



The Right Kind of Rogue

Valerie Bowman

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Can two star-crossed lovers come together?until death do they part?

Viscount Hart Highgate has decided to put his rakish ways behind him and finally get married. He may adore a good brandy or a high-speed carriage race, but he takes his duties as heir to the earldom seriously. Now all he has to do is find the right kind of woman to be his bride?ideally, one who's also well-connected and well-funded. . .

Meg Timmons has loved Hart, the brother of her best friend, ever since she was an awkward, blushing schoolgirl. If only she had a large dowry?or anything to her name at all. Instead, she's from a family that's been locked in a bitter feud with Hart's for years. And now she's approaching her third London season, Meg's chances with him are slim to none. Unless a surprise encounter on a deep, dark night could be enough to spark a rebellious romance. . .for all time?

The Right Kind of Rogue Details

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Author : Valerie Bowman

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From Reader Review *The Right Kind of Rogue* for online ebook

Kimberly says

2.5 stars - My review cross-posted from **Wit and Sin**

Meg Timmons has been in love with Viscount Hart Highgate since she was a teenager, but she knows she'll have to take drastic measures to get his attention. Not only are their families feuding, but Meg is a penniless wallflower and not the well-connected heiress Hart's father wants him to wed. When she hears that Hart is determined to find a bride, Meg takes the plunge and asks infamous plotter Lucy Hunt to help her capture Hart's heart. But even the best-laid plans have a tendency to go awry...

The Right Kind of Rogue is part *Romeo and Juliet*, part *Cinderella*, but manages to feel like its own story instead of a retelling of either. I adore Valerie Bowman's Playful Brides series and I've been highly anticipating Meg and Hart's book, as heroines who are in love with their best friend's brother is a favorite romance trope of mine. Yet while I liked this book – mostly due to Ms. Bowman's writing style, which I enjoy – I didn't love it like I wanted to.

Meg is a likeable heroine whose rather horrid family makes her a sympathetic heroine. She's been infatuated with Hart for years, but though she explains why she falls in love with him, I'm not sure why she stays that way. Hart is a good man with some good qualities, but you have to get past the drinking and self-centeredness to find a hero worth rooting for. While I have no problem with a protagonist who starts out unlikeable (it gives them room to grow), Hart took way too long to finally stop being selfish and to appreciate Meg. Most frustrating of all, Hart never took an active part in his own story. Meg bends over backwards for him, and even though she makes mistakes, she *tries* – something Hart never does. I find stories where the hero and heroine would never have gotten together without tons of pushing from their friends to be frustrating. Which brings me to the third main character of *The Right Kind of Rogue*: Lucy Hunt. The Duchess of Claringdon (and the first Playful Brides heroine) feels like she has nearly as much page time as Meg and Hart. Lucy starts out as a fairy godmother type, but she turns into a veritable tornado, uncaring of the damage she causes so long as the end result is what she planned. While I like seeing past heroes and heroines pop up in a series (Sarah and Christian of *The Legendary Lord* were charming in this story), Lucy steals the spotlight in this book and that's not a good thing.

While I did have some issues with *The Right Kind of Rogue*, I don't want to make it sound like a bad book. Ms. Bowman's light, effervescent style still shines and I was drawn into the story even when I wanted to shake Hart. The romance also has some sweet moments and there is definite chemistry between Meg and Hart. So while Meg and Hart's romance wasn't all I'd hoped it would be, I still adore Ms. Bowman's writing and I cannot wait to read the next Playful Brides book.

FTC Disclosure: I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Melanie says

The Right Kind of Rogue was an excellent historical romance with a scheming matchmaker, love interests on

opposite sides of feuding families and a wallflower who really comes into her own.

Meg Timmons has been in love with her best friend's brother, Hart Highgate, since she was sixteen years old. Now that Hart has decided it's time he marry, Meg knows this may be her last chance. However, her quest for love is hindered by the fact she has no dowry and her and Hart's families have been feuding for years. Hart had always thought of Meg as his little sister's best friend, but after a surprise encounter late at night, Hart hasn't been able to get Meg out of his head. Soon, Meg and Hart are caught up in the schemes of a matchmaker and will have to decide what they're willing to do for the chance at the love of a lifetime.

