



# Leave The Lights On

Some secrets are better when shared.

KAREN STIVALI

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*Karen Stivali*

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When a devastating car crash dashes Parker Wood's dreams of being a pro baseball player, he returns to his childhood home to take over the family landscaping company. His dad may be gone now, but some things haven't changed. Like the crush Parker's always had on the girl next door.

Sophie Vaughn's two month marriage and hellishly public divorce didn't help her wedding and party planning business. She's determined not to let personal drama get in the way again, no matter how big the temptation, or how long she's lusted after her old best friend.

When Parker and Sophie discover they are neighbors once again, it's as if time has stood still. Their friendship is as strong as ever, as is the crush neither of them ever admitted having. They have a second chance at making their dreams come true, unless their secrets tear it apart.

## Leave the Lights On Details

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Author : Karen Stivali

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## From Reader Review Leave the Lights On for online ebook

### **Lisa Wheeler says**

I received a copy of this due to the author running a giveaway.

This author was new to me and I must say I really enjoyed Parker and Sophie's story.

The storyline had great flow. Easy to read.

Their story is like a second chance romance, with loads of steamy moments. No complaints here, I love steamy!!!

If you are looking for a quick, romantic read, with some steamy parts this is a must read!

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### **Chu says**

Review Originally Posted at: Book Freak

#### **Rating: 4.5 Stars**

Two old friends, scarred people, brought back home by issues from their past, destined to meet again and perhaps, brave enough to start something that was supposed to happen years ago...

Parker Wood had dreams of becoming a professional baseball player, but all his dreams went downhill when he was injured in a car crash. It didn't help that his longtime girlfriend broke up with him to marry someone else prior to the accident. Spending two years in hospitals and rehab – he was more than ready to go home, and take over the family business now that his father is gone.

What he didn't expect was the girl next door – Sophie Vaughn, his best friend, longtime crush also decided to go home and stay for good.

After the humiliating cheating stunt and divorce procedure just two months after they were married, Sophie Vaughn had decided to go home and manage her wedding and party planning business. She hoped that moving closer to home, buying her parent's house, and being in a familiar place will bring her comfort and eventually allow healing to come.

When both of them discovered that they were neighbors once again, friendship was rekindled, and it was like the distance, the time, and the past relationship didn't happen. Their friendship was like the same as it was years ago, only that the sexual chemistry was more potent, and the tension is giving off its alarm signals. When the attraction and tension finally won, and both of them was heading off to their HEA, their painful pasts comes back, and threatens their future together. Would both of them allow themselves to finally let go and grab their future together, or will they allow their past to destroy what they have now?

I love Parker!!! And he gave me the biggest surprise today – I had not seen it coming, considering the circumstances... but then, the fact was totally refreshing, and yes, a little bit amusing. I was glad, when it

finally happened, it was with Sophie.

Leave the Lights on is a nice, romantic, steamy and light read on my day off. It made my rest day worthwhile because I spent my time enjoying this book, falling in love, and pinning for our characters. I always have a soft spot for second chances, but despite the fact that these two weren't old lovers, but rather friends – it doesn't matter. Because ever since they were young, the two of them already harbored secret feelings for each other and is now given another chance. It was amazing to see the both of them grab it, maneuvered through the rough times caused by their past, and finally reaching their HEA. And there's this thing about peanut-butters...

★ARC Copy was given in exchange for an honest review.★

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## Annclaire says

Real Vote 3,5

Blog Tour on my blog November 9th  
<http://pleaseanotherbook.tumblr.com/p...>

“Leave the lights on” ammetto di averlo scelto solo perchè avevo letto che era stato letto e approvato da Tiffany Reisz, la scrittrice della serie “The Original Sinners” una delle mie preferite, e che quindi speravo che quel nome fosse una specie di garanzia per me. Per fortuna che il mio intuito si è rivelato esatto e se di certo non è la storia del secolo è stata sicuramente una lettura piacevole. Naturalmente partecipare al Blog Tour organizzato da The Novel Tease è stato un vero piacere, Tiffany è veramente molto disponibile.

