



## Hidden Heart

*Measha Stone*

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WINDY CITY SERIES, BOOK 1 (Full Length)

Jessica Stanley is comfortable in her orderly life as a paralegal at a high end law firm. Having dated her fair share of liars and manipulators, Jessica views men through a pair of thick, cynical lenses. Men are good for one thing in her eyes, and one thing only.

Her predictable life is thrown into a whirlwind of new experiences when she meets a dominating man at a casual dinner with friends.

Royce Bradford is a man of intent and is used to getting his way. Until he meets Jessica. She is wound tight, and he finds himself yearning to unravel her secrets and her passions.

Jessica declares their relationship casual. She's tempted by his seductive tone and unusually powerful demeanor to give him that much. But for Royce, it's not enough. He wants more.

Except Jessica has built a secret tomb around her heart, and it will take a lot more than sensual play times and verbal commands for him to be allowed entrance. Royce never backs down from his desires. He takes up the challenge to seek out her Hidden Heart.

This book contains adult material such as graphic sexual scenes and BDSM elements such as spanking, domestic discipline, and anal play.

## **Hidden Heart Details**

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Author : Measha Stone

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## From Reader Review **Hidden Heart** for online ebook

### **Jade Simcox (3 Degrees Of Fiction) says**

I received this book in exchange for a honest review. 4 STAR RATING

We follow Jessica in this book. She is content with her ordinary life, having had bad experiences with men in the past, she thinks men are only good for one thing. Her life is thrown into whirlwind when she meets a very dominating man when out for a meal with friends one night.

Royce is a man used to getting what he wants, until he meets Jessica. She is guarded but he wants to know more. He wants to break down her walls and find out her secrets.

I really enjoyed this book, it was a quick easy read. I got attached to the characters straight away, I loved Royce. He is a very dominating man and I love this in a book. Jessica is a strong women which I loved but when it comes to the bedroom she likes to let someone else have control and that someone is Royce. Jessica is guarding her heart because of her past experiences she has had with men, she agrees to try out some new things in the bedroom with Royce just because he is sexy and seems different to other men she has dated.

There was a very HOT scene in the book which included clothes pins. I think we needed to find out a bit more about Royce, his past, background etc.

Overall this was a good book and I look forward to reading the next one to find out where their relationship goes.

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### **Angela Goodrich says**

I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads.

*Hidden Heart* is a well written and quick read. Unfortunately something about it just didn't work for me personally. While I liked the characters Ms. Stone created, I didn't connect with them and I really wanted to, especially with Jessica. There was quite a bit of build-up regarding her past and why she was so aloof, yet when the time came when I thought explanations would be given we were left with a rather vague thought that the previous men in her life always disappointed her. I found this to be quite anti-climactic and hope that the next book in the series delves more into her past.

Royce's character wasn't necessarily anymore developed than Jessica's, but this worked for me as it's not unusual for the Dom's personality to be more elusive. Double standard? Maybe, but it is Jessica's *Hidden Heart* that the book focuses on and for me it seemed to remain hidden. Because I never fully connected with the characters, the sex scenes lacked that wow vibe I anticipated. I enjoyed the play scenes and thought Jessica's reactions in the clothespin scene to be believable, yet none of the scenes really got me going.

Typically my reaction to this book would result in a 2-star rating. However, Ms. Stone is clearly a skilled writer and I am looking forward to reading the next book in the series in hopes that it gives us more of Royce and Jessica as their relationship develops. I've read bad books before and *Hidden Heart* is not one of them. This is simply a case where the book and I just didn't mesh. So my recommendation in this case (and pretty much any book) is to check out the sample and see if it appeals to you. Just because I didn't enjoy it as much

as I hoped doesn't mean you won't.

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### **Amanda Morgan says**

This story should be called "40 Shades of Grey" or "50 Shades: The Cliffs Notes" as I'm not sure there was much original thought put into this book. It's definitely a tribute to "50 Shades," and there is one scene in this book that was not in the original "50", otherwise if you've read "50 Shades" you've read this book already. I do, however, appreciate anyone who dares to create anything and put it out there for others to enjoy, so I have to applaud this author's courage, however I wish she would have taken a more original route to tell her story. I got this book via a First Reads contest.

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### **Ruthie Taylor says**

"I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads."

This short novella packed a lot of punch. I really enjoyed the build up and the opening up of the hidden heart. I did think that it ended too soon - but in a way that is because I cared enough to want more! Royce was the perfect foil for Jessica and we got to enjoy a dominating alpha male, but with a gentle touch. I loved it when he counted lies - and it made me think just how many we all tell, just for expediency's sake ...

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### **Tara Marie says**

So pleasantly surprised by this story, especially how much I want a Royce of my own.

