la resolución de los conflictos y la parte del clímax pierde mucho gas, como buena amante del angst quería un poco más de 'sangre' y no la ha habido. Como el anterior, está escrito con un estilo muy peculiar que lo hace muy ligero y que le va muy bien al tipo de historia que desarrolla. Añado que hay ciertos comentarios que hacen los personajes acerca de otros que me chirriaron bastante pero que sin embargo, ya que nadie es perfecto, asumo que ellos tampoco lo son y que esta muestra de superficialidad y en cierto modo 'mal gusto', les da un toque más realista, ¿quien dice que la gente así de 'boba' no merece un final feliz? Me quedo ansiando por la historia de Tommy ♥♥

Fabi says

ETA: It's out today, 2/6/18. Don't miss out. It's so good!

4.5 stars!!!

I had so much fun reading this story!

These guys were hilarious. **Enemies to lovers at it's best.**

Jeffrey is a pompous, hot-shot, up and coming lawyer. Recently dumped by his boyfried, Jeffrey is just a little angry and whole lot self-important.

Theo is 5'6" and maybe a 100 lbs soaking wet. He's an artsy type who could care less about wealth and prestige. He could also care less about Jeffrey's importance. During their first meeting, Theo doesn't hesitate to put Jeff in his place. Quickly and efficiently shutting the bigger man down.

Theo is a spitfire! Oh lordy me. He just bowled me over with his shenanigans. Jeffrey could barely hold his own against him and often didn't. I couldn't contain my laughter. I hate laughing out loud when I'm reading a book because people around me don't know what I'm laughing at and I feel like I sound insane. So there was a lot of coughing and choking on my part while trying to contain my uncontainable laughter.

There is also so much character growth in this novel. It's simply heartwarming to see. I loved it. I loved the realness of the characters. I loved their dialogue as well as their wonky actions.

I'm sorry I missed book 1 in this series, because this author KNOWS HOW TO WRITE. **This may be book 2, but it absolutely reads as a stand alone book.** This one will be published on February 6th. Mark your calendar! You even have time to read book 1, *Where Do I Start?*, first. :-)

Review ARC graciously provided by Kensington Publishing via NetGalley

Bev says

It's official...I'm **in love** with this series!! ????? and ????? from me....in fact hell, ALL the stars!!

For those of us that love Rom-Coms [and I certainly do, with quite a few sides of snark and some brilliant one liners], this is a classic series!! I would never have dreamt that after meeting Jeff [yep, I *went* there] and disliking him in *Where Do I Start?* that the author could make me a) *care* about what happened to him, b) give a damn about his feelings, c) laugh out loud at some of the things he said and d) have all this watery stuff come out of my eyes towards the end. To me, that's the mark of a really good author...and once again, his writing was crazy good [not perfect cos hey, the rape chat thing wasn't cool at all, and Jeffrey's treatment of Rebecca was nasty...but I just *knew* the contents of that email would come back to bite him on the bum, so poetic justice really].

Theo was...well, a typically fiery redhead [as far as my experience of them is concerned anyhoo]. Not only did he have that particular cross to bear, he was on the small side as far as his height was concerned ?, and that gave people the impression that they could boss him around....oops, not advisable. He was strong, intelligent, didn't suffer fools [ex boyfriends or handsy sleazeballs] gladly...but a lot of it was of course a front. I loved his banter with Tommy [??] and his attempt to get rid of his old boyfriend [and vice versa btw] in a cafe, elbows jostling with another couple of guys and two older women and joining in the conversation made me howl with laughter. Obviously what the Gods took away in the height department, they gave back to him in spades in the snark department ?. Self preservation I think it's called....

I really liked Rebecca, great to catch up with Roger and Fletch again, and did I say how much I love Tommy already ????? I cannot WAIT for his story, and I did sort of have an inkling that he might get together with a character from book 1 (view spoiler)...but maybe not, we'll see.

Great writing Mr Author, already looking forward to book 3!!

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

4.5 stars

I unexpectedly loved this book, even with it's flaws.

I jumped into *And the next Thing You Know* . . . totally blind. I've never read anything from Chase Taylor

Hackett before, and I didn't realize that it was even part of a series (Where Do I Start? is the first) when I requested it. **And the next Thing You Know . . . started off a little weird for me as well, with its running internal-monologue sort of style.** It was rambling, and I wasn't sure if I was going to like it at all.

And then I did. I really, really did.

This book is for all of you out there who like prickly MCs who start off *hating* each other. For people who like MCs who are all piss and vinegar and who have to WORK at each other. Over and over again. If you MCs who are all **snark** and bite and fire.

But then, underneath, you start to see hints of vulnerability. Just hints. And they make the whole thing worthwhile.

This book is **in no way perfect**. I forgave the MCs for some pretty crappy things they said (some questionable thoughts about whether men could rape one another - *YES*- and some other stereotypical, icky other things). There is also **absolutely no sex**. Not even fade-to-black. Sure, sex is implied, but it is implied like in a PG movie. Like they leave and go into a room and shut the door *cut to the next day*. However, I didn't mind that much.

When it comes down to it, though, this book gave me **oodles and oodles of feels**. I LOVED the snark and banter, and I ADORED the chemistry between the two MCs. I even got that tightness in my eyes and throat at the end of the story, I was so happy, and that tightness, that emotion, usually equates to 4+ stars in my book.

And the next Thing You Know . . . won't be for everyone, but people who connect to the writing style and the MCs will love it. Oh, and although this book is part of a series, it also **works well as a stand-alone** so don't be afraid to dive in. I was so happy that I did.

Copy provided in exchange for an honest review

Zoe says

Entertaining, passionate, and laugh-out-loud funny!

And The Next Thing You Know ... is a charming enemies-to-more romance featuring the quirky, fun-loving Theo who's determined not to fall for any slick, pompous lawyers, and Jeffery the sexy, arrogant suit who may just find everything he wants and needs in the one man he least expected.

The characters are bold, amusing, and supportive. The writing style is a unique mixture of inner monologues and narration. And the plot sweeps you away into a push-pull storyline filled with tension, humor, witty banter, shameless flirting, friendship, heartbreak, and love.

And The Next Thing You Know ... is a lighthearted, enjoyable read, and even though there are no sex scenes at all in this novel, which I usually love, I have to admit that in this case less is more and the palpable chemistry and attraction is more than enough.

And The Next Thing You Know ... is the first novel I've read by Hackett and even though it's the second

novel in the Why You? Series and can be read as a standalone I would suggest you check out Where Do I Start? (Book #1) first.

Thank you to Kensington Books for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review.

All my reviews can be found on my blog at <https://whatsbetterthanbooks.com>