"When love throws you a curve, swing for the fences."

Il sogno di Parker Wood di diventare un giocatore professionista di baseball è stato spezzato quando è rimasto vittima di un devastante incidente automobilistico. Dopo due anni passati in ospedale e in strutture di riabilitazione è pronto per tornare nella casa dove è cresciuto e riprendere in mano la compagni di famiglia. La casa e l'azienda sono suoi dopo che il padre è passato a miglior vita.

Sophie Vaughn ha attraversato un divorzio rimasto sulla bocca di tutti perchè il marito non è riuscito a rimanerle fedele per due mesi dopo il matrimonio. Determinata a non lasciar colpire la sua attività di organizzatrice di eventi e di matrimoni dal suo dramma personale, ha comprato la vecchia casa dei genitori sperando che il conforto di lasciarsi circondare da qualcosa di famigliare l'aiuti a guarire. Quando Parker e Sophie scoprono che sono di nuovo vicini di casa, è come se il tempo si fosse fermato. La loro amicizia viene ben presto spolverata, insieme alla loro cotta lunga più di dieci anni, che nessuno dei due ha mai ammesso. Poi quando il calore tra loro esplode, viene alla luce un segreto molto a lungo mantenuto nascosto che minaccia di separarli... a meno che non possono abbandonare i loro dolorosi passati e andare avanti insieme.

Una romance molto particolare, con due protagonisti dal passato complicato che riescono a superarlo nonostante i loro problemi, anzi si incontrano a metà strada per costruire una storia d'amore che lascia un segno. La narrazione in terza persona, che solitamente mi dà fastidio in storie molto emozionali in questo caso è assolutamente perfetta e di certo non lascia perdere colore ad una storia piena di fascino e anzi aiuta i cambi scena tra i pov dei due protagonisti che si alternano in maniera continua, lasciando al lettore una storia

fluida dove le varie prospettive si amalgamano alla perfezione, per creare una sorta di strada unificata per le loro vite. Da un lato abbiamo Parker un uomo che è sempre stato abituato all'azione, all'essere osannato per la sua carriera sportiva che resta assolutamente danneggiato da un fatto penoso della sua vita che lo porta ad un incidente che lo lascia prostrato e fisicamente danneggiato per mesi o addirittura anni. Tenace, incapace di fermarsi e stopparsi di fronte alla vita che avanza implacabile e sembra portargli via tutto ciò che ama, Parker è l'uomo che si vorrebbe al fianco. Imperfetto, insicuro, fragile eppure allo stesso tempo emotivamente coraggioso, generoso, instancabile, sexy, con un corpo che farebbe svenire chiunque e la sensibilità di chi sa cosa vuol dire essere tradito, perdere chi si ama e incontrare le difficoltà più disperate in una somma che porterebbe in ginocchio qualunque essere dotato di sentimenti.

Dall'altro abbiamo Sophie, da sempre abituata a dare più di quello che prende, disinteressata al massimo grado, una donna che ha sofferto, che la vita ha segnato duramente, che in qualche modo ha incontrato solo persone grette e superficiali, che l'hanno ferita. Un'organizzatrice nata, di quelle che vanno a qualsiasi evento solo per prendere idee che non si stanca, che si lascia andare a scoppi di passione ma non rinuncia a chi ama. La vita è dura, ma è proprio amare che aiuta a viverla più serenamente.

Ambientato in una città che può essere qualunque con un pizzico di magia, anche nei momenti più disperati si ha sempre la speranza di avere qualcosa di solido alla fine, si ha la fiducia che la storia vada come si vuole.

Il particolare da non dimenticare? Un barattolo di burro d'arachidi.

