



Sex, Lies & Wedding Bells

E.M. Lynley

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[2nd edition has been extensively rewritten and the story changed from the original. Contains approximately 25k words of new content.]

Of all the tiny towns, in all the world, he walks into mine.

Texas native Kieran Quinn has hit the big time, working in Manhattan as a columnist for Gloss, a national literary magazine. He's well-known for his snarky, sardonic columns, but deep down he's more interested in exploring what makes people tick than his editor would like. He keeps his desire to find his own Mr. Right hidden under a sexy, carefree persona that favors champagne and underwear models of the male variety.

Jaxon Lang loves being the high school principal in tiny Buckwheat Springs, Texas after relocating from Austin to pursue his relationship with Danetta Archer, despite her reputation for leaving grooms at the altar. So far, he's avoided examining the questions he has about himself, certain that marriage will put them to rest. Then Kieran arrives in town. Kieran's charm and unique attitudes about sex and attraction soon challenge Jaxon's concept of what—and who—he wants.

While covering the latest wedding of a real-life "runaway bride," Kieran falls hard for the gorgeous—and supposedly straight—groom, Jaxon Lang, despite that ridiculous X. Then Kieran discovers the bride's hiding a shocking secret.

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From Reader Review Sex, Lies & Wedding Bells for online ebook

~◊~Doxni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~◊~ says

~2.5~

I should not have read this book. But I love E.M. Lynley's work, so when I had the chance to request an ARC of the second edition of *Sex, Lies & Wedding Bells*, my brain exploded with chants of *MINE! MINE! MINE!*

But I should have known. The blurb is NOT misleading, and ultimately the plot didn't appeal to me.

This story contained elements I really dislike:

- Sex on page with other partners

(Kieran has a penchant for underwear models.)

- Poorly defined GFY/OFY

(Jaxon with an X is not a complex, believable character; what makes him tick? Why did he fall for Danetta the Crazy Bitch?)

- Danetta the Crazy Bitch

- Bizarre backstory regarding a runaway bride who managed to dupe four men into wanting to marry her.

This is the central "mystery" of the plot, but it's also a trick as old as time.

I didn't believe four bright guys would have been fooled so easily in a time of accessible pharmaceuticals and then forgiven as if they hadn't just been fucked over in the most public way possible.

Men are smarter and more emotionally complex than that.

-CHEATING. No ifs or buts about this one. It's not gray area, and it's NOT okay.

Jaxon is engaged to Danetta for the first 60 PERCENT of the book. 60 PERCENT. **That's nearly TWO-THIRDS of the story where one MC is emotionally (and eventually physically) cheating on his fiancée.**

I enjoyed the second half of the book much more than the first, but besides a glorious "honeymoon" in Hawaii, the MCs aren't together a whole lot.

There is also an unfortunate jumping-to-conclusions and a separation.

The sex, once Kieran and Jaxon go for it, and that isn't until 70 percent, is HAWT, but it just wasn't enough to save the story for me.

I should also mention that I liked Alexa, Kieran's bestie. I wanted more of her.

I really like the IDEA here, and this is Lynley, so the writing is strong and engaging, but I wish the convoluted engagement with Danetta had ended sooner rather than later.

If you're sensitive to any of the dislikes I mentioned above, stay clear.

If not, enjoy some steamy lovin' between two very hot men, one of whom is a butt-sex virgin, and call it good.

Daisiema says

Before I get into the review, I HAVE to point out that this cover is VERY deceiving! Because there is a woman standing in the window, it gives the illusion that this is a book that has a menage storyline or scene in it...it DOESN'T! This is one of the reasons I put off reading this book. I am not a menage fan, but after I read Brenda's review I understood that it is a M/M Romance only. **Yay!**