The Right Kind of Rogue is the eighth book in the *Playful Brides* series and it's the first one I've read. There are a lot of scenes with characters I've since learned were the main couples in the rest of the books. However, I do believe this book stands well on its own and you could jump right into this one without having read the others. I never felt lost and other than my lack of knowledge on who was who, I didn't feel like I missed out on anything.

Meg is an incredibly kind and caring person and would willingly help a stranger without a second thought. She's very loyal to those she cares about, even if they're undeserving of that loyalty. After spending the last few seasons as a wallflower, Meg has learned how to be alone and amuse herself. That's not to say she doesn't feel lonely, she does, but she does well on her own. Despite the fact her relationship with her family is strained, she does her best to please them and not cause issues.

Hart's character works well as the classic rogue hero often seen in historical romances, which is by far one of my favorite types of hero. He very easily charms women and has a devil may care attitude regarding life. He cares deeply for his younger sister Sarah and I loved their relationship. The one thing I disliked about his character was that he had a tendency to drink too much. Instead of trying to fix his problems, his first instinct was to reach for a bottle.

At first I didn't understand Meg's crush on Hart, but once they had a few scenes together I didn't care as I loved their chemistry. They're very playful with each other and there's some great banter, which I love. Their physical scenes were great and I definitely enjoyed them. There was the inevitable drama towards the end, but I liked how the author resolved everything.

Overall, *The Right Kind of Rogue* was a fun, quick read and definitely has me interested in checking out the rest of the series soon.

I received an advance copy of this book from Netgalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Caitlyn Lynch says

What's a wallflower to do? Meg Timmons hasn't had a new gown since the beginning of her first Season, and with her spendthrift father deep in debt, she isn't likely to get one this season either. Her chances for marriage diminishing by the day, she falls into utter despair when her best friend Sarah lets drop the fact that Sarah's older brother Hart plans to select a bride.

Hart Highgate needs a bride to satisfy his demanding father; preferably a wealthy, compliant, beautiful one who will provide the required heir sooner rather than later. Meg Timmons, impoverished daughter of his

father's enemy, is the last girl he should be considering as a potential marriage prospect.

Enter an interfering duchess who fancies herself a matchmaker, and suddenly Meg is transformed from the dowdy girl on the outskirts of the ballroom to a diamond of the Ton. Hart can't possibly marry her, but he can't take his eyes off her either.

Meg's plight becomes urgent when her father's debtors become insistent. She has just weeks to secure a marriage proposal from someone - anyone - before her family must flee to the Continent. The problem is, the only man she's ever even considered is Hart, and he doesn't seem to have marriage in mind.

This is an absolute delight of a book; I was rooting for Meg to get her happily ever after from the very beginning. Hart was an absolute darling who never even suggested she was being overly dramatic; after a bad experience with a fortune-hunter in the past he didn't exactly take the duchess' meddling well, but he also got over himself and did a fabulous grovel to Meg once he'd realized the error of his ways.

The Right Kind Of Rogue is the kind of Cinderella story where the prince suddenly realizes what he wants has been right under his nose all along. I couldn't stop smiling for ages after I finished reading it. Five stars.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book for review through NetGalley.

Lover of Romance says

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance

The Right Kind Of Rogue is the most recent addition in the Playful Bride series by Valerie Bowman. I confess I have only read the first book of the series, but boy I really need to read the other books in the series since I just had a jolly good time with this one even if it was a bit dramatic at times. But this wonderful author has brought has a stunning Romeo and Juliet romance without the suicides and a happy ending.

The Right Kind Of Rogue is a story that begins with our heroine Meg Timmons. Meg has been in love with Viscount Hart Highgate ever since she was a teenager. But it would be near impossible for them to ever be together because their parents hate each other and hve a terrible feud. But when she learns that Hart has declared himself ready for marriage and is on the lookout for a wife, time is running out. So she goes to get help from an infamous matchmaker, Lucy. But as she takes on Lucy's advice, and acts more bolder than she has ever been, she and Hart discover a passion but will it be ruined by lack of trust and scandal?