Uscito il 5 novembre, è sicuramente un romanzo che non può mancare a chi ama le romance e i protagonisti maschili tenebrosi e affascinanti. In una storia appassionata e scorrevole la Stivali riesce ad appassionare il lettore che è incapace di staccarsi dalla pagina scritta e sorvolando sui soliti dettagli che fanno il genere. Una storia dove rimpianti, errori e baci appassionati a bordo piscina la fanno da padrone per regalare una romance tenera, dai tratti amari.

Buona lettura guys!

Ringrazio immensamente The Novel Tease per avermi concesso l'opportunità di leggere questa storia e di partecipare al blog tour in cambio della mia onesta opinione.

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### **Laura ( Latteandbooks ) says**

Parkers is away at collage and wants to become a pro Baseball player. One nice when he was driving he gets into a car accident and that changes his life for ever.

-  
Parker moves back to his old house after his dad passes away and takes over the family landscaping business.

-  
Sophie went to school with Parker and she has lived Parker from the moment they met. After Sophie's parents move to Florida she moves back to her old house. She has a job as a wedding planner.

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When Sophie noticed that Parker was coming back home she baked him a cake. The same one that her mom used to bake when they were kids.

Since she lives right next to him she walks over and gives him the cake and that's where the story begins.

It's a cute and loveable story and you can't help but love Parker he's just cute and funny.

My favourite quote is " That I'm so in love with you I can barely see straight, that spending time with you is the best part of my day, everyday, and the days that are spent with you are the happiest I've been in as long as I can remember I love you Sophie. - Parker.

P.s You'll be looking at peanut butter in a whole new light. It's pretty awesome.

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### **ReadingInThe6ix says**

Very sweet romance with a little bit of drama to keep it interesting.

Sophie is a great heroine and was easy to relate to. I found her parents annoying and a little unbelievable, but they weren't featured too prominently.

Parker was an amazing book boyfriend (not gonna lie, an inexperienced hero is pretty swoonworthy for me). I loved how he handled most situations with maturity, although I'm not sure he was straight forward enough with his ex.

Sophie and Parker together? So sweet, so loving, and very sexy...a really great example of friends to lovers done right.

Two main issues - some random side-stories were thrown in to the plot but never resolved so I don't know why they were even included, and I really wanted an epilogue for this one!

Would definitely recommend for an easy read.

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### **Crista says**

Review posted at: Swept Away By Romance

**4 stars!**

*Leave the Lights On* by Karen Stivali is a wonderful contemporary romance that features two highly likeable characters. I was almost immediately swept away to another place after reading just the first few pages and easily finished this book in one sitting. This author has a smooth writing style and I instantly became involved and invested in the storyline.

The story opens as Parker Woods has finally moved home after rehabilitating after a devastating car accident that ended his professional baseball career. He has moved home to rebuild and heal not only physically, but emotionally as well.

Sophie Vaughn has also moved home to nurse old wounds. Her ex-husband turned out to be a liar and a cheater. She is wary of men and not interested in another relationship until she realizes that Parker has moved back to town and is living next door...again.

Sophie and Parker were neighbors growing up and have always cared for one another. Although there was never a romantic relationship between them, they had a sweet friendship along with an undeniable attraction that is quickly rekindled when the two meet again.

I loved this couple. Everything about them worked. Their communication, their interactions, and the feelings that I absolutely believed they had for one another. The simplicity and authenticity of this book (and this couple) was refreshing.

This is a simple love story, but nonetheless, a powerful one. I was so happy to see childhood friends become lovers, and two "broken" individuals heal, forgive, and learn to love again.

An absolute \*\*gem\*\* of a story and one that I can recommend without hesitation!

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### **Reanell Tisdale says**

This is just the sweetest book ever! I loved everything about this story!!