Jessica is just like most girls who have had their hearts stomped on and thrown back at them, guarded, afraid of love and ok being on her own. She's got an awesome group of friends that are her support system, they are all she needs right now. That is until her friend Alex brings a new guy to their weekly gathering, Royce. He works with Alex and Jessica's friend Kelly lays it on thick trying to get Royce's attention.

Royce has had his fair share of bad relationships, one he just got out of before moving back to town, and that one just doesn't want to let go. He just can't get away from the last woman he broke up with. Royce feels the draw that Jessica has for him. She draws him in and he's not sure what it is but he wants to pursue it. He wants to push boundaries and get results from all the pleasure that a relationship with Jessica can bring.

Royce is one hot book boyfriend, the only fault I can find is that it's not long enough and I wanted more.

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## **Rachel says**

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Hidden Heart was a short sexy read about a woman finding that relationship that makes her life meaningful.

Jessica has sworn off men, none have really tripped her trigger in the bedroom, if you know what I mean. So screw it, why bother, right?

Out for drinks, Jessica's bestie brings along a friend/co-worker, Royce. He has eyes only for Jessica.

Lo and behold he is kinda alpha...that's a little different for Jessica. Kind of a turn on...especially when he tells her to take off her clothes and she does (a little body over mind for that one).

I loved the relationship between Jessica and Royce, I just wished it could have been a little more detailed. Jessica's past was brought up, but never really detailed and when Jessica and Royce decide to go ahead with the relationship and the words of love it just felt kind of rushed. I realize this is a novella, but sometimes less isn't more. I hope to see more of their story in upcoming books in the series.

Great Hot, Sexy, Erotic novella given 4 Stars.

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## **Patty says**

\*Originally posted on Bookish Wanderlove\*

### **3.5 Stars**

#### **Opening Lines**

"True love was a myth spread among generations of single women to encourage them to continue their search for the man of their dreams. Jessica Stanley knew better. She'd called off the hopeless scavenger hunt a year after turning twenty-five."

Hidden Heart was an interesting and quick read. I liked Jessica's character, she's a strong and independent woman that keeps men at a distance. Although we get little snippets into her past, I would have preferred if there was at least a chapter decimated to her past. I felt like the info we got left some unanswered questions. While I really liked Jessica's character I couldn't fully connect with her, I wanted to know more about her and I think that's what hindered the connection. I wanted to know about her family, I wanted to know what happened (in detail) with her ex-boyfriends while at UIC, I just wanted more!

Although I felt like there wasn't much we knew about Royce I really liked his relationship with Jessica. I think there a perfect match because Jessica doesn't give into Royce easily, but Royce wants more than just sex and he manages to break down Jessica's walls after a little misunderstanding. Certain elements of this

book, and the misunderstanding reminded me too much of 50 Shades of Grey, but once I was able to get passed that I was able to enjoy it.

I was expecting there relationship to grow over the course of this series, but it seems the next book focuses on a character in Hidden Heart, Kelly. I hope we still get to see snippets of Jessica & Royce though! And I'm really looking forward to Alex's story, I feel like he's a great character and I definitely want to see more of him! Overall, Hidden Heart was an enjoyable read! I read it in one sitting, cover to cover because I was so curious to see how things would play out between Royce and Jessica. Definitely intrigued to read about Kelly in the next book. Take a peek and read the excerpt included below!

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### **Mary says**

I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads.

A great first book in what I hope is a long series. I enjoyed Jessica's notion of "love doesn't exist", and how Royce breaks her out of her shell.

Royce's introduction of romance outside the lines was tender and touching. A Master that any sub would love to have school in her in the ways of BDSM. Jennifer's initial reluctance is natural and the discussion of her fears and ideas of what was expected was nice to see.

I hope that we see more of Royce and Jessica in other books in this series. There is so much more that I would love to know about Royce and Jessica, particularly why Jessica gave up on love.

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### **WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says**

1.5 stars

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### **Georgia says**

Review can also be found in Chill and read

Jessica Stanley is comfortable in her orderly life as a paralegal at a high end law firm. Having dated her fair share of liars and manipulators, Jessica views men through a pair of thick, cynical lenses. Men are good for one thing in her eyes, and one thing only. Things are about to change when she meets Royce.

Royce Bradford is an imposing figure. He is a successful man, an executive, that has recently returned to Chicago. He has some particular taste in relationships and sex that are not so casually found in everyday life. When he meets Jessica, he wants to make her his, in his own way and by his terms.

The story is about turning a not-a-relationship-girl to love a man that is different to her ex's in so many

different ways. The heroin has been hurt many times in the past by her lovers. She used to believe in their relationship, though they didn't share her feelings. She also has some remnants from her parents' divorce, that threw all her trust to men out of the window.

Even with this background, she is being attracted by a man again and she decides to give it a try. Not only that, but she does not back out even when she finds out about his special preferences. Now, that was a bit hard to believe, however the author really tried to support it in any way she could. BDSM is not the easiest genre to write or read about. If it is not your thing and if the writer is not a master, then the reader ends up thinking, what am I reading and why am I reading this.

