



Patient Privilege

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Dr Erik Daniels hasn't had it easy. After losing love and fighting addiction, he becomes a successful substance abuse counselor and helps people regardless of their insurance or ability to pay. It isn't the dream life he had in San Francisco, but at least he has something to be proud of. Everything seems to be getting back on the right track until Angel, a heroin-addicted male prostitute, crosses his path. Erik not only sees a lot of himself in Angel, but a lot of potential as well. He quickly realizes he's willing to sacrifice a lot to get him on the right path--but is he willing to jeopardize his career?

Patient Privilege Details

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From Reader Review Patient Privilege for online ebook

Sarah Lazowski says

When I started to read this book I was immediately drawn in and did not want to put it down. From cover to cover I sat there with my phone in my hand on the plane and could not put it down. Angel and Erik were so captivating it felt like I was experiencing what they were going through. I cannot say enough good things about this book without giving anything away. Allison did a wonderful job and I highly recommend this book!

Kelly H. (Maybedog) says

4.5 stars

I have about twenty reviews to write today so I'm just going to paste my notes here. Maybe I'll turn them into an actual review at some point.

The fact that the facility claims that folks "rarely come back" is ridiculous. I don't care how good their staff is or how innovative the treatment, once an addict is back on his/her own Angel's a dick.

Angel does not "need to know that Jon will do anything for him". That's not healthy for Jon. That's co-dependence.

\$300 is a lot for a back alley blow job. (I refuse to answer as to how I know this but it's not nearly as interesting as you think.)

In many ways, this story broke my heart along with those of two important chars. I hate love triangles and this was a quadrangle.

Too much sex although it's hot.

Not supposed to touch patients. That's how allegations happen.

You don't hear a phone slam. Once the line is disconnected, which happens the second the phone starts to slam down, you don't hear anything. This is a huge pet peeve of mine in books.

He could have lost his license not just for the reasons he is worried but also for (view spoiler). I have a friend who went through this situation and she lost her license.

There's a reason AA says not to get involved with someone until you've been sober a year.

Despite all this, I really enjoyed it 4.5 stars rounded down because I have a serious problem with the violation of the doctor/patient trust, especially when it concerns someone as vulnerable as a recovering addict.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

@dreamspinners: For one hour (until 9 PM EST), Patient Privilege by @allisoncassatta is free! #tweetaway <http://t.co/2qf3h3CCV3>

Steelwhisper says

I don't know what triggered my gut-level response to this book.

Very likely it was the vulgar, obscene mind and likewise constant patter of Angel, maybe it was the sordid depiction of sex, maybe it was that when I skimmed ahead I liked the douchebag doctor even less than the vulgar junkie, IDK.

What I know though is that I really don't want to spend two or three hours in the company of two douchebaggy wimps unable to stay off drugs and alcohol having consistently coarse, bad sex. Nope.

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

Umm..I'm not sure. This is a little bit spoilerish.

Erik is a recovering alcoholic, he is also a therapist at a state run clinic. He misses and thinks about the ex, Marshall he lost due to his drinking.

Angel is a druggie and a has sex to feed his habit, he also has Jon, a young man who really loves him.

So this was why I was sort of confused..Jon loves Angel and wants to help him and Marshall is back in Erik's life and wants to make a new go of it.

But things don't quite work out that way and (I really have to ignore the patient -doctor thing, which I can) it was more I didn't see the relationship/attraction developing between Erik and Angel. I saw it more of a rebound thing for Angel and the need for someone to take care of him and Erik needing to be a care-taker and deciding that Marshall wasn't good for him after all.

I didn't see the love or the longing as much as I saw needs that each man had that the other could fulfill. But is that enough? The epilogue sort of tries to relieve that worry, not sure it does, but it was nice to see them happy a year out, but really it seemed that Angel after 2 months was so far in to his recovery that he could move to outpatient? For Erik's sake? Idk, it didn't seem safe or healthy to me.

And for the picky people out there the MCs are both in sexual relationships with other people at the beginning of this I story. But NO cheating occurs.