The story starts out with Parker Wood moving into his deceased father's house and taking over his lawn care business. He is greeted by the mailman, who happens to tell him about Sophie Vaughn also being back in town, and living in her parents' house right next door. Memories flood Parker of how they were best friends throughout high school, also with Joey Nardo. Parker remembers how much they both adored her but never made a move on her. Then a new girl showed up and showed interest in Parker and he and Sophie's relationship dwindled down a bunch. After 4 years of being with Chrissy, he finds out that she had cheated on him and was having a baby by another man. Parker ends up in a car crash not long after the break up and ends up hurt bad enough to be in a hospital setting for several years regaining use of his leg.

The story goes back and forth between Sophie's POV and then Parker's POV. I really like that we get both sides of the story to get a feel what each person was thinking. Sophie has always loved Parker, but he never showed any interest in her except for friendship. After the brutal divorce she went through she didn't really trust anybody anymore. But as soon as she laid eyes on Parker, all thoughts left her, and she was right back to lusting after him just like before.

The banter between these 2 is just plain adorable. Not long after hanging out a few times, they realize the chemistry is too strong to fight anymore and they share a rocking first kiss. We find out some shocking news about this time, my jaw hit the floor! I was shocked, because this was something I've never seen before in a book. I can't say what it is because you need to read it for yourself and get the full impact.

There are some trials and tribulations throughout the book, but nothing too major. Every new relationship has that "learning" phase to it. I am so glad I signed up to be part of this blog tour so I can help spread the word on this amazing book!

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### **Nicole says**

Review originally posted here: <http://thebookpushers.com/2013/11/06/...>

I'm a big fan of both second chance love stories, and friends to lovers stories. After reading this blurb, I knew this story would be right up my alley.

Sophie and Parker are both moving back into their childhood homes after the lives they thought they wanted fell apart. Picking up their friendship is just another natural thing for them, and they both quickly realize the crushes they had were mutual. Acting on those feelings is more intense than either Sophie or Parker realize, and things quickly get serious.

But issues arise from their pasts, namely Sophie's ex-husband: the cheating bastard, as well as Parker's ex high school sweetheart who broke his heart. But their friendship is stable, and although the budding relationship isn't nearly as strong, both Sophie and Parker know what they want, and they want one another.

I thought Parker and Sophie had a great connection. It was so sweet to see them both picking up the pieces of their lives, and each others lives as they became best friends once again. I know that I have friends (sorta) like that. Where we can drift in and out of each others lives and know that we are still there 100% when the other needs us. Seeing that bond between Sophie and Parker, so strong to start, was special. I love when romance books take the time to really focus on the friendship between the hero and heroine.

I also liked the way they each had some HUGE relationship hurdles to get over. Between Sophie's cheating douche bag ex-husband, to Parker's high school and college sweetheart who broke his heart, they were both pretty emotionally scarred when it came to relationships. Those emotional scars were enough to send them both into a tailspin at times, but I liked the way that Stivali gave them a lot of chances to talk and work it out.

One aspect of the book that really didn't work for me was Sophie's relationship with her family. I have such a hard time understanding why any family member would be such a jerk to their own child. The way that Sophie's father talked to her was just annoying and hard for me to believe, especially after everything she went through. I also felt as if there was just something missing. While all the right ingredients were there for a wonderful romance, there was just something in the execution that didn't work for me.

All in all I enjoyed my first Stivali read. I thought the hero and heroine were great characters, and their romance was such fun to read. (PS: VIRGIN HERO ALERT!) However, there was a spark of that something special that felt missing in their romance. I wanted and needed more to really commit to them fully, and I never really felt like we got that.

I give Leave the Lights On a C.

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### **Marleen says**

I received my copy from the publisher through NetGalley

People following my reviews will know that I do not like protracted drama. I love it when the characters in a (love)story have issues they need to deal with. I enjoy the tension a misunderstanding can create for the characters as well as for the reader. What I have a hard time reading are books in which the issues aren't really issues, or where the problems seem to appear out of nowhere. And what I dislike most are characters drawing the issues out for chapters on end when just a simple conversation would have cleared the whole thing up. How wonderful that Karen Stivali managed to avoid all my pet hates. Yes there was drama, in fact both Parker and Sophie have issues with trust. But, as the backstory shows, both of them have every reason to feel insecure, good reasons for having trouble trusting each other. It was so good to see Sophie and Parker encounter difficulties and deal with them immediately.

