



Friends to Lovers

Christi Barth

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Book three of Aisle Bound

As florist and co-owner of a successful Chicago wedding planning business, Daphne Lovell has been there for the happiest days of other people's lives. As for her own life? Well, it's hard to be perfectly happy when you're carrying a torch for your sexy, womanizing and oblivious best friend. So when the lights go out on New Year's Eve, she seizes the opportunity to kiss him senseless.

British expat Gibson Moore has a lot on his plate. The hotel he manages is being bought out, his family is crazy and someone just kissed him in the dark. When the lights go on, he searches the room, trying to find the mystery pair of lips. Only, he never thinks to ask the woman standing by his side. He's shocked when he discovers that Daphne is the woman he's been searching for. But Gib's also eager to act upon the attraction for her he's always fought to ignore.

It takes trust to move from friends to lovers, and as Gib's work situation worsens, he is no longer sure he can risk the friendship he relies on most. It's up to Daphne to convince him that some things are worth fighting for...

96,000 words

Friends to Lovers Details

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From Reader Review Friends to Lovers for online ebook

Sunny (Kindles & Wine Book Blog) says

Review, Excerpt & Giveaway posted on Kindles & Wine

I love weddings! I also love how Christi Barth created a great group of friends who are all in the wedding business, sharing their talents with brides and grooms in the Chicago area. I enjoyed *Friends to Lovers* and am excited to share why!

I am going to kick this off with Daphne. She has been a mainstay in the Aisle Bound series, so this was not my first encounter with her. Putting her in the spotlight in *Friends to Lovers* gave me a much clearer picture of what makes Daphne tick. I remembered that she doesn't like the limelight and that she is an accomplished florist. What I didn't realize was her very deep desire to jump Gibson's (Gib's) bones! I loved how Daphne sets her family and friends as priorities in her life. Her relationship with her father provided very special moments throughout the book, as well as the memories they share regarding her deceased mother. I thoroughly enjoyed learning more about flowers, their meaning, and how they became so important to Daphne. But what I enjoyed most with her character was her growth. She has a low self-esteem and through the help of Gib, her family, and other friends, she starts to see her strengths more and more, which helped her achieve a lot during this story.

Gib is a sexy Brit. He, like Daphne, has kept the romantic feelings he has for his best friend a secret for years. Instead of putting himself and their friendship on the line, he hides it by involving himself with every other woman in the city of Chicago. He has a reputation as a playboy and although this bothered me at times, I got over it quickly because I really did like his character. Gib is dealing with a lot of issues professionally and personally in *Friends to Lovers*, and I appreciated the realness these struggles brought to his character. He finds himself confiding in his friends, especially with Daphne. I liked how this leads to his maturing throughout the book. With his experience with women, he knows how to show them a good time and wow them with his romantic ideas. Some of my favorite moments in the book were the special romantic gestures Gib does on his dates with Daphne.

This could probably be read as a standalone, but I certainly enjoyed getting back to the characters I have gotten to know in the Aisle Bound series, and the whole gang was instrumental throughout this entire story. I loved how these friends help each other, bringing a realness to the story as well as some great laugh-out-loud moments. On the other hand, I felt that sometimes there were a lot of things going on, maybe too many. With so many subplots, there were times it seemed to detract from Gib and Daphne's story. I also didn't like the abruptness of the ending. Building out the ending a bit more and lessening some of the subplots to give room to do this would have made this book even better for me.

Bottom Line

Friends to Lovers has a lot going on, but I thought it was a great contemporary romance, especially as a fan of the series. The strong friendships portrayed provide a beautiful quality to the book, as do the romantic gestures demonstrated throughout.

Rating: B+

Review copy courtesy of the author/publisher in exchange for an honest review

Nicole says

Review originally posted here: [http://thebookpushers.com/2013/10/11/...](http://thebookpushers.com/2013/10/11/)

I love wedding books, and the Aisle Bound series has characters that grip me hard, so when I saw that Daphne and Gib were going to get their chance at a HEA, I couldn't wait to pick up this book.

Daphne has been best friends with Gibson for longer than she can remember. She's also crushed on him for just as long. But Gib's a player and Daphne never wanted to jeopardize their friendship. One night when the power goes out, Daphne takes a chance and gives Gib the kiss she's always wanted to. Now their dynamic is changing, and the two of them have to figure out how to change with it.