Kieran Quinn is a player. He is very promiscuous and is known to forget the name of the man he is having sex with WHILE they are doing it. He is a very successful Columnist for Gloss magazine. Because of his sarcasm and witty, but often tongue in cheek remarks about the people he interviews, he has become the most popular writer of the magazine. Lately, Kieran has become disenchanted with his life. He is tired of the cutting remarks he makes about others, and longs to write something with more meaning, and less cruel. Unfortunately for Kieran his editor will not have it. When Kieran mistakenly opens up a wedding invitation from Buckwheat Springs, Texas, that was meant for his friend. He discovers the bride to be has left 3 other men at the altar, but yet is planning another wedding. Immediately amused and smelling a story, he sets out to find out why this behavior from the bride continues, and why she keeps getting poor saps to agree to marry her. (Reminded me of the Runaway Bride...but better! Even the book refers to the movie being similar to the brides behavior) Being a Texas boy himself, he figures he will be able to fit in quite nicely, even though he has been in New York for some time, and get all of the information he needs for a juicy story.

Kieran was correct in the assumption that he would be embraced in the small Texas town. Everyone is eager to discuss the upcoming wedding, and the brides reputation of leaving the men at the altar. Even the soon to be married couple decide to be as helpful as possible for Kieran's story. After all, the bride plans on going along with the wedding this time, so what have they got to hide?

When Kieran meets the groom to be, Jaxon Lang, he is immediately smitten by him. Not only is Jaxon the most handsome man he has ever met, but he is also one of the nicest. But, Jaxon seems to be two different people...the stepford fiancee of the bride to be, and the intelligent, sexy and warm person he becomes when he spends time alone with Kieran. The more Kieran is around Jaxon the more he starts feeling an emotional connection with him. Jaxon even becomes curious about Kieran's homosexual lifestyle and innocently inquires about him. Soon, Kieran becomes confused by Jaxon's actions. Jaxon becomes more open and flirts with him every time they are around one another. Surely, Jaxon the very straight Jaxon isn't attracted to the very gay Kieran?

As you can tell this is a "Gay for you" storyline. I like these type of stories so it was right up my alley. I will say that Kieran was a hard sell for me at first. Because of his promiscuous behavior and his divaish (is that a word?) conduct I wasn't that impressed with him. BUT, as I continued to get to know Kieran, and saw what kind of person he really was underneath his roguish behavior, I really began to like him. Not only could he be a very NICE man *yes it is a four letter word...lol* but his witty personality and determination to do the right thing in the end won me over. His inner dialog was quite humorous at times and I was glad he really got his heart's desire...and that was to find true love and happiness.

Jaxon was a very easy hero to like. It was very easy to see how Kieran became smitten with him from the moment he laid eyes on him. He is funny and smart and an all around great guy. It was enjoyable to watch Jaxon become more fasinated by Kieran and I could feel the emotional and physical pull they have for one another. He is confused by his attraction to Kieran, and even though every thing within him wants Kieran, he has made a commitment to marry.

Don't feel bad for the bride. The bride was an easy person to hate. Her selfishness was astounding at times, so I was glad to see the way things turned out. I suspected the reason why she kept landing these successful, handsome men, but that didn't take away from the romance between Jaxon and Kieran.

One thing threw me for a loop though. For over half of the book it is written with Kieran's point of view, (not first person...thank goodness!) then suddenly we jump to Jaxon's viewpoint. Also, there are some typos, but not enough to distract me from the story because I really loved it!

Barb ~rede-2-read~ says

ARC provided by the publisher through Scattered Thoughts and Rogue Words in exchange for an impartial review.

Kieran Quinn is the snarky, jaded, skeptical writer who finds the humor in situations that others might overlook—often at the expense of another person's pride—and he writes about them (some might say exploits them) in his articles for the magazine Gloss.

When his co-worker receives an invitation to a wedding in Kieran's home state of Texas and she explains that she's not going because this bride has already left three grooms at the altar, Kieran decides to take her place and use this "runaway bride" and her foolish 4th groom as fodder for his next article.