ETA: this might be a bit ranty, because I was annoyed by this no end and just wanted to ignore it, but I woke up this morning still grumpy about it and decided I can't leave it without mentioning it.

This story starts and continues with Erik feeling horrible about losing Marshall and losing him b/c of his drinking. Marshall after 6 years together finally hurt and full up, kicks Erik out and Erik, stinking drunk wrecks his car and loses everything and finally enters rehab.

Then at one point in the story Erik mentions that Marshall wasn't there for him after rehab, well..you know living with an alcoholic is hard, I'm sure he had his reasons not to put Erik first after all Erik put him through. Then ..and this bugged me so much, I almost 1* it and DNF, Erik says that it was Marshall that drove him to drink. BS is all I can say to that. Take responsibility for your own behavior Erik! Marshall seems like a really nice guy and Erik saying, oh I was afraid I couldn't please him sexually and blah..he only loves me for sex. Marshall has been celibate since he kicked Erik out over a year ago, that doesn't sound like a man who uses people for sex. He put up with an alcoholic for a long time until he couldn't take it anymore and is still willing to try again. Also, Erik mentions to Angel about making amends, yet even a year after being sober and all he's mad at Marshall that he never called and asked how he was? Shouldn't Erik have called Marshall and apologized for all he put him through? Living and loving an alcoholic is NOT easy, try and remember it's not all about you Erik. Oh and Marshall was a class act when he saw Angel and Erik together..

So yeah, blaming Marshall for his drinking and all the rest just seemed like someone looking for excuses and blaming others for his illness.

Oh and he has great sex with Marshall at the beginning and remember they were together for 6 years and he was pining for him for a year and one sex scene with Angel and it's more/better/ so much deeper/connected than it ever was with Marshall. You don't have to make it better with the new guy or worse with the ex.

Marshall was not the bad guy and I resented Erik making things out that way.

Ok, sorry, I don't think I've explained it well, but I was mad about that whole line of thinking.

Jeff Erno says

Patient Privilege is the convergence of two separate stories, the first about a young man named Angel who works as a hustler and lives on the street and the second about a young doctor, Erik, who specializes in chemical addictions. Erik is an addict himself, a recovering alcoholic. His own addiction cost him his relationship with his long term partner, and after a year of sobriety, he's struggling to mend the shattered relationship. Angel is a runaway who was rejected by his family when he came out as gay. After he became addicted to heroin, his only obsession is getting high.

The principal characters meet when Angel overdoses and is brought into the emergency room. The good doctor Erik works with the patient, and as his recovery progresses, the two develop feelings for each other which cross the boundaries of doctor-patient ethics.

I have to admit that I cringed when I realized that the doctor was allowing himself to fall in love with his patient. For the first half of the book I really wanted Erik to reconcile with his partner, and I wanted Angel to develop a meaningful relationship with his boyfriend Jon (who loved him so intensely). I think that perhaps the theme of the story is that often love is unpredictable. We do not necessarily fall for the person we are SUPPOSED to.

The other heartbreaking thing about the story was that I cared as much about Jon as I did Angel. In fact, I can honestly say I liked Jon a hell of a lot more than Angel. He was a wonderful person, and it kind of irked me

that he was just forgotten. I'm hoping there will be a follow-up story about him and his journey.

As for Erik and Angel, they got their happy ending, and for this I'm pleased. The strengths of the book include the gritty, realistic depiction of the life of a street hustler, the touching love scenes, and the arc of the main character Angel. I went from hating him to loving him, and as the author peeled back the layers, I saw into his heart. It was beautiful.

Still not sure how I feel about the ethical issue, but I think the fact that the story caused me to contemplate these questions is a testament to the power of the story itself. It was a well-written, thought-provoking work, and I'm anxious for more.

****Kaycee** says**

****3 stars****

This is a story about two men on different paths in life, both with substance abuse histories. I liked the idea of the book. I liked the characters. Their stories were, however, so under told it was very disappointing.