But as they struggle to deal with becoming lovers instead of just friends, the world around them throws a curveball at Gibson. His job is on the line and he has to relocate out of the country. As they struggle to find the balance between friends and lovers, they will need to lean on each other more than ever, in order to weather the newest storm.

Friends-to-lovers stories are some of my favorites, and I thought Barth did an amazing job with Daphne and Gib. I loved the fact that Daphne tried to keep her kissing Gib a secret, despite the fact that Gib went on and on about his "Cinderella." I thought it showed just how cautious Daphne was about losing her best friend. One of the most important aspects for me in a friends-to-lovers book is the fear of the changing dynamic. The fear that if they move to lovers, their friendship might someday be in jeopardy. I thought that Barth showcased that fear in both Daphne and Gib so well, and I loved the way they dealt with it, together.

Getting more of Gib's backstory was wonderful, especially once we learn what drove him away from his noble family and into the hospitality business. I felt so bad for him, hearing about his family. Then, having his brother show up out of the blue really sealed the deal for me as to how shitty they really were. The revelation as to what his brother tried to do to get Gibson to be his own personal pawn was so totally out there, and made me angry on Gib's behalf. I loved seeing the total dysfunction of his family up close and personal.

Given the dynamic of Gib's family, it was so special to see just how much of a family Gib had created with his friends. Getting to see Ivy and Ben, Sam and Mira, and Daphne all stand up for Gib, and rally behind him, was perfect. I love books that showcase how much a group of close friends can become like a family, and Barth has done this perfectly. I adore all the characters in this story, and Barth's ability to write fun and sexy heroes and heroines is one of the many reasons she has become a must-buy author to me.

The one thing that I was a little disappointed with in this book was the ending. Don't get me wrong, the twist at the very end was something I never saw coming. However, I felt as if Gibson needed to do a little bit more groveling before Daphne forgave him so easily. I thought she did the perfect amount of groveling as well, since she also had a moment or two of overreaction. Despite that, I thought this book was so well done!

All in all I really enjoyed this book. Daphne and Gibson were so perfect for each other, and watching them grow their friendship to so much more was absolutely fabulous. I adored getting to see the other secondary characters we've fallen in love with since the opening of this series, and hope we get to see more!

I give Friends to Lovers a B+

Jillian Stein says

You can also find my review on my blog:
<http://www.read-love-blog.com/2013/10...>

Friends to Lovers is the third book in Christi Barth's Aisle Bound Series and admittedly the first in this series that I have read. Well, clearly I have been missing out because this book was so enjoyable!

Successful business co-owner and florist Daphne Lovell has been admiring her best friend, Gib, from afar for quite some time now. She has promised herself that one of these days she will make something out of it. So when the lights go out on New Year's Eve at a wedding she is running at the hotel Gib manages, she knows with a clear certainty that THIS is the moment she has been waiting for. Without a moment's hesitation, she grabs Gib and kisses him senseless. The only problem is, when the lights go back on, he has no idea it was her that had just rocked his world. Will she get up the courage to tell him he's what she's been longing for all this time....without the anonymity of the darkness?

Known for his prowess with the ladies, Gibson Moore's world is completely rocked with the kiss that happened during the power glitch at a wedding being held in his hotel on New Year's Eve. He's never had a kiss affect him like that. Now it's his mission in life to find his Kissing Cinderella and make her his. The question is, will finding out it was his best friend Daphne ruin everything?

Once the mystery is solved and the Kissing Cinderella has been revealed, Gib and Daphne decide to go with the attraction they feel and make the move from friends to lovers. But, with everyday stressors and when issues beyond their control arise, will they be able to stay the course and give their relationship a real shot? The thing I like best about Christi's writing is that the story always plays out really well and feels like you could be watching it as a movie with your girlfriends on a Saturday night. Gib and Daphne's story is no exception. Daphne is a really relatable and likable gal with an honestly about her that I enjoyed. She takes a chance with Gib and I really admired that. Gib is dashing and handsome with a cheeky sense of humor and strong loyalty to his friends. He's got a really effed up family life and has learned to appreciate his friends as his family now and genuinely cares for them. Together, the sexual longing and tension between Gib and Daphne is palpable and was done really, really well. Their first kisses were as hot as some sex scenes....total yum.

My absolutely, positively favorite part though was the very end....talk about an emotional high and a cry your eyes out moment! Totally lived up to every expectation for a happy ending I had for Gib and Daphne. Simply perfect!!

If you're looking for a feel-good, true-blue romance, then get this book on your list. You will not be disappointed! Thank you, Christi, for a fun, flirty and enjoyable read!