What he finds when he gets to Texas is not the fake Olde West town that he expected, rather it's a quaint little place where he meets some very friendly people who've done some wonderful things to restore Buckwheat Springs to the way it looked and felt one hundred years ago. He also meets the bride, Danetta Archer, the groom, Jaxon Lang, and the three former grooms, all of whom are still friends with the bride. As he begins his investigation and starts to get to know Jaxon, his plans to undermine the man go out the window. Jaxon is not at all what he expected, but everything Kieran's been wanting—a sweet, intelligent and stable man with whom to settle down and have a long-term relationship. Kieran is actually tired of making fun of people at their expense and this trip makes him even more aware of the humanity of the groom and former grooms and he even starts to see some good in the bride whom he was prepared to hate.

Jaxon took the position of high school principal after relocating from Austin to pursue his relationship with Danetta. As Kieran interviews the former grooms, he's struck by the fact that all but the first have relocated to Buckwheat Springs to be with Danetta and all have stayed there. All are very open about their past relationship and about being left at the altar, however, all are very close-lipped about the reason Danny gave them for leaving them like that. Of course, this piques Kieran's interest, and he sets out to uncover just what that reason is.

In the meantime, he and Jaxon are getting close and Jaxon's been asking some very personal questions about what it's like to be a gay man. One night, a drunken Jaxon makes a pass at Kieran and Kieran, who is usually the man about town willing to bed anyone, refuses to succumb. He knows Jaxon is special, and he's afraid that if they get intimate, he won't be able to watch Jaxon get married and his heart will be broken beyond repair.

Jaxon has always avoided any strange urges he's had about men and refused to think about it. When he agreed to marry Danny and moved from Austin, he thought he had permanently shelved the thoughts, but meeting Kieran resurrected his desires, and he's torn between going forward with the wedding and giving in to the yearning to find out for sure.

What happens when Kieran learns the truth and when the wedding goes forward provides an interesting drama which is then fueled further by the fallout from Kieran's revelations—both in person and in print. The author made this a very interesting mystery and a sweet, slow burn OFY story, and then threw in a bucket of angst to stir up the drama. Nicely done! I recommend this to all who enjoy reading about men discovering their true desires for other men, those who like a slow burn, and those who simply enjoy contemporary M/M romances.

Erotic Horizon says

Characters

Jaxon – Teacher, fiancée' and an all around good guy. Willing than most to open his mind to the possibilities and explore the unknown - but still naive enough enough to think that there is goodness in everyone.

Kieran – Journalist, friend, pal and the ficklest person there is when it comes to matters of the heart. Proud of who he is and his greatest wish is to do right by the people he interviews – however he has an editor and that was never going to happen.

The Plot

Kieran has just about push his editor last button when he strolled into the office late. Along with friends he comes ups with a decent and plausible enough story to not only get it by his editor – but sees him in small town Texas for either the wedding or the jilting of the year.

Meeting Jaxon who is meant to be the villain of his piece is a earth shattering moment for Kieran and he knows immediately that objectivity just went through the door when Jaxon started asking questions.

Something however was not right and Kieran means to get to the bottom of it before the big day, but he has to think about who is he doing it for - she - he or him.

Surprise Element

I have read a few books from Ravenous Romance and not that I was off them, but it was take it or leave it for me. Ms. Lynley's production **SEX LIES AND WEDDING BELLS** is a first class addition to Ravenous Romance list of titles.

Predictability

From the blurb, I thought yeah – another Julia Robert's moment, but nope – Ms. Lynley took the story line and ran down a totally different path with it.

There is to be expected some level of predictability – it's the nature of that story line, but the fun, the cagey unsaid little things as well as the eclectic bunch of support cast gave this read the edge.

Smut/ick Factor

The smut in this is a little hard to explain – while it had the emotion entanglement that preceded any good smut scene. I was more caught up in the what comes after and how the guys dealt with everything that was happening to them.

Jaxon and Kieran had the chance to hop into bed, but i was very impressed with not only the restraint but the logic behind how they dealt with something that they knew would happen, but didn't necessarily have to happen. Well done

Positive

I found the story line not only cute but very thought provoking. A big throw back to "The Runaway Bribe", but with a very sinister underlining element.

The pace of the book was lively. It had it moments of a gentle glide, but there was also the moment where i was just chopping at the bit to know if they would or if they wont.

