



Shell Game

Chris Keniston

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He's High Risk... She's High Stakes.

Tricked into taking a Caribbean cruise, former Navy SEAL Luke "Brooklyn" Chapman is expecting free-flowing booze, bikini-clad women, and an abundance of *recreation*.

Hardworking Sharla Kramer has her hands full keeping her sticky-fingered grandmother out of trouble. Looking forward to a nice *rest* while on vacation, the last thing she needs in her life is a high risk Navy SEAL.

Toss in a couple of swindlers, a retired cop, and a few fun-loving ladies in red hats, and a little high seas *R&R* quickly becomes a lot of high stakes shenanigans!

Shell Game Details

Date : Published August 28th 2014 by Indie House Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Chris Keniston

Format : Kindle Edition 173 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, War, Military Fiction

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From Reader Review Shell Game for online ebook

Katie O'Sullivan says

First I will admit I haven't read any of the other books in Keniston's Aloha series. My opinion after finishing is that its not necessary to read the series to enjoy this prequel. This is a stand alone book, although I guess if you already know and love these characters, it might be really fun to finally get this backstory. Because these are fun characters. The author does a great job introducing both main and secondary players and investing the reader in their stories. The majority of the book takes place on a cruise ship, and having been on a few cruises it all rang so true I had to laugh at points.

Sharla Kramer is a hospital nurse who lost her policeman husband a few years back in an on the job shooting. Now her grandmother has moved in with her, an aging former con artist with a definite twinkle in her eye. Sharla ends up accompanying Nana on a vacation cruise, where her only plans are to keep Nana out of trouble and read through the many books back logged on her Kindle (sounds like a plan to me!) Nana has other ideas, especially after she bumps into one particular hunk who seems to be the only single guy in her granddaughter's age group.

Luke "Brooklyn" Chapman is a former Navy Seal who now works for the CIA taking down the bad guys in a more surreptitious but no less dangerous way. After a close encounter with a knife, his superior sends him on a mandatory vacation cruise to rest and relax. When he and Sharla meet, it feels less like sparks flying and more like he's finally found a home and someone to care about. Which is crazy, since they're in the middle of the ocean and Sharla has sworn off dating men with dangerous jobs. Nana has other plans, and she's a woman who gets what she wants.

They say it takes a crook to know a crook, and Nana spots a con man working the cruise line clientele with a real estate shell game. (Thus the title.) The adventure starts when they all team up to bring the guy down.

This book is a lot of fun, and a fast romp of a read. I recommend it for entertaining easy summer reading, especially if you're headed out on a cruise.

Jo-Anne says

This humorous story takes place on a cruise. Nana planned to go with her sister but at the last minute the sister didn't want to go so Nana got her granddaughter, Sharla, to go with her instead. Sharla didn't want to go with her grandmother because Nana has been in the 'family business' of being a con artist, most of her life and Sharla wanted a break from watching her to make sure she didn't swindle anyone. On the cruise they met former SEAL Luke "Brooklyn" Chapman. His boss made him take the cruise so he would take some time off after a serious injury. Herbie was smitten with Nana so he joined the group. Herbie is a retired policeman so Sharla was nervous when he was around Nana.

They all got along well and had a much better time than they expected. The men were suspicious of two other passengers that were trying to get people to invest in a land deal. The women wanted to know what the guys were up to and Nana turned out to be a huge help. The men were very skilled but she was the only one of all of them that could pull off a con. Especially when they were trying to catch a con.

I loved this funny story about these four people trying to catch (con) a couple who are trying to con them. The characters were wonderful - especially Nana who was a hoot. Luke was a surprise. Being a SEAL I expected him to be serious all the time but we see his fun side when he joins in all the trivia games.

This was a fun read that I highly recommend.