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Slick's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

Review copy provided for an honest review

5 STARS

This book's title is one of my favorite romance novel plot themes. I found Christi Barth's Friends To Lovers to be the perfect blend of friendship, romance, and super sexy fun. From the first book, I knew this was going to be a spectacular series and while I've enjoyed the books so far I flat out LOVED this one. This book was simply a sexy thrill ride from start to finish and I was more than happy to jump on and throw my hands up in the air while enjoying it!

Gibson (Gib) Moore from the first time he appeared in this series, I was hooked and I really hoped he would end up with his own story. By the second book, I was in love with him and because he'd become an unofficial member of the Aisle Bound crew I knew he'd get his own book and I couldn't be happier. Gib is just one of those men that draws people to him men and women alike and by all accounts Gib has enjoyed many, many of those women. He has a dynamic personality and is known for getting things done. He has no plans to change his bachelor lifestyle until New Year's Eve during a blackout he is kissed by a woman that turns him upside down, but when the lights come back on his "Cinderella" is gone and only his best friend Daphne Lovell is by his side and many, many wedding guests.

Daphne has had feelings for Gib for years and while they've enjoyed an easy friendship, if she's being honest she wants more with him. After taking a chance on New Year's Eve and kissing him during a blackout, she realizes that Gib will never think of her as more than a friend when he doesn't even consider she could be his "Cinderella."

I enjoyed the interplay between these two, they know each other well and are comfortable with each other and watching them move from friends to lovers was satisfying and emotional. They both were worried about ruining their friendship and Gib honestly didn't know how to date someone special because he pretty much used the same "date MO" on every woman. The fact that he had to work to prove to Daphne that she was special to him made this book even more special.

Their journey was complicated, fun, and very sexy. I love that they had the whole Aisle Bound crew behind them to offer a shoulder when needed and for support. Friends to Lovers is one of those stories that reminds you that love is around you day in and day out and sometimes you just have to take a risk to help it find you, it isn't always easy and sometimes it's messy but in the end it is so worth it!

Adria (Musings and Reviews) says

Originally posted on Adria's Romance Reviews

There are two kinds of man whores. The unlikable, arrogant ones that lie just to get a woman in bed and the likable, honest ones who make women feel attractive and appreciated, even if it's just for one night. British expat Gibson Moore is the likable kind. Sort of. He isn't cruel to the women he's with, he just never stays with them long enough to form a relationship. Ironically, for a womanizer, Gibson is oblivious to the woman in front of him, his best friend Daphne Lovell.

As a florist and wedding planner, Daphne is used to being around loving couples on one of the happiest days of their lives, so it's no surprise that she wants that for herself as well. The only problem is that she has her

sights set on her best friend Gibson. When the chance presents itself during a blackout on New Year's Eve, she boldly kisses Gibson in the dark and is promptly crushed when the lights come on and he begins looking for his mystery woman, never once thinking she could be right in front of him.

Two friends who have long denied the attraction to each other make the decision to go from friends to lovers and find out it's not as easy as they thought. It may not even be worth it.

Friends to Lovers was more enjoyable than I thought it would be. I enjoyed both Gibson and Daphne, and though it is book 3 in the Aisle Bound series, I didn't feel lost, nor were the previous books spoiled for me. In fact, I hope to be able to read the first two books in the series someday, that's how much I enjoyed this book.

Usually I'm skeptical when the heroine works in the wedding industry, I have found that there are just too many cliches or the heroine herself is some wedding obsessed creature that I have zero in common with and even less interest in. Not so with Daphne. Her job didn't define her, it was just that, a job. She had other interests outside of her business and thank goodness that she wasn't a prissy, frou-frou female either! She was a guy's girl without losing her femininity. She's a good friend and obviously a good person because her friends adore her. She's confident about her job but self conscious about her changing relationship with Gibson. Her insecurities were reasonable without being annoying and whiny. She is fully aware that she isn't the most beautiful woman that Gibson's been with but she's hoping that because he knows her as a person, it will be enough to make him fall in love with her. Major points to Daphne for not only being able to maintain a friendship with a man like Gibson, but for being the one to initiate change.

Okay, now on to Gibson. I loved him. Yes he was a womanizer, yes he could be dense when it came to Daphne, but the fact that he was unsure about risking his friendship with Daphne even though he was attracted to her went a long way towards winning me over. It wasn't about another score, and he never once had the attitude of "Sure, what the hell, I'll give it a shot" where the new relationship with Daphne was concerned. That showed me that he was capable of feeling more than just lust for a woman, and that he cared more about his and Daphne's friendship than most men would.