I am liking Ms. Lynley voice alot, she brought a mixture of fun and expectation to a story line that should be as predictable as laundry, but ended up being a truly wonderful read.

I like the fact that the author moved the story along – as much as it started out with Kieran mad mundane life, Ms. Lynley quickly had us travelling and exploring alot of other places – tossing in some nice contrast as well.

While there was never any question of a mystery to this book, the author gives us enough phrases and innuendos to build up a decent amount of curiosity in me – and admitted i was caught up, i really wanted to know what was happening.

I loved the characters from the first moment i met them, especially Kieran – He is the the stereotypical camp guy in the office, and the life of the party - he however had a sense of right and wrong and enough integrity to know the difference.

Jaxon – the name so suited him, honourable to the very end as he held on, trying to do the right thing even when he knew the unknown was a better option..

I was impressed with Ms. Lynley giving Kieran and Jaxon a chance to get to know each other. I saw the difference they made to and on each other... nicely done

The characters were well fleshed out and not only the main protags – support cast and even a little bit of info on the actually town was toss in for good measure.

I was given a healthy dose of small-town realism. Never expect the natural flow of order to happen in small town – however in **SEX LIES AND WEDDING BELLS**, a touch of the modern was also introduce –which made it all the more believable.

Bottom Line

A nice spin on an old plot that had me not only enjoying the characters that i was being introduced to but also enjoying a new to me author that had a way with words that made **SEX LIES AND WEDDING BELLS** really stand out and much kudos to her for doing so.

Negative

Another not perfect book, but nothing to stick my fingers at and say – I thought this or that was off..

I really enjoy the frivolities of how the book started, but like any relationship, it grew and it was a pleasure to have read this book.

Cover

I like, I like a lot... how sexy are they. ticked all my boxes – no face and lots of flesh on display...

K says

4.5 Stars

I had the pleasure of reading **Sex, Lies, and Wedding Bells**, by E.M. Lynley, when she first released it back in 2009. In fact, I have read it more than once, over the years. When I saw the new cover, which is drop dead gorgeous btw and learned of it being revised with new material, I was beyond excited.

The story is about the lives of Kieran Quinn, a news columnist, who has no trouble getting any guy into his bed. The trouble is none of them want to stay, nor does he want them too. It's starting to weigh heavily on him about not finding Mr. Right and his job is not near the fun it used to be. He's pretty much given an ultimatum from his boss. Write a snarky, cut-throat, article about someone's misfortunes or find a new job. And, that brings him to meet the ever handsome, sexy, smart, straight, Jaxon Lang.

Jaxon lives in Buckwheat Springs, TX and the name alone should clue you into the small town atmosphere and mentality. Jaxon is engaged to the popular Danetta Archer, despite the fact she has left three others standing at the altar before Jaxon. Kieran smells a story with the popular “runaway bride” and wants to

interview the couple, find out her secrets of how she can snag so many men yet leave them behind, and voila...he has an article that should keep his boss happy.

Meeting Jaxon, in person, turns Kieran's world upside down. He is everything he wants in a partner. He's funny, gorgeous, takes care of his body, super smart, and their chemistry is off the charts. Jaxon being straight and engaged is definitely an obstacle in his fantasies he can't help but have about Mr. Lang. This assignment has taken a new turn for Kieran and he is conflicted. But, what if Jaxon has his own doubts about his sexuality? He considered the possibility years earlier but meeting Danetta pushed them to the back burner. Now, he's not so sure. When he approaches Kieran about exploring some of his curiosity, before the wedding, will Kieran help him out or not?

If you have read the first edition you will be pleased to know that we get more from Jaxon's perspective this time. We get a better feel of what is going on in his mind and I loved that the author gave us his thoughts. We, also, get to hear the inner musings of Kieran's thoughts and he is hilarious. Coming from Manhattan to the backwoods of Buckwheat Springs has really opened up Kieran's eyes. He starts to take into consideration things that he never thought of before, like hurting other people's feelings with his snarky words and blasé attitude. But, he still wants to put out a good story and like any good reporter he smells something that doesn't fit. He just had no idea that his digging would lead to destroying and devastating the life of the man he is falling for.