Irene S says

Light and sweet romance at sea... Since Brooklyn is on medical leave from his last mission, he agrees to be a replacement on a cruise. Sharla, is accompanying her grandmother on the cruise as well. When Brooklyn and Sharla meet sparks fly. Brooklyn, a retired SEAL and a CIA agent, isn't the safe man that Sharla needs. I received a free copy of this book from the author. This is my honest and voluntarily given review. This is a sweet and amusing romance. There are actually two romances in this book: Sharla's and her grandmothers. When they try to thwart a con couple, it leads to a suspenseful ending. I really enjoyed this light romance and recommend this series.

Isha Coleman says

Fun in the sun becomes mayhem on the water. Chris Keniston is always on point. Sharla and Luke not only bring temptation to the high seas, but along the way get caught up in some serious intrigue. Shell Game reads like a crap shoot. Every turn holds a risk, but if you try your hand, the rewards could be endless. Loved it.

Judy Lewis says

HILARIOUS HIJINKS ON THE HIGH SEAS !!!

Title: Shell Game

Series: Aloha Series

Author: Chris Keniston

Designation: Series Prequel, Standalone Novel, NO Cliffhanger

My Rating: Five Deliciously Cute and Delightfully Entertaining Stars*****

I loved this story! This is my first time reading Chris Keniston but it certainly won't be my last! My passion is reading and there is absolutely nothing I love more than a great romance. I'm always on the lookout for a talented new author and Chris Keniston just became my new best friend! Although Shell Game is the eighth release, it's dubbed by the author as Aloha 0.5 and actually serves as a prequel which takes place before the other books and sets the stage for the dynamic between the characters of the entire series. Shell Game takes readers into the past, before the Big Island Dive Shop and gives us the story of former Navy Seal Special Forces Lieutenant Luke 'Brooklyn' Chapman, the go-to man who started the ball rolling and how he found his happily-ever-after with beautiful widowed Floridian Emergency Room Nurse Sharla Kramer. I found Shell Game to be well crafted and beautifully written in the third person with perspectives primarily from Luke and Sharla but with occasional insights from Sharla's hilarious former con artist grandmother, Sophia Garibaldi. The dialogue was smart, snappy, well executed and flowed effortlessly. Yes, it's a wonderful adventure filled with danger, drama, suspense, humor, angst and romance, all the elements I love in a great read, but it's the extraordinary cast of characters that completely stole my heart. I have to admit, I'm always a sucker for a great cast of engaging, charismatic characters and the players in this story grabbed me right out

of the gate, stole the show and completely captured my heart. I fell head over heels for the two protagonists of this story but I could have also enjoyed an entire book written about Sophia 'Nana' Garibaldi, well, about Sophia, her infamous family of confidence men and all their adventures or probably a better descriptive would be their cons. Totally hilarious! The elderly Sophia and her love interest, retired cop Herbie Klein were both absolutely adorable and made the perfect compliment for the primary characters in this captivating contemporary cruise ship romance. So, as former Navy Seal and now current State Department employee (which is code for CIA Spook) Luke Brooklyn Chapman would say, "wheels up and prepare for a seductive, fun-filled, laugh-out-loud funny adventure on the high seas!" Fabulous entertainment and awesome vacation beach read!

Beautiful widow Sharla Kramer has her hands full trying to hold down her job as a trauma nurse at a Miami hospital, and keep tabs on her mischievous housemate, Sophia Garibaldi, who also happens to be her seventy-five year old former conwoman grandmother. Hopefully it's still former and not current but with her very spry, miscreant Nana with the sticky fingers, who the heck knows! She has no time for relationships or men. Sharla lost her husband Danny three years ago when his luck ran out in a filthy alley while on duty as a Miami Police Officer and she has no intention of going through the heartache of another such devastating loss again. If she ever, and that's a big if, decides to take a walk down the aisle again, it would never, ever be with a policeman, fireman, or military man, and certainly no one in a dangerous, high risk profession. Nope, never! Unfortunately, her body doesn't get the memo because no matter how hard she tries, Sharla can't seem to resist the charms of the sexy, handsome former Navy Seal who has befriended her Nana on their cruise. Oh dear! Unfortunately, her Nana has other ideas. Oh no! What's a girl to do?