The switch from friends to lovers shouldn't be easy. For two people who are truly great friends, the transition should be awkward and challenging, there are big changes happening and if it were easy for these two then I would have said that they weren't that great of friends to begin with. Where Gibson and Daphne shared EVERYTHING as friends, they now had to learn what to share and what not to share as lovers. Daphne the friend didn't have a problem with Gibson sharing details of his latest conquest but Daphne the girlfriend did. Gibson had to learn NOT to share those things. Both of them had to learn to be vulnerable around the other as well, which was a huge problem for Gibson.

Author Christi Barth created a lovely, warm, feel good story with quick, entertaining dialogue and very likable characters in Friends to Lovers. She didn't overdo it with the wedding theme (thank you), nor did she weigh down the story with a drawn out conflict. The pacing is great, and easy to follow. I'm insanely curious about the previous books in the series and anxious to read Tabitha and Drew's story.

Barb Lie says

Friends to Lovers is the 3rd book in Christi Barth's wonderful Aisle Bound series. Not sure why I thought

that this would not be as good as the first two books, but I was very wrong. Friends to Lovers was such a fun and sexy story, with two super leading characters. This book belongs to Daphne and Gib, and what a couple they made.

Daphne is a partner with Ivy, our heroine in book 1 of this series. She has secretly had the hots for Gib, but they were also best of friends, not allowing anything to ruin their wonderful friendship. All this changes on New Year's Eve, when Daphne decides to kiss Gib when the lights go out. Of course, whatever she imagined kissing Gib would be like, it was 10 times better for her. When the lights come back on, Gib is bewildered, trying to see who kissed him; since this kiss was like no other. This is something for the biggest playboy in all of Chicago.

One night, a few days later, Mira, the heroine of the second book, plots to help the couple along with an aphrodisiac food testing survey. During that test, Daphne and Gib kiss, and he now knows who his mysterious benefactor was on New Year's Eve. They both decide to take a chance and see where this possible relationship will take them, without ruining their friendship.

What follows is a fun romance with mistakes along the way, some very funny, and others very sad. But most important, when they decide to take it to the next level, that is one hot steamy, long sex scene. I loved Daphne and Gib together, as they made a fun and fabulous couple. Another wonderful thing about the Aisle Bound series is that we get to see all the other couples or secondary characters throughout the book, such as Ivy, Mira, Ben, Sam. Their friendship and love for one another makes this series so special and fun.

Daphne and Gib are meant for each other, but even though they are in love, things sadly happen in the last quarter of the book that forces one to possibly hurt the other one, in order not to see them get hurt in the long run. But this is romance, and Christi Barth's wonderfully written stories are pure romance, with HEA. If you want to read an enjoyable series, with wonderful couples, then Aisle Bound series is for you. Friends to Lovers is a wonderful addition to this series.

Barb

Dianne says

Click on Banner to Enter!

Looking for a warm and entertaining contemporary romance that is going to make you feel good? **Friends to Lovers** by Christi Barth has it all without angst overkill! Two best friends cross the invisible line to become lovers; can they make the transition without losing each other completely? Gibson has always been a "lady's man." When Daphne, a seemingly self-confidant and strong woman decides not to fight her attraction to her best friend, will he admit his own attraction to her? Is it worth the risk of exposing her feelings to a man who appears incapable of having a real relationship? Will his past revolving door dating history be too much for Daphne to overcome?

Christi Barth writes contemporary romance as it should be written, with a light hand, a touch of humor,

warmth, pain and a little personal growth for the characters. With flaws just like "real people" etched in, Ms Barth has given real personality to Daphne and Gib, as well as a group of "real friends" that bring more depth to the story with their own subplots blended in, because just like "real life," there is always something going on for someone, all the time.

I received a review copy from the author in exchange for my honest review. I honestly liked it!

Series: Aisle Bound, Book 3

Publication Date: October 14, 2013

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Genre: Adult Contemporary Romance

Number of Pages: 228

Available from: [Amazon](#) | [Barnes & Noble](#)

Sharryn says

My favourite of the series so far.

My Book Addiction and More MBA says

FRIENDS TO LOVERS by Christi Barth is an interesting Contemporary Romance set in Chicago. #3 in the "Aisle Bound" series, but can be read as a stand alone. This was my first read by this author, but it will not be my last.