“Why didn’t you tell me this sooner? About the lies? You knew...Maybe we...”

“If I told you would you have believed me? Or would you assume I had selfish reasons for keeping you from marrying her?”

Jaxon nodded. “I can see the possibility. But you could have told me to talk to her.”

“She needed to tell you herself. There’s more to the story than what’s in the note. A lot more. I didn’t know everything when I wrote it. Then I went to see her last night, before the party.

“What could she have said to make you lie to me?”

Both Jaxon and Kieran know they have a connection. Jaxon has never been with another man and he is beyond fascinated to learn what it means. However, I would like to point out to those who despise cheating in your stories, there is NO cheating here. Yes, Jaxon is curious, more than curious, but keep in mind they aren't married yet. Kieran is very cautious and holds Jaxon at bay because he doesn't want to get hurt. Showing Jaxon what it means to love another man would thrill him more than anything, however, leaving him behind, with a wife, would definitely kill him.

This is one of my favorite stories and that hasn't changed. The author writes with a very descriptive narrative that pulls you into the story and gives you a visual of the characters and their surroundings. Even though there were very serious issues being addressed she managed to put in just enough humor to keep you laughing and not feel weighed down by the angst. And, there are some angst moments along with a little suspense to keep you on edge. At one point, I wasn't sure how Jaxon was going to deal with the betrayal. He has been betrayed by more than one person, at least that's how he sees it, but the author has included some very good secondary characters that help Jaxon see things in a new light.

E.M. Lynley is a talented author that knows how to execute the story and keep it interesting and flowing seamlessly. The characters were funny and the banter between Jaxon and Kieran will guarantee a smile on your face. I feel it's relevant to point out that even though Jaxon is/was engaged to Danetta their relationship between each other was not the focus of the story. There are no bedroom scenes of them together or any

contact. The story is more about Jaxon learning who he is and Kieran helping him find that man.

As the story progresses and they get closer they do spend time together and their chemistry is just as potent if not more in the bedroom. They have no trouble scorching the sheets and I love how the author included humor as well. Jaxon is like a kid in a candy store and he wants to sample everything, and sample and sample, lol. I love really hot bedroom scenes that also include the characters laughing and having a good time.

I wouldn't necessarily say the content is original since it does reference the movie "Runaway Bride" and has a lot of similarities but it doesn't compare at all either if that makes sense. The author has a lot of originality in the plot and she has added her own creativity that makes this a very enjoyable story. A happy ever after will definitely be found. It is a match that will grab your heart and you will be wanting to read it again many times.

* I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review through
<http://mmgoodbookreviews.wordpress.com> *

Melanie~~ says

Where do I start? For me, this was a beefy book. I tend to go for 130-180 pages. So it was nice to have something that was a bit bigger and took a little longer to get through. (And I'm a slower reader to begin with.)

The main characters were well developed. I would have liked a good bit more of Jaxon, but I think it was more of Keiran's story, so... I do think that Danetta could have been fleshed out a bit more, but then again, she wasn't the point. I really enjoyed the friendship that blossomed between Keiran and Jaxon. I appreciated Keiran's curious/suspicious mind as well as his snarky humor. I actually would have enjoyed if there were a bit more of it after Keiran had arrived in Texas.

I spent a good bit of the book frustrated by the looming reveal of Danetta's story. I admit to feeling like I just wanted to get on with it. I can't say that I found it very believable. Not that what she lied about wasn't believable, but that she managed to get the same lie over on three guys, and that they all still loved and sympathized with and protected her.

While I thought Jaxon's and Danetta's initial reactions to the reveal and the circumstances of the reveal were pretty realistic, I thought the secondary reactions were way more mature and less believable. I was actually rather angry with Danetta for being so upset that Keiran told Jaxon when he'd told her that he would, even though it really was more accidental in the way it happened. And I couldn't help but wonder what Keiran would have done if it hadn't happened the way that it did. Would he have stopped the wedding to tell Jaxon about the secret? Or would he have sat there and hoped that Danetta stopped things before the vows were finished?