Former Navy Seal Luke 'Brooklyn' Chapman is not happy about being sidelined from his job as a CIA rescue operative for a month of forced rest and recreation after his latest on the job injury. In service to your country and working for the State Department can be very hazardous to your health and even more so when you're a spook. Oops! That's supposed to be a secret! Brooklyn's boss convinces him to accept his reservations for a Caribbean cruise but soon realizes he's been tricked into a vacation with a ship full of newlyweds, young couples with children and retirees. What the heck, man? That's playing dirty pool! All expectations of booze-fueled nights wrapped in the arms of beautiful bikini clad women having lots and lots of 'recreational' sex are quickly extinguished. But never fear, there may still be a ray of hope, a lovely gem hidden among the throng of passengers by the name of Sharla Kramer. Unfortunately, it quickly becomes obvious that the lovely emergency room nurse is as wholesome as they come and definitely not 'hit it and quit it' one night stand material. But no matter how hard he tries, Brooklyn can't seem to resist the undeniable attraction between him and Sharla. He's totally entranced by the beautiful, beguiling young widow and can't seem to stay away from her, no matter how hard he tries. Brooklyn has always been convinced the remainder of his life would be spent in service to his country but he'd never anticipated meeting and falling love with Sharla Kramer. For some inexplicable reason, he's drawn to this woman like nothing he's ever experienced in his entire life. The possibility of a future with Sharla makes him reconsider his life and chosen career choice. For this woman, he just may be willing to hang up his spook spurs...I mean diving fins for good. Unfortunately, he'll have to rescue her and her nana first! Oh my!

When rating and reviewing a book, I always ask myself five primary questions. First, what did I like about this story? In this case, I loved everything about Shell Game. I was drawn into this story before I even finished the prologue and it held me completely captivated until the very last line. This story had everything I look for in a great read. Like what, you ask? A little mystery and spine-tingling suspense, an entire cast of engaging characters, a dash of heart-pounding danger and heart-wrenching angst, a generous measure of hysterical humor and a liberal serving of sultry, seductive romance with just a splash of dreamy 'scarf-on-the-doorknob' sex. Ever watched the movie Dirty Dancing? Well, instead of a sock, substitute a scarf and you know exactly what I'm referring to. So darn cute!

My second question is: What didn't I like about this story? Honestly, I can't think of a single thing. I loved it all!

The third question I always ask myself is: Would I recommend this book? And my answer is an emphatic YES! I would highly recommend this book but only for adult readers. Although it does NOT contain any hardcore profanity other than the d#mn word being thrown about occasionally, it does contain one steamy but tastefully written sex scene between Luke and Sharla and only implied sex for Sophia and Herbie. Hey, Sophia and Herbie are both seniors in their seventies so how much mischief could they actually get into? Forget I even asked, because the answer is a lot! lol....

The fourth question I ask is: Will I read this author again? Absolutely! I will definitely be adding Chris Keniston to my list of favorite go-to authors!

And finally, my fifth question is: How should I rate this book? If the book is well crafted, skillfully presented and well edited, and I'm truly entertained, then it earns five enthusiastic stars and this one fills the bill on all counts. Once I started reading, I immediately became completely immersed in this realistic story and lost all track of time. Yes, I was definitely entertained! I loved it, so it earns five deliciously cute and delightfully entertaining stars!

Pernette says

A Navy Seal now working for the CIA is ordered to take some time off by his supervisor and is forced to take the supervisor's cruise tickets that he is not going to be able to use. A widowed nurse finds her self taking a cruise unexpectedly. The two meet up and the cruise starts to heat up!

Debbie Borthwick says

I'm pretty sure this is my favourite of the Aloha series! The number of times Luke 'Brooklyn' Chapman has turned up in the other books made me very curious about him. His story did not disappoint! I loved it, I loved Sharla and Luke, her grandmother Sophia and Herbie. They all worked so well together, you really have to read this book. Well done, Chris!!

Angi DeMonti says

A cute contemporary romance

This book had the right amount of humor mixed in with a bunch of romance. While this is Luke and Sharla's story, her Nana, Sophia stole the story for me. The author created a group of characters that were fun and a story that flowed. The high seas, great characters, romance, humor, and a con make this a fun read.