Join Daphne Lovell, Wedding Planner and Gibson Moore, British expat, Hotel Manager on their journey to learning what is really important, and what love is truly all about.

I enjoyed the engaging, and sassy characters. What happens in the dark on New Year's Eve, doesn't always stay in the dark. As Daphne and Gib, soon learn. They have been friends for years, but one kiss is soon to change that by leaps and bounds. A fun, light-hearted story which is fast paced and passion filled. Although, you may need some tissues along the way.

I did not feel lost by not having read the other two in the series first. Although, I intend to go back and read them too, someday. I don't feel by reading "Friends to Lovers" first, the other stories were spoiled in anyway.

For a fun and thoroughly entertaining story of friendship and love, pick up "Friends to Lovers". Well worth the time to read! A true romance story. Received for an honest review from the author.

RATING: 4

HEAT RATING: MILD

REVIEWED BY: AprilR, Courtesy of My Book Addiction and More

Kim Reads (Read Your Writes Book Reviews) says

Reviewed by Kim
for Read Your Writes Book Reviews

FRIENDS TO LOVERS is why I love Christi Barth. This book so reminds me of PLANNING FOR LOVE, the first book in the series. Reading this book was like putting on a comfy pair of pjs. This is a book I couldn't wait to read. I loved it from beginning to end.

Daphne Lovell is the florist and co-owner of Aisle Bound, a Chicago wedding consulting company. Gibson Moore is the suave British playboy and manager of the Cavendish Grand Hotel. They have been friends for years and know each other pretty well.

Things for them change at a New Year's Eve wedding, when the lights go out. Daphne takes the opportunity to give Gib a kiss that will ruin him for other women. When Gib finally learns Daphne was his kiss goddess, he convinces her to give him a chance. Unfortunately for Gib, he doesn't think things through all the way. Initially, he misses seeing the unique person in front of him.

Gib's world gets rocked to its core. He's forced to do something he doesn't want to do. But through it all, Daphne is his biggest supporter. When its time to be strong and have faith, she manages to have enough for both of them.

I love that Christi gave us background on both Gib's and Daphne's past. At times, that background is unbelievable and heartbreakingly. I can't even begin to explain how much I just love all the characters in this book. As a unit, Ivy, Ben, Sam, Mira, Gib and Daphne truly show you what friendship and loving someone is all about. Together they have all formed a strong bond that can never be broken.

Daphne and Gib are so great together. This book will make you laugh, cry and be glad that you are a reader of romance. Bottom line....FRIENDS TO LOVERS is a book truly about friendship and love. Realizing that you need them both to be happy. And knowing that when you have both love and friendship that you are home no matter where you are.

Rating: 5
Source: Author

Jackie (Jackie's Book World) says

****Review can also be found Jackie's Book World* :D***

I really enjoyed reading *Friends to Lovers*, it's definitely not your typical friends falling for each other kind of thing. At least it's not that way at first. Daphne Lovell and Gibson Moore have been friends for a while, they both have successful careers and amazing friends. As a florist and co-owner of a successful Chicago wedding planning business, she has always seen love in her job. But she hasn't been lucky in finding love for herself, or to make her crush turn into something more. But when she finally gets the chance to take a step

forward, she kisses Gibson when the lights go off in one of her weddings and to her surprise, he doesn't even think it's her who has kissed him.

British expat Gibson Moore is not the type of guy to settle down, always surrounded by beautiful women, he doesn't know what to do when he receives the best kiss of his life. When he searches the room for the woman that kissed him in the dark, he overlooks his best-friend that he's standing right next to him. His relationship with Daphne has always been great, they both have a lot in common so when the two are put in a situation where they have to pretend that they're in love, he realizes that she is the one that kissed him and maybe a relationship with her is not a bad idea.

As the two start to spend time with each other, the more they realize that they can be more than friends after all. Overall, the relationship that the characters have is realistic and enjoyable to read. I found myself liking Gibson's personality, although he does make mistakes along the way. Daphne is strong-headed, but her situation is understandable. The story is well-written and it has a good amount of romance to keep one reading wanting for more. I highly recommend it, it's worth picking up.:)

Shirley Frances says

4.5 stars rounded up because I LOVED Gibson

I loved this story!

Gibson is a player. A 'love them and leave them' type of guy who doesn't do love, Gibson is happy to play the field until an unexpected, but powerful kiss leaves him stunned and in search of his Cinderella. He doesn't expect Daphne to be the girl behind the unforgettable kiss, but once he unexpectedly locks lips with her he knows that she's his missing Cinderella.