So I didn't guess at Danetta's secret. I did however "call" what would happen with Keiran's article and its aftermath. That's not necessarily a bad thing in my opinion, but I did see that coming. I liked this part a bit

mainly because I got some more time with Jaxon.

The ending was the tidy bow you expect on romances. Again, not a bad thing in my opinion. While the book time of the resolution was believable (about 2-2 1/2 weeks), a bit more "on screen" time would have been nice, though I admit that it could have ended up tedious, too.

I felt that the writing was very strong, which I always love.

All in all, a very enjoyable read that makes me want to add more E.M. Lynley to my ever cluttered considering selves.

This book has been given to me by the author and the M/M Romance Group's Don't Buy My Love program for free in exchange for an honest review.

Veronica of V's Reads says

I received a copy of the re-released, revised, second edition of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Kieran Quinn is an out gay columnist for Gloss magazine. His snarky wit have made his column famous, but he's starting to tire of the treadmill ride he's on. He has no lack of gorgeous sexual partners, but he longs for an actual partner.

In search of his next column fodder, essentially the schmucks who'll be subject to his literary vivisection, Kieran travels to tiny Buckwheat Springs, Texas in search of Danetta Archer and her fourth fiance, Jaxon Lang. Danetta has jilted her last three fiances at the alter, and, with two weeks to her impending nuptials, it seems she's ready to finally tie the knot. Or, will she?

Kieran is surprised to find that all of Danetta's former beaux are quite amiable. And, hang out together as if part of some exclusive club. Jaxon is, unfortunately for Kieran, a very attractive man who is (perhaps) questioning his sexuality, if not the prospect of marriage. While Kieran is searching for the secret behind Danetta landing some of Texas's most eligible bachelors, he learns just how deep her lies run.

Finding out that Jaxon shares his attraction, Kieran is torn between letting Jaxon live his chosen life, and swaying him onto a new path. Kieran has never been in a relationship, and he's not sure Jaxon is ready--he's never even been with a man before--but, as the big date closes in, it is more than just coincidence that these men have found each other at this time in their lives. Jaxon is a quality man who has some very serious choices to make, and not only about Danetta.

Expect break-ups, angry fiances, covert gayness, first times, and big mistakes. There's a bunch of breaking up and a bit of making up, with an HEA that will satisfy. I have not read the first edition of this book, so I can't comment on the changes between them, but this book read as a complete story with no cliffhanger.

Zainab says

It was a fun read.

Elisa Rolle says

First of all a big warning: this is not a menages! Last week I discovered this new publisher, Ravenous Romance and its Panamour line (same-sex romance); they have already some titles available, but at first I bough only the two by Ryan Field, since I knew the author (not personally, I read two short stories before) and reading the blurb and looking the covers, I was sure they were not menages. Sex, Lies and Wedding Bells by E.M. Lynley I almost skipped since it didn't pass my three steps test: 1) tagged M/M: OK, 2) no female in the blurb: KO, 3) no female on the cover: KO. Two on three and I didn't buy it. Then someone told me it was not a menage, it was a real male on male romance, and so stepped back (see, I can change my mind!).

Reading this book I can almost make a sure bet that the author likes the romantic comedy movie. Apart the obvious reference to The Runaway Bride, she even named the movie from the first pages, I find also a resemblance with In&Out: an handsome, and very tall, reporter that arrives in little country village and fall in love with the principal of the local high school? (all right Kevin Kline was not the principal, but still...). There is even a scene that reminds me Sleepless in Seattle... Anyway the story is all it promised, a good and full male on male romance, that covers all the salient points: before, during and after, you will have the full package!