What a story and boy I had a really fun time with this one. And I just breezed right through it, I was pretty surprised that it only took a couple hours to read this story but then from what I have read from Bowman...that is typical. I always become sucked into the story. I really liked the set up of the story, seeing this more reserved wallflower, go after the man she loves. What I was impressed with was the heroine. Especially in how she treats the hero. She wants to win his heart in a very honest and true ways. But her new found friend Lucy is unconventional and tricky, which as a matchmaker makes sense. Now I did like Lucy (she is the heroine in book one) so it was nice seeing her character again, but I grew to admire Meg in how she stands up to Lucy in how she wants to win over Hart so that there is no deceit. She wants Hart to want her and marry her for the right reasons and not because of trickery.

There is also a family feud here to deal with as well. Now Meg is best friends with Hart's younger sister. So

Harts parents have always accepted Meg but they are very against a match between Hart and Meg. There is a terrible secret that Hart and Meg's parents are hiding, a scandal erupts and we see how Meg and Hart have to overcome matters of mistrust and trickery not of their own making. Even though I wasn't a fan in the dramatics toward the end, I did love the way this romance builds between Hart and Meg. They definitely have some great chemistry of course, but there is way more to their relationship. I love see two people who have known each other since they were children and try to find a way to reach their HEA despite the other factors surrounding them that make it near impossible for them to be together.

I have always been a fan of Romeo and Juliet retellings and I felt that Valerie Bowman handled it really well. Especially when we see these two find their HEA, and we solve the mystery revolving around the two families and I liked the drama and fun times that Lucy and the other ladies bring to the story and her "interference" is pretty entertaining.

Overall I found **The Right Kind Of Rogue** to be a sexy, lively, full of laughs and a romance to leave you with a smile, a highly engaging romance that entertains and delights!

[foogallery id="46073"]

Stacey is Sassy says

[This guy is a manwhore and I have no hope that he's learnt the error in his ways. I've read some storylines where

EuroHackie says

I received an ARC of this novel courtesy of Goodreads (giveaway) and the publisher.

This is the first book I've ever read by Ms. Bowman, and it will be, quite emphatically, my last. I made it about 1/4 of the way through before the "are you *kidding* me?!"s became vocal. I would've DNFed this book if not for the fact that I received it for review.

The summary sounded like 1000% my catnip, but the book was a complete disappointment - bad, but not so bad it's good, or even funny. Allow me to explain:

Things I liked about this novel:

*Though it is the 8th in the series, it can be read as a standalone. I had no trouble following the plot or the scads of characters, who were introduced in pairings I can only assume came from the previous books.

*Side character Lucy Hunt was a riot, until she wasn't. She was the only character with any sort of discernible personality, proving that this author can write interesting characters if she puts her mind to it. Lucy was totally OTT just like the other characters, but at least she was interesting.

Things I did not like about this novel:

*There is nothing even approaching historical accuracy in this book. I couldn't even call this a wallpaper historical - the only signpost that we have that this book is supposed to take place in the Regency period is the pretty, pretty dresses. Seriously. The characters don't address each other correctly, and certainly don't behave in a manner befitting their station. For example: the heroine (daughter of a baron) and the hero (a viscount heir to an earl) are guests at a duchess's dinner party when said hero splashes soup on his cravat. The heroine (*daughter of a baron*) insists on going to find silver polish in a servant's closet herself, dismissing the servants waiting at the ready, and then when she (inevitably) gets locked in said closet, the duchess sends the hero after her. I mean - come on. By all means allow your characters to be unconventional but let's not break the suspension of disbelief altogether in service to the silly plot.

*The plot is not only silly, but it is far too predictable, and really more suited to contemporary YA. This author has the sort of flair for foreshadowing akin to a brick: it's really heavy and really obvious. Every tired plot element that you can imagine of the girl-in-love-with-BFF's-older-brother trope is trotted out, right down to the girls gossiping across the hall from the boy as they stare longingly in his direction.