Parker and Sophie felt like real people to me, the sort of people you might meet and befriend. They are both basically good and yet there is nothing saintly about them. They aren't perfect, and are not described to make them appear such. They are perfect for each other though just as they were perfect for this story and perfect for this reader.

There were one or two moments in this book that made me all warm and happy. When Sophie sees Parker's scars and he flinches because he thinks they are ugly to look at, she says:

“I kinda like them...They remind me that you’re still alive.”

Another moment that really got to me, for a multitude of reasons I won’t go into right now was when Parker, Sophie and Joey are in the garden, just like old times, and Parker says:

“To old friends making new memories.”

After which Sophie reflects that:

“New memories sounded like a great idea.”

The whole book is melt worthy, but when Parker and Sophie danced to “Wonderful Tonight” I was almost reduced to a puddle, that song being the one the husband and I opened the dancing during our post-wedding party with.

But the best line in this book was found very near the end.

“All of that is nothing but the past. You’re my future. My whole future.”

Now, before anybody thinks that the book I've just reviewed is a fluffy and rather chaste run of the mill romance, I'd better add that this is one hot story. The relationship between Parker and Sophie goes from charmingly innocent and insecure to steaming in just a few pages of highly imaginative lovemaking. It is

proof of just how wonderful an author Karen Stivali is that she manages to strike exactly the right balance between story and steam. It is good to know that Mrs. Stivali has more books to her name than the two I've read by her so far. I can easily see her join ranks with Nora Roberts and become one of my go-to authors when I'm stuck in a (reading) rut or in need of some instant cheering up.

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### ♥Rachel♥ says

**Leave the Lights On** was a pure comfort read, well, that's if you don't count all the steamy scenes. Those might make you a little uncomfortable, but in all the right ways!

Both Sophie and Parker have had a rough patch. Sophie was married for two months before finding out her dirt-bag-of-a-husband was cheating on her, so she's divorced and living back in her family home while her parents migrated to Florida. She now concentrates on her party/wedding planning business, but things are about to change when her best friend/childhood crush, Parker, moves back next door.

Parker has spent the last two years recovering from an accident that ended his dreams of a baseball career. He's now back home after his father passed away to take over the family business; moving back next door to Sophie, his best friend since grade school. Little did Sophie know Parker always had a thing for her.

A second chance romance is one of my all-time favorites, especially when the couple knows each other so well from years of friendship. It hurts when you're in love with someone for so long and you think they never felt the same way, so when things work out my heart just soars!

*A copy was provided in exchange for an honest review.*

**He no longer noticed the rain or heard the thunder—his whole world had condensed into the kiss. The only word his brain could form was *Sophie*.**

***I'm kissing Parker. Sophie repeated the words to herself but couldn't quite believe they were true.***

\*sigh\*

Over the years both Sophie and Parker secretly pined for each other but unfortunately neither one knew the other had feelings, so life and other people got in the way. When they meet each other again they are both intensely attracted, but self-doubt from their pasts have them both worried that the feelings may not be returned. Thankfully, that only lasts for a split second before Sophie and Parker discover everything they've been missing over the years! These two have misunderstandings and have to work through some of their insecurities, **but they tackle their issues like adults.** Yes! No stupid miscommunications that make you want to pull your hair out!