Kieran is an handsome New Yorker reporter for a fashion and entertainment magazine. His main qualification as reporter is to be snarky, and as man to be practically a slut: more nights than not he ends in bed with an unknown body, and sometime he even knows the name. In one thing Kieran is open and clear: he is gay and he likes sex. But lately this seems to be not enough: very pregnant the sentence in which Kieran thought that "he would much rather have woken up in someone's arms than someone's mouth" (since in the very first scene Kieran is receiving a blow job from one of those unnamed bodies above). And even in his works he is starting to loose biting, he is not enough evil according to his editor. And so Kieran decides to do a piece on a Runaway Bride, exactly like in the movie, who is marrying for the fourth time (and the previous three she dumped the groom at the altar).

Problem is that, instead of the bride, like in the movie, Kiernan falls in love for the groom. Jaxon is really a good guy, friendly and sincere, and exactly the perfect man Kieran would want in his life and bed, but Jaxon is not gay. At first I thought that the direction of the book was for Kieran to find out that Jaxon was gay and that his marriage with Danetta was a fake one, and instead I was wrong (and I will not say what is really the story ;-)). The author is very good in not letting go the story and manage to maintain her little mystery for almost half the book: she unveils her secret only when she decides it's time, and only since she needs the other half of the book for something else (and for me better).

It's all about romance in this book, maybe sometime even a bit too much: Jaxon is a bit too perfect, sometime he is almost like a starstruck teen (above all regarding sex); all right Kiernan at first thought of him not nice things, but he is not so far from the reality... Jaxon is really too open and naive! But well, I like him like that, it's strange, he has this "childish" behavior, this way to approach almost with pliers, he seems always ready to say please and thanks, but all in all I don't find him a weak character, he is only an old fashioned

man (but yes, probably he would be not him to wear the trousers at home, even if he married a woman!).

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1607777851/?...>

, • * ° *•**Gwendolyn**•°***★°***★ says

Oooooh My Goddesss! I Love this Book! It Was Predictable and Sweet and...

Just an ALL and ALL Perfect Read For Me.... Just What I Needed ~Like a Warm Cup Of Chocolate, A Good Book and Snuggly Socks...This Book Was Absolutely Perfect For MY Today's Mood..♥

Carole says

Kieran Quinn has the ultimate job at Gloss magazine: he writes funny, snarky columns that are so popular that Gloss, which is something like the New Yorker, won't even post them on their website so that more people will buy the print magazine. It works, and sales are up. Kieran is Gloss's fair-haired boy. He's also quite the gay man about town, with a taste for one-night stands with hunky underwear models, while he's waiting for real love to find him.

Kieran runs across a possible story in Buckwheat Springs, Texas, of all places, where a bride named Danetta has left three previous bridegrooms at the altar, and has now scheduled yet another wedding. It's not your typical 'runaway bride' story because all her previous fiancés seem to think well of her, wish her well, and even like her newest fiancé Jaxon Lang. How can Danetta ditch all these guys literally at the altar and still have them like her?

So Kieran travels from New York to Buckwheat Springs to write one of his trademark snarky columns, whether or not Danetta actually steps up to the plate (or rather to the altar) this time. Danetta is pretty much what he expected, but Jaxon is not only the most gorgeous man Kieran's ever seen, but is genuinely a nice guy. It's too bad that he's (a)straight and (b)getting married on Saturday.

It's up to Kieran to solve the mystery of why men are willing to move to Buckwheat Springs and marry Danetta, even with her history of leaving men at the altar. Danetta's pretty and sweet, but, really, there's clearly something up here, and Kieran wants to know the truth. His growing attraction to Jaxon is only part of his motivation, though he is spurred on by Jaxon's reluctant reciprocal feelings.

Can Kieran solve the mystery? Can he save Jaxon from Danetta's plot? Will the wedding go through? And, even if it doesn't, what happens then? Is there a future for New York Kieran and Buckwheat Springs Jaxon?

This book is a fast, fun, frothy read. It made me laugh out loud more than once, and brought tears to my eyes a few times, too. The characters are beautifully drawn, and the twisty plot is satisfactorily unpredictable. I stayed up till 2am to finish reading *Sex, Lies & Wedding Bells* because I wanted to see how on earth EM

Lynley was going to draw all this together, and she does. I loved it and I think you will, too.