Penny says

Another really good book by Chris Keniston

I like her writing style and this series is a great set. Charters are well developed they are terrific at what they

do and feel real.

The mild mystery in the book is a good one makes the book read easy and flows nicely. Great for a lite afternoon read.

The charters are funny, witty, wonderful and Nana is a force to be reckoned with.

The sex in the book is mild and so is the small spot of violence. Nothing Explicit at all.

Thanks for the awesome reads!!!!

I did NOT spot any errors of spelling or misplaced words grammar. (pet peeve)

Paula says

Sharla and Luke both unexpectedly end up on the same cruise and sparks fly when they meet. Neither were suppose to be on this cruise. Nana is a hoot and love how she can still run a con. Herbie is her love interest and a retired cop. Funny how opposites attract. Sharla is a widow and looking for a "safe" guy to love again. Luke is a Seal and in the CIA (not so safe). The author has a couple of plots running in this book and I thought she did a great job. Although there is instant love (sometimes I don't like that) she pulls off the believable regarding both couples. There is also a mystery which intrigued me and kept me wanting to read to find out how it would play out.

Bev Walkling says

I received this as a free book from Amazon after a recommendation from Book Bub.

This relatively short book is a prequel to a series of books which I haven't read. It is a romance, but also a humorous tale that includes sleuthing, spying and catching a con artist.

Set on board a cruise ship, Sharla and her Nana are travelling together because her Aunt had to bow out at the last moment. Nan comes from a long line of con artists and has fun picking peoples pockets only to return their items to them later. Sharla is worried that she will end up in jail.

Former Navy SEAL Luke "Brooklyn" Chapman is also unexpectedly on the cruise courtesy of his boss who feels he needs time to rest and recover after a life threatening injury. Herbie is a retired policeman/PI who is attracted to Nana.

Together this foursome have way more fun than they ever expected on this cruise (yes they even have towel monkeys on their beds) but they also have suspicions about fellow travellers George and Gloria and some land deals they are trying to get people involved in.

How this plays out makes for a fun read with a little bit of thrill. Nana Sophia is a delight and is really the hit of the book. Her love story with Herbie is just as good as Sharla's with Luke. Success in sleuthing leads to a new joint venture for Herbie and Luke that no doubt will lead into the other books in the series. This

was fun fluff!

Lori says

I am going on a cruise!

This is a wonderful story. I wish I had a grandmother like Sharla's, that old girl could really hold her own. This book is funny and suspenseful with the perfect amount of hot romance. I loved reading it!

Will Decker says

A nice entertaining read if you need a break from the normal. The story was clean fun with just enough spice to keep your interest. The events and the people on the cruise ship seemed very real. Nana was a hoot. If there's anything I didn't like about the story, it would have to be the heavy handed ending. I know the MC was an ex-Navy Seal, but I can't imagine any country that isn't an official territory of the US just handing a high-powered rifle to a man and letting him take someone out. That was too much of a stretch for this reader to buy into for a story that was otherwise based on reality. Overall, a cute little romance to break up the monotony.

Mary says

What a waste of a download

I decided to try this book, given its many 5 star ratings. The premise seemed like easy, light, reading.

It was easy and light, but also awful.

Luke and his friends are macho obnoxious. Shayla from what I read, I couldn't get past page 50, is needy.

There was way too much commentary on people's physical appearance, chubby, beer bellies.....

The writing ok, but the characters, although Granny had some promise, are shallow and vain.

Lynn says

This wasn't bad per se just not my thing. The H is the stereotypical ex soldier type who only has quick shallow hook ups with women until he meets the h. Then all of sudden after no time at all he starts to be transformed. He kept thinking about all of these other, let's just call them rendezvous experiences, with other past women as he is falling for the h. Yuck! Not my kind of hero.

I did like the Grannie and her story. I was fine with the suspension of disbelief required in the plot and execution of the story because it was all in fun. I just didn't connect to this authors type of Hero and thus won't be reading on in her series.