They're romance was sweet and oh-so-sexy! Just the right amount of build-up and anticipation created super hot and steamy scenes. Years of longing made for a fiery connection:

***Touch her. She's real and she's right here. How many times had he imagined this? Wished he were right where he was? Longed to run his hands across her? To feel her stroke against his skin? More than he could count or remember.***

**Leave the Lights** is a win for anyone who loves the sweet satisfaction of an unrequited love finally reciprocated! This romance that will curl your toes, make you swoon, and leave you on a happily-ever-after high!

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### **Joan says**

Wow, what a sexy and sweet book. I adored Parker and Sophie together. Parker was amazing, sexy, and strong despite all he had gone through. Sophie had her share of heartache. It was so sweet seeing them pick right up from their childhood friendship and give into their attraction for each other. Absolutely adored this book from start to finish!!

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### **Stephanie Pires says**

**I received a copy of this book from the author for the purposes of an honest review. All opinions are mine.**

\*\*This review originally appeared on [Night Reads](#)\*\*

At some point in their lives, I think every woman, happily married or in a relationship or otherwise, has always thought about the one guy in their past that was more of a “best bud” than a “best they ever had.” Karen Stivali gets to explore that same what-if scenario in her book *Leave The Lights On* which will be published on November 5th.

Parker has spent the last two years in a rehab facility after a tragic car accident that ends his plans of being a star baseball player. He returns to his hometown after being released to run his father’s landscaping business and take over his childhood home after his father passes.

Sophie is coming off a nasty divorce and running a busy event planning business that her soon to be ex-husband has stated was the cause of his philandering ways; he started cheating on her after ONLY TWO MONTHS OF MARRIAGE. (DOUCH AND A HALF!)

Secretly each had a huge crush on the other as teens and never followed through, but fate steps in to finally bring these two sweet kids together with the help of a chocolate cake, a dish of lasagna, and a few beers by the pool.

Yes, the plot is predictable; boy meets girl again and they get together and have an HEA, but *Leave The*

*Lights On* is written in a way that makes the old new again. Stivali grows the relationship from rekindling an old friendship to a full-blown never-ending kind of love that I really liked. There was nothing contrived or phony between these two, and any secrets between these two from their pasts were unfolded believably between Parker and Sophie. Sophie is definitely not one of those “oh-my-God-I-would-die-right-now-for-you” simpering female characters and Parker could never be a dominating “you-are-MINE” kind of guy that’s popular these days.

Overall I really liked this book. It was a quick read that I finished in less than a day and flowed really well from moment to moment. I would recommend this to anyone who is looking for a sweet love story that keeps you engaged for a few hours!

I'd rate this a 3 1/2 stars but will round it up to 4.

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### **Lisa Jayne says**

#### **TWO MAYBE THREE SWEET STARS.**

I think my book heart must be broken, my sweet, love radar needs to be fixed. This book had everything going for it that I normally adore and even now I'm not sure why it didn't work for me, so with a heavy heart and a some confusion here are my 'Leave the light on' book thoughts ...

#### **What's it all about?**

Parker Wood had it all, the dream girl, great friends and a promising future as a professional baseball player, but when all those things came crashing down after a life-changing accident Parker can't believe he can ever find happiness again. Following the accident Parker spends two years in rehabilitation and after his father's death he returns to his home town to take up the family business and to start his life over again. Sophie Vaughn is recovering from a very hurtful and extremely public divorce, returning back home to her parents' house could not be more of a challenge, but when she is reunited with a childhood friend and forever crush nothing could surprise her more than discovering old feelings resurfacing. The duo battle secrets, insecurities and a painful past in the hope that they can finally find there could be happily ever after.

#### **What did I like?**

I loved the premise of the story it had a promising start and likeable characters, the author also added some unpredictable plot twists regarding the characters which I didn't see coming. The writing style was easygoing and as far as my unprofessional eye could see it was edited well. I like a friends-to-more, I've-always-loved-

you-from afar story so that was all working for me. I liked that the story had a message of hope, when all was lost for the characters they still managed to find a way to happiness. The steamy action was surprisingly blush worthy, I believed the chemistry and connection between Parker and Sophie, for such a sweet story their love was scorching hot and enticingly descriptive. So there was definitely some plus's for my reading likes and a two to three star rating is a respectable, 'I liked you but didn't love you' rating.