I so enjoyed Gibson's confused, surprised and conflicted behavior once he started seeing his best friend in a new light. His thoughts and emotions were all over the place and although he was determined to make a go at a relationship with Daphne, his 'player' persona was so ingrained in him that he made the biggest mistake of all - he treated her as he treated all others.

Daphne was tired of waiting around for Gibson to notice her, so she went at him first. Albeit, it was during a blackout and he was clueless as to the woman who had kissed him, but at least his reaction was partially worth it. She knew he didn't see her as anything more than a buddy, but she still couldn't get over him. I admired her for taking a chance on him when he asked for a chance to make something more of their attraction.

Like her, I was disappointed at Gibson's failure to treat Daphne as someone special and not another conquest. I felt for her. Her hopes of them ending together were shattered but her strength of character showed through when she at least attempted to move on.

Christi Barth did a great job in bringing Gibson and Daphne together. Although their attraction to each other was undeniable and their chemistry sizzling hot, I mostly enjoyed their banter and honest interactions. It was a treat to see Gibson open up about his past and how it shaped him. I also enjoyed how their connection jumped-off the page and continued to grow as the story progressed.

My favorite part? How it all came together in the end. I was not expecting the added conflict Barth threw into the story and I loved the chaos it caused and its resolution.

Friends to Lovers is the third book in the Aisle Bound series and a great addition at that. It had all the elements I have come to expect from Christi Barth - great and interesting characters, humor, romance and whole lot of chemistry!

I received this title from the publisher through NetGalley in exchange of my honest opinion.

Paris says

Aside from second chance romances, I think the friends to lovers romantic trope is my favorite. Since I first started this series, I've been looking forward to Gibson finding his match. I had a feeling it was going to be Daphne and when I read the blurb for this, I got really excited. If anyone was going to be strong enough to put an end to Gibson's bachelor ways it would be Daphne.

I absolutely loved this book. I adored Daphne and her strength. There were moments that I wanted to be heartbroken for her, but she was so strong and made sure that Gib knew that he was being a jerk, that I didn't have time to be sad for her. This book was a roller coaster ride that I loved every minute of. Both Gib and Daphne had some things to learn and realize about themselves and the journey was so great to go on. I also loved that we got to see the other couples while we were at it.

This is such a great series and I'm sad that there is only one last piece of the puzzle left. I look forward to reading more by Christi Barth in the future.

Arc provided by the publisher via Netgalley for an honest review

Bungluna says

[left unresolved as to Gibson's professional future. (hide spoiler)]

Jonetta says

Originally posted at The Book Nympho

I have to admit I was reluctant to start this book. While Gib is a really good friend to the women of Aisle Bound, he's also renowned for being a serious serial lover. The idea of Daphne getting involved with him wasn't that appealing. But, I guess this is my year to find warm places in my heart for these guys....my third one so far!

The setup

Gib is gorgeous, smart and the talented British manager of a five-star hotel in Chicago. He and Daphne, a creative and successful florist, have been best friends for a long time, though she's secretly had a thing for

him. When she makes the first move, he's stunned but warm to the idea. When he decides to date her (he's not really used to being with anyone more than once), Gib is out of his element as he's only skilled at being suave and romantic. Their friends are also a bit worried that this new relationship might negatively change the dynamics of the group.

What worked for me

I love friends-to-lovers storylines and this was exceptional. Daphne isn't missing anything...she's pretty, independent and smart. While she's sort of in love with Gib, she also knows him inside and out and doesn't give him a break. She makes him "work for it" and share himself in ways he's never done as a friend to her or as a lover to the hosts of women in his past. It's a rocky start with no guarantees that things will work. Gib is also a British Viscount with family issues that he's never shared with anyone. Of course, that's a factor in why he's lived a life commitment free, too. Daphne's the one in control and Gib's in the unusual role of fighting for a woman.

What made me cringe

Just a warning...anytime a story is about a guy with a lusty past, you're going to have to grit your teeth and suck it up through his path to commitment. I don't know how Daphne was able to put that aside.

The bottom line

This story did it for me. I was so happy to unexpectedly love it, with its depth, humor and interesting characters. It's at times a riot and at others a tear jerker. What it isn't is light-weight. Both Gib and Daphne are more substantive than what lies on the surface and this turned out to be a great story.

(I received an ARC from the author)