The first half of the book was about Eric and his past and Angel and his best friend, Jon. Eric's past included an ex that recently wanted to get back into Eric's life. I could really have cared less about him and his relationship with Eric. Jon, however, was a very interesting and well thought out character up until the end. (?)

The coming together of Eric and Angel was very quick. There was no build up. There were no feelings of investment for the characters as a couple. i actually felt more invested in Angel and Jon than I did of Angel and Eric.

This story TRIED to be a taboo love story, while NOT being taboo and I felt the author limited her story because of this. I felt she made sure their relationship was kept out of the unethical realm to the point she really did the story a disservice. Of **course** the relationship between doctor and patient is unethical and taboo. However, if the author felt uncomfortable with that, she should have at least had the characters develop more of an emotional, if not physical, bond. Or...not bring up the idea of patient/doc relationship AT ALL. But, there was nothing. There really wasn't that much contact between the two MCs, PERIOD, much LESS physical.

The last 1/3 of the story was abrupt, things fell into place and we never heard about Jon again. Even the epilogue was unsatisfactory and bland. Yes, there was a HEA, but it was just too contrived.

jules0623 says

I think this suffered from too many characters and not enough exploration. I didn't really connect with any of the characters. Jon was the one I felt anything for and he got his happy ending so I'm kind of 'meh' about the others.

The main couple I didn't like at all. There was no chemistry and it didn't feel like a real relationship had

formed. Erik abused his position of power and he seemed almost obsessed with Angel, and Angel came across as a classic case of transference rather than a man falling in love. And I didn't give a crap about Marshall.

(And tbh, Erik came across as really skeevy and by the end, was making my skin crawl.)

Putting aside the 'romance' plot, this book gets a lot better. The agony of addiction and recovery was written thoughtfully and Chris' story broke my heart.

Natalija says

While I have no problems rating this book, I find it difficult to write a review that will reflect the vast range of emotions experienced while reading it.

First of all, I highly discourage anyone from reading too many reviews before diving into this book. I made a mistake and struggled throughout the book trying to be objective. Make your own opinions, choose a character to root for or a one to be angry with. There are no simple characters. All of them are complex and all of them play a major role in each others' lives.

Secondly, albeit it's nearly impossible not to think about the ethical side of their relationship, for the sole purpose of the story line I preferred to turn a blind eye and concentrate on the characters and their development.

And finally, this has to be the first time when I questioned the need and possibility of a 'happily ever after' for the main couple. Up until the the end of the last chapter it wasn't a love story for me. It was a story of two people who needed each other for similar reasons, but could not have fallen in love in a time period assigned by the author. Thankfully, there is an epilogue which will tie up the loose ends and turn it into a real love story.

Trisie says

[wasn't something very serious like sexual

Earlyn says

its good, pushing ethics and complicated.

I guess I will have more to say when I get my head around it.

Jessie Patterson says

This is a great story about second chances and a true example of how our hearts and minds can twist and turn us into places we never meant to go and that sometimes our first instinct is not always the right one. Passionate, complicated (in a good way), and endearing, this story is by turn both heart-wrenching and heart-warming. Enjoy. :-)

L-D says

I was engaged throughout this book and wanted to find out how it ended, but by the time it was over, I didn't know how to feel. I think there were just too many relationships, and I ended up not knowing who to root for by the end. When that happens to me as a reader, I find it difficult to connect with the MCs and I lose interest in the ultimate outcome. I think I just prefer one love interest. But I did enjoy the book overall.

Purplegirl says

This was a beautiful story of one drug addicted young man that hits rock bottom but finds the man to help him come back to life.

My heart broke for Angel the first time he said he needed help. I actually teared up. It was so touching. His best friend Jon was so sweet and worked so hard to help him.

The story was full of emotion. Even if the relationship was not supposed to happen, I was pulling for Angel and Erik.

There was a good epilogue as well.

SheReadsALot says

Free DSP Tweetaway until 9PM (Eastern)11/11/14 : <http://t.co/2qf3h3CCV3>