*The characters have no emotional depth or internal consistency at all - they are the very definition of plot-driven, reacting however is dictated by their surroundings. The hero's alcoholism isn't touched on until the very end of the story; the heroine is supposedly a timid little wallflower; both are at turns submissive and assertive. How exactly is the hero a rogue? Ooh, he has a mistress! Whom he never sleeps with! He hangs out at his club and buys horses and boxes, presumably at Gentleman Jackson's. For a supposedly fully grown adult man, he certainly allows his father to run his life. The heroine is not much better - at turns stubborn to the point of stupidity, then soft-hearted, then insanely jealous. Her parents are so OTT evil that you can practically see them twirling mustaches at stage right. The only character with any sort of personality is Lucy Hunt, the duchess, but even she is too much. She runs roughshod not only over the hero, but the heroine she's supposedly "helping." The collective have the emotional maturity of a group of 12-year-olds (though to be honest, that's probably an insult to 12-year-olds everywhere). They run around being stupid and jealous and oblivious to even the most obvious of setups (like said servant's closet above - neither of them could deduce that the meddling duchess set them up for a compromising solution).

And don't even get me started on the ~~adults~~ parents. It's amazing that they are even more petty, petulant, and impulsive than their supposedly adult children. The heroine's father owes massive gambling debts, and decides the best thing to do is run away to the Continent - and declares they're doing so in two weeks' time, right in the middle of the Season. He does, however, quite conveniently have *three* weeks to repay his debts. (*Seriously??*)

*The prose is serviceable, but uninspired. I could practically see the author's outline as I went along, and it was very disappointing that there were no twists at all. This reads like an amateur author's very first fanfic - there is no nuance, no emotional attachment between the reader and the book, or the characters to each other. I have no idea why the heroine and the hero were attracted to each other - their "true love" certainly didn't ring true (and the admission of said love is a huge, irritating Big Misunderstanding plot point that drags all

the way through the novel). Every plot point is telegraphed way in advance, and then is rehashed by the characters after the fact, as if the reader is too dense to understand what is going on (I, for one, do not appreciate being insulted.) This is at least this author's 8th novel, and if we suppose that writers get better with practice, I shudder to think what that first book must look like o.O

Even worse, the author seemed to lose interest about halfway through the book, and, like me, kept plowing on to the end just to be done with it. Did she have a word count or page limit to fill? Because I can't really think of any reason the last 1/3 of the novel even needed to happen.

So - if you care about something approaching historical accuracy, consistent characterization, interesting prose, and at least a variation on a well-worn theme, I suggest giving this book a wide berth.

Blodeuedd Finland says

This was just how I like my HR! I read it a day :D Sure the not communication thing was somewhat annoying at the end, just shout it out girl. Damn it.

Hart is a rogue, but come on, aren't they always ;) He wants to marry some sensible, nice, good ton woman with lots of money. Not that he needs it.

Meg is poor and owns 3 dresses. Sure she may be of the same class, but...yup poor as a church mouse and a spinster cos who cares about the poor girl who always wears the same dress. But she IS besties with Hart's sis, and she has been in love with him for years.

And now he needs a wife and she wants to catch him. Let's the games begin. Aye, you know how it goes, of course he will fancy her, but he needs a better wife. And of course there will be some drama at the end. But I liked that the road there was sweet and it was fun to read.

It did make me want to read the rest in the series and see if they have the same tone.

I enjoyed it :)

WhiskeyintheJar/Kyrarker says

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

With her family riddled with debt and on her third season, Meg knows it's her last chance to find a husband. When she hears that her long time crush has decided to finally search for a wife, she knows it's time to make her move.

With Hart's sister and friends all getting leg shackled, he knows it's time to do the same. His wife must be beautiful, from a good family, and rich. This makes his sudden attraction to his little sister's best-friend

highly inconvenient.

With family drama, debts, and schemes, Hart and Meg will have quite the journey to get to their happily ever after.

With a gorgeous cover (and a cover dress that appears in the story) *The Right Kind of Rogue* is the eighth installment in the *Playful Brides* series. I started off here and had no problems, except for the occasional interest in obvious previous characters that filtered through and curious about their personal stories.

Sarah's older brother, Hart, the heir to the earldom, a viscount in his own right, was clever, handsome, witty, and extremely eligible. He was also entirely off limits to Meg. She had loved him for years.

Our heroine Meg is the wallflower by circumstance who pines for her best-friend's older brother that never fails to capture my attention. She has no dowry because her father gambled it all away and a mother who unloads her disappoint in life onto her. Hart stuck up for her against her mother when they were younger and that cemented her love of him. I understood the hero worship from this moment but it ended up being the only instance provided for Meg and me as a reader to hold onto. Throughout the story Hart remains a man who drinks fairly heavily and doesn't do a whole heck of a lot to demonstrate any maturity; he honestly seemed a bit vacuous to me.