### **Why not five?**

Simply put I felt somewhat bored with the book, nothing grabbed my attention or excitement, I felt as though I was going through the motions waiting for something that would make me sit up and take notice, sadly that did not happen this time for me and around 60% I found myself skimming the chapters to get towards the end. I think ultimately I would have benefited from a longer chase between the couple at the start, a more interesting middle and an ending that thrilled me and although this story had a lot going for it, this time I didn't connect, but that's not to say that it won't work for other readers, I've seen some lovely four and five star reviews that gushed about their love for this sweet story, so don't take my broken word for it, you may just fall in love.

### **Final thoughts ...**

I love to read, I love to fall in love with stories, what I don't like is low ratings, but as they say honesty is the best policy and sadly this book only reached a two star for my reading tastes. Five stars for the sweet factor, but less for the enjoyment. If you are looking for an easy going, sweeter than sweet romance novel then this may just be a winner for you. So go check it out readers. Enjoy ... Kisses.

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### **Robin B says**

2.5 Stars at best from me

The first word I think of when it comes to this book? Boring.

So- Sophie and Parker- our main characters- get together very quickly in this book. Now, that's not always a bad thing, if the author can keep the interest alive. Sadly though- for me she didn't. The entire book is nothing but a mish-mash of pretty much every typical romance novel cliche you can think of. From cheating to trust issues to someone being a virgin, friends kissing their friend's significant other, ex-love interests trying to reclaim what was once theirs...what's worse than all that? It wasn't even well done!

I didn't feel any sort of emotional connection between (or for) the characters. It was bland at it's finest.

Then- in the end- we're left with a lot of little unanswered questions. Granted- none of them are really essential pieces of knowledge. But I find it annoying. Why throw in a conflict or mention an issue in a book if you aren't going to either resolve it or expand upon it? Really there's no reason. And in this case, with so many MINOR things left open- it lends to the book feeling incomplete.

Final thoughts? Don't bother. I wish I hadn't.

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## ? BookAddict ↗ La Crimson Femme says

Week 2 of the Shameless 2018 author exploration kicks off with this light contemporary romance. The story starts out with sorrow as the reader learns about three critical defining moments in Parker Wood's life. He is coming home after spending a couple of years in a hospital to recover from a life threatening injury, his father recently passed away and his dreams have been shattered. This could all seem too heavy yet Ms. Stivali writes it in a way that it is not overly melancholy. It sets the stage for what Parker survives and what he needs to overcome. Luckily for him, when he moves back to his childhood home, one of his best friends is also living into her childhood home. Sophie, Parker and Joey were the three musketeers.

When tragedy struck Parker and Sophie married a guy outside of their friends, they split up. Coming back together after so long is easier than they thought. What I found interesting about this story is that each of these characters were written as if they lived life so long. I thought they were in their mid to late 30s. The timeline didn't work out and I quickly realized these three were only 24 years old. BABIES! BABIES I tell you. Their maturity and their behaviours did not jive at all for me. I had to spend my disbelief to get into the story. Because I know no 24 year olds, let alone 3 that would behave in these manner. Even when I was 24 I doubt I would be so successful as Sophie or Parker. This aside, the romance part of this story is sweet.

With Parker and Sophie renewing their friendship, some of their previous assumptions are cleared up. Their fumbling chemistry together is adorable. Their sex is tame and sweet. For those who are into kinkier sex, this book contains zero kink. The scenes are well written if a bit bland for me. Keep in mind, I am a jaded deviant. The romance takes some predictable ups and downs with familiar plot devices. The ending comes swiftly and wraps up in a happily ever after. This contemporary romance is recommended to readers who enjoy friends to lovers themes.

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