The story is a bit short and could elaborate more on the relationship, the characters and their past, in order to give the reader a more holistic view of the characters' emotions and actions.

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### **S.M. Harshell says**

\*\* I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads. \*\*

\*\* 3.5 Stars \*\*

Hidden Heart had me from the first chapter. In my mind this was headed to a 4 star read but I will explain why I gave it 3.5 stars.

Jessica didn't believe in love or relationships. She had closed herself off in that respect. She had a past filled with pain, it's understandable. From the first time she laid eyes on Royce there was something about him, that was pulling her to him. He is a dominant. Was she ready to explore a relationship like that? Could she open up and be want Royce wants?

This story had me hooked and then BAM a rush to the finish. There was so much lead up and things from her past glazed over (which I get, it is only a novella) but at the end when a big reveal of feelings could of happened it was just a sentence. I felt let down. Don't get me wrong, it was written well, I guess I just expected more at the end.

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### **Angie says**

~I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads Review Team~

Jessica has walls up and won't let anyone tear them down. Royce wants to tear those walls down and more. Jessica is strong, independent and doesn't want someone telling her what to do or love, she will do sex but none of the extra stuff. Royce is used to being in charge and getting what he wants and he wants Jessica. This was a really good book, I loved the fast pace and I only wish it was longer. I would have liked to have seen more of Royce and Jessica and their sessions.

Characters: The characters were well written and believable.

Sex: yes

Religious: no

Would I recommend to others: yes

More than one book in the series: yes

Genre: BDSM/Romance

Would I read more by this author: yes

~Wicked Reads Review Team~

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## **Books Laid Bare says**

This punchy little novella is well worth the time it will take you to get to know Jessica and Royce

Life as a paralegal is just what Jessica Stanley wants, normal. She keeps her head down at work, works hard and plays even harder – just one thing – no ties!

But when Bryce Bradford enters her world, life as she knows it will never be the same again.

Royce is the perfect depiction of a dominant man, he likes things to be done exactly as he desires and since his first meeting with Jessica, he desires HER!

But Jessica has never experienced the sort of relationship that Royce is offering her and she has no idea whether or not she is capable of being the submissive that he believes she can be. But with more than a little trepidation, for him she agrees to try.

Royce has a hold on her that she cannot explain, something about him and his personality calls to her at a level that it completely subconscious.

The book was vividly descriptive, and highly emotional. The sex scenes are hot and well what that man does with a clothes peg had me reaching for the fan!

It gave little away but kept your mind guessing at what the next step could be.

I liked the fact that nothing was black and white and that we have only begun to scratch the surface of both Bryce and Jessica.

As the first book in the series there is much more to go, and I think that the relationship will have more than

a few twists and turns as the relationship between Jessica and Bryce settles into itself.

The next book cannot come quickly enough!

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### **Rachael Orman says**

4 Stars

I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads.

I was drawn in by the cover and synopsis of this book. The writing was pretty good over all. I liked our heroine, Jessica. She isn't sure what to expect with Royce, a Dom, but she is willing to try, for a short period of time because he's sexy and he isn't going to let her get away with the usual things men let her get away with. He is different all around from other men she has dated.

Royce was harder for me to connect with. He could be a great Dom at times while at others I felt like he wasn't a dom at all. I felt like we didn't know anything at all about Royce except that he was a Dom and apparently friends with Jessica's friends (and co-worker with Alex too).

The naughty scenes were just okay for me. They seemed very limited to me and weren't all that sexy to me, but the spanking and clothes pins scenes were HOT so that sort of made up for it.

I look forward to the sequel to this story with hopes we get to see more of their relationship as it develops.

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### **Sarah says**

Jessica Stanley has found her normalcy in her job as a paralegal at a hot shot lawfirm. "No man is out for true love, they are only good for one thing."

She didn't expect the domineering Royce Bradford to come strolling into her life. Royce exercises control in all things, but will one of those things become Jessica? Jessica wants their "arrangement" to only be casual and not include love. Royce is not settling for anything less than what he desires. Will Royce be able to break down the ice around her broken and shattered heart?

I liked this story because of all the horny details. This is book one in the series and I feel like you have to be intrigued by a book to want to continue on with a series. Yes I was intrigued into this series because I feel like information was missing. I don't know if what I felt was missing is information to come later on in the series or not. I felt like the book jumps forward a lot without a lot of details. Sometimes less is best, but sometimes every single little detail helps lay it out more. I felt like the beginning of a new chapter was leading into something else, when I was still trying to figure out where I was standing from the previous chapter. I am looking forward to seeing what's to come in the rest of this series because Measha always brings out what I love best in my dark side. I am hoping they are even more exotic scenes in book 2, because her dark side is very vivid and realistic.

\*\*ARC given in exchange for honest review\*\*