Most of the story is Meg, with help from a friend named Lucy, trying to set-up schemes to get Hart to notice her enough to marry her and later to sleep with her. Surprisingly, with this desire, they don't spend a lot of time together in the first half which didn't help me understand what Meg saw in this adult version of Hart. Even towards the end when Hart has a chance to shine and go after Meg, he instead stays home and drinks. It made their romance/relationship seem very childish from Meg's stand point and very weak from Harts'.

This was written in a very easy reading style and if you've read the rest in the series, you'd probably enjoy reentering this world with previous characters making appearances. The friend Lucy helping Meg out was a bit annoying at times with her rude obtuse "My way is always right" but the emphasis on female relationships was enjoyable.

With a lack of mature emotional connection and solid reasoning for why Meg and Hart were in love and Hart not stepping up to the plate enough, I ultimately ended up be disappointed in the romance.

Carvanz says

This was a deliciously adorable book!

I absolutely loved Meg and Hart's story. They are both set on marrying, Hart to a woman who could provide a healthy dowry, and Meg to Hart. With the help of a friend, Meg sets out to win Hart's heart.

Hart hasn't had a very good example of what a healthy marriage looks like so he's willing to settle. However, as he watches Meg move from being a wallflower to the main attraction of the ton, he finds himself falling more and more under her spell. Of course, he's just trying to help her out. She's not the kind of woman he'll one day marry. And then in the midst of scheming and passion, the unthinkable happens...with help from Meg's friend.

This is a fast paced read with fun, sassy secondary characters and a great hero and heroine. Meg is learning to stand up for what she wants and Hart is learning, albeit slowly, what love and jealousy feel like.

I haven't read anything by this author before and I was quite entertained from beginning to end. The fact that he didn't really see her until she became a butterfly doesn't really play into this so don't let that dissuade you. Read it and you'll see.

This is an honest review of an advanced copy provided by NetGalley and St. Martin's Press.

Dual POV

Safe – some ow/om drama but it's not much

No apparent triggers

SusanK says

* * * ARC received from Publisher/NetGalley * * *

I've enjoyed this author's previous books, but this one just didn't work for me. The heroine has been in love with her best friend's brother for years, but the hero has barely noticed the heroine. They somehow end up kissing and all of the sudden the hero is attracted to the heroine. Even though he's known her for years, he knows almost nothing about her other than she is nice and loyal. which makes her sound like the family dog. There is a point in the book where he tries to talk to her to learn more about her and she really doesn't have anything to say to him. Her reasons for being in love with him were equally as flimsy. Also, the heroine is given a makeover by her friends and all of the sudden the hero notices how gorgeous she is.

I don't want to give away too much of the story, but the actions of the heroine were kind of inexcusable, especially given what she knew about the hero. She kept trying to manipulate him afterwards rather than just talking to him. She finally stood up for herself towards the end of the book, but it was too little too late. Finally, the last few chapters of the book seemed very rushed. I would recommend some of the earlier books in this series, but not this one.

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

Review: THE RIGHT KIND OF ROGUE by Valerie Bowman THE RIGHT KIND OF ROGUE by Valerie Bowman is book 8 in the "Playful Brides" series. This is the story of Viscount Hart Highgate and Meg Timmons. I have read (and LOVED) the other book in this series but feel this can easily be a standalone book. Meg is a spinster wallflower of sorts with her a father that gambles. Meg has always loved Hart who was her friend's brother. But their parents do not get along and in addition they are on different social levels. Hart's sister does try to put them together. This is Meg's third attempt and the marriage mart and Hart first attempt to settling down and take his family publications to heart. I did enjoy seeing their story come together!<https://twitter.com/soapsrus68> <https://www.facebook.com/RomanceBookR...> <https://romancebookreviewforyou.wordp...> <https://www.tumblr.com/blog/romancebo...>

Joanna Loves Reading says

This story was fast-paced with short chapters, which made it an easy read. I think for many it would be a fun, diverting read. My issues with it stem from the superficial characters and the cavalier attitude toward drinking problems. Also, the makeover-a-wallflower-to-get-the-hero-to-notice-the-heroine trope is one I need to be well-convinced of the merits of the plot before I buy-in.