Ayanna says

It wasn't bad, and then it was.

The actual turning point moment was sort of shoddily handled. Having sex does not equate falling in love. They even say that. And yet, for some reason, that seems to be how Kieran reacts.

The Big Reveal was...cheesy.

The use of the word "waked" is bothering me.

The ending...

Yes, yes, they became astronauts and went to outer space and found a cure for cancer and built schools in Africa and adopted three African babies.

It was like a Mary Sue, but as a story ending.

The nice way of putting it would be "the fucking corniest and most cringe-worthy thing you've ever read."

I guess the idea could have been good, but I didn't find the characters particularly endearing.

JoJo says

I am looking forward to reading more by this author. I loved Kieran! I really didn't think I would, but he ended up being a sexy and charming hero.

Sandra says

3.5 stars rounded up bc Goodreads.

I liked this more than my co-blogger who also read this book, but I had some of the same hangups she had.

First off, the 'mystery' why Danetta, the runaway bride, left three grooms at the altar, and how she got them to not only want to marry her (especially groom 2, 3, and 4) but also why she ran out on the first three. Who forgave her, apparently. And who also, for some reason I couldn't quite understand, kept her secret hidden, and didn't tell groom 4, when he also fell for that ploy.

I did however believe her remorse, even if it took serendipity for her to come clean. I also could somewhat see how her parents relationship could have affected her in that way.

Secondly, Jaxon (with an X) - the GFY part wasn't entirely believable, and came about too suddenly for my liking. Also, the emotional cheating, plus the physical cheating is probably not going to be something every

reader will like. I also didn't get really much of a reason as to why he fell for the woman he's about to marry - I don't know that men are that easily manipulated, and that blind to what's not working in the relationship. Or that lazy, to be quite honest, to avoid thinking about entering into a marriage with a woman they're not sure about.

The rest of it worked for me, though, and as usual, Ms. Lynley's writing is crisp, engaging and connecting. The POVs change on occasion, with most of the book written from Kieran's third person POV, but also allowing a peek into Jaxon's mind. The love scenes were really well done, especially since Jaxon has never been with a man, and served to highlight their emotional connection more than anything.

I liked Kieran after initially thinking him a bit of an ass, but I believed him to be thunderstruck by Jaxon, and I believed that he fell for the man head over heels. Oh, how he struggled to do the right thing, how he fought against his feelings - I bought it all.

The grand misunderstanding toward the end (after some holy hot boysecks, Batman - butt virgin and all) was understandable to an extent but also predictable. It's followed by the also predictable grand gesture - though I must give kudos to Kieran for doing that right - which brings them back to each other. Hey, you knew that, right? It's a ROMANCE, after all!

I did like the relationship between Kieran and Jaxon - there were some rather funny moments, and their banter felt realistic. I also believed their romance, even if it comes late in the book and is almost derailed by the "grand misunderstanding".

Kieran's best friend Alexa - she almost seemed an afterthought, and I would have liked to see more of her on page. I also liked the inclusion of Sam, who's a bartender/bar owner in Bumfuck, sorry, Buckwheat, Texas, where most of this story takes place, and appreciated the wisdom she shared.

Overall, nicely done. I was entertained, and if my hangups with this book don't bother you, I think you'll enjoy this too.

**** I received a free copy from the author. A positive review was not promised in return. ****

Nichole (DirrtyH) says

I had a hard time rating this. Going by overall quality of the story and writing, this is between 2 and 3 stars. However, my overall enjoyment of it was between 4 and 5 stars. So I'm compromising with a 3.

I had a lot of problems with this book, including but not limited to: POV issues (huge pet peeve of mine), Ricki Lake worthy melodrama, *tons* of typos and editing errors, and the second half suffered from major CWD Syndrome (chicks w/ dicks.)

And yet....

It somehow worked for me. My heart went pitter patter. I was really rooting for Keiran and Jaxon, and found their disgustingly sweet HEA to be very satisfying. This book lands firmly in Guilty Pleasure ground.