Honestly, the way most of the characters dealt with their problems through over indulgence of drink dropped this a star. It was a major turn off for me. Both fathers of the hero and heroine are drunks. The heroine's mother is a drunk and the hero's valet is a drunk. Then there is the hero, who is turns to the bottle at every difficulty. Even the heroine has a moment of over indulgence. This is all treated as acceptable behavior. There's a moment toward the end where the hero think maybe he drinks too much and decides to restrain his inclinations. It was much too little too late for me.

The character development was average, and I found most of the secondary characters annoying. All in all, this just wasn't a very satisfying read.

*I received an ARC for this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Erin Kelly says

Earlier this year, I discovered Valerie Bowman through her last release "Never Love a Pirate". I was thrilled to find such a breezy, funny author who has a different tone from most Regency authors today. Not surprisingly, I was pretty excited to read this new entry in the Playful Brides series.

The Story-

Meg has friends in high places, but she doesn't have much to recommend her: her parents, though part of society, have mountains of debt; she is entering her third season as a wallflower; and, she doesn't even have nice dresses. When her best friend and a duchess friend decide to sponsor her and give her a makeover to make this "her season", they don't know that she only has one guy in mind. Hart never paid much attention to his sister's mousy best friend until she showed up to a recent ball looking like a princess.

My Thoughts-

While I really enjoyed Meg's character and the makeover bits with the duchess, I never felt like Hart's depth of feelings for her was enough. He is constantly thinking about how attractive she is and how he is physically attracted to her, but the emotional/personality side? Not so much. Bowman's humor is back here in full force, especially with a hilarious silver closet incident. The conflict is a bit meh with a misunderstanding that could simply be talked out dominating the latter part of the book. That being said, I read it in one evening, which speaks to pacing and plot development. I also enjoyed the little Romeo and Juliet nods.

The Bottom Line-

If you are a fan of fun and easy Regency romance, you must read Valerie Bowman. This book is a little breath of fresh air, and I will continue to look forward to each release, despite my small niggles with this book. 4 stars

Rachel K says

2.75 stars (I originally had this down as 2 stars, but I usually reserve 2 stars for the books I didn't really like. This was better than that but I very much doubt I'd ever read it again).

I wanted to like this more, but unfortunately, I never quite understood why Meg loved Hart so much. I could understand why she was infatuated with him, but other than that, I didn't get it. Hart was a pretty passive hero so I never connected with him. He waited for other people to tell him what to do before he did anything. Even at the end, it's other people who encourage him to seek out Meg and talk to her before he finally does, even though he wants to. So he was a bit...meh.

My main problem, however, was with Lucy. She meddles into things that have nothing to do with her, even when she's told to back off. Not once is she sorry for what she's done, regardless of how much she hurts other people. So when everything works out for the best, she gets to sit back with a smug smile and let everyone know SHE'S responsible for making that happen. I wanted someone to put her in her place, but no one really ever does. There's a half-hearted effort by Meg, but of course, they all decide that more game playing is the way to win Hart's love.

I really felt for Meg and I wanted there to be a huge "Oh shit!" moment from the hero when he realises she didn't lie to him, but...she loves him too much so once again, puts her heart on the line for it to be stomped on. Luckily he remembers a conversation he had with his brother-in-law about fighting for his marriage, because I doubt he would've come up with that thought on his own.

Needless to say, others might enjoy this. It's certainly a well-written book and I definitely held my interest as I read it all in one go. I just wish Meg realised she deserved more and that Hart actually stepped up sooner. But then I guess we wouldn't have a story then.

Netgalley ARC

Pamela says

2.5 stars. Hmmm - I hate to say it, but I've been just a little disappointed with this series lately. Maybe it's me. I'm just finding some of these scenarios a little too far-fetched. The characters are ok, although Lucy was a little annoying at times. The parents of the leads are ridiculous. There is a particular scene at the end that I just can't buy. Maybe some more maturity in the characters is needed.

Thank you to the publisher and Net Galley in exchange of an honest review.
