



# Against the Wall

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**Against the Wall** Jill Sorenson

**Fans of Katie McGarry, Simone Elkeles, and Tammara Webber will love *Against the Wall*! As teenagers, they fell for each other despite the odds. But now that Eric and Meghan are all grown up, they're reunited by fierce passion and dangerous secrets.**

Eric Hernandez is the bad boy of every schoolgirl's fantasies—and every mother's nightmares. But after serving time for manslaughter, he's ready to turn his life around. He just needs a chance to prove himself as a professional tattoo artist. The one thing that keeps him going is the memory of the innocent beauty he loved and left behind.

Meghan Young's world isn't as perfect as it looks. The preacher's daughter is living a lie, especially now that Eric is back. Tougher, harder, and sexier than ever, he might be the only person she can trust. But there's no telling what he'll do to protect her if he learns the truth, and that's a risk Meghan won't let him take. And yet, back in the arms of the troubled boy with the artist's soul, Meghan can't help surrendering to the man he's become.

**Praise for Jill Sorenson**

"Jill Sorenson's sleek sensuality and fresh new voice are sure to score big with readers."—*New York Times* bestselling author **Cindy Gerard**

"With Jill Sorenson, you are guaranteed a dangerously addictive, gut-wrenchingly fast-paced read."—*New York Times* bestselling author **Stephanie Tyler**

**Includes a special message from the editor, as well as an excerpt from another Loveswept title.**

## Against the Wall Details

Date : Published February 2nd 2016 by Loveswept

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# From Reader Review Against the Wall for online ebook

**NiCoLeTa E. says**

*\*\*\*ARC kindly provided via NetGalley for the exchange of an honest review\*\*\**

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**Sunny says**

3.5 stars ARC REVIEW

For me, one of Jill Sorenson's greatest strengths as a writer is her ability to take deep dives into her characters. I felt so overwhelmed with these characters and their desperate desires to break a out of cycle of violence. My heart kept breaking for Eric and his attempts to resist his old life - wanting to start fresh but being tempted again and again into his old life. This again reminds me that meritocracy is a myth. The belief that everyone starts at the same place and life and has the exact same opportunities to make choices is simply untrue. Some people are born into circumstances in which choices are more difficult and the price for those same choices are often higher.

The narrative is intense. I wondered how the author was going to resolve the issue with Eric and the gang members. I felt stressed throughout the entire story, especially because the author made the story real. Most of us do not deal with life and death situations everyday, but for some, the quest for survival is a daily battle. I thought Ms. Sorenson brought the story to a satisfying conclusion.

My one critique is that there are left over storylines that peaked my interest. I'm hoping that the author will consider writing additional stories for Junior and Kelsea. Crossing my fingers here.

IN A NUTSHELL:

If you enjoy a social relevant love story with great emotional tension, pick up this book!

Originally posted at: Love Affair with an e-Reader

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**Cristina says**

If you're looking for an afternoon chill with a romance book that has a tattooed bad boy with a criminal record then this is just the book for you because Eric Hernandez is one Hispanic hottie I enjoyed :D

I loved that this book reached sensible subjects like:

#DomesticViolence #NeverMore

#NoMeansNo #SlutWalk

So it wasn't just a book about a boy that had it rough and a girl that fell in love with him. The author reached some tough subjects but managed to keep the character of the book intact.

Yes I did find the heroine obnoxious at time (don't ask me why) but all in all it was a great read that I totally recommend ;)

*\*ARC generously provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review\**

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### **Claire Robinson says**

#### **DNF @ 18%**

I have stopped and started this book three times in as many weeks. I think it's safe to say that it's not working for me, when I have read the same chapter several times and nothing is really being absorbed.

To be honest it's not any one thing that has reduced my reading enjoyment to nil, but a whole host of them. Meghan and Eric didn't really inspire any real feelings for them either way, and I really, really struggled to find or pull any connection with them from the portion of the novel that I managed to read. I can deal with 'downtrodden' and 'down on your luck' characterizations, but I need to at least feel a modicum of empathy or sympathy for the people experiencing those things...

If you check out the blurb, it leads the reader to believe that they are going to be getting a dark and gritty read, with lots of tension and forbidden feelings, a guy trying to make a new start and a girl looking to get started, and it just all felt really under-developed and superficial from the beginning, from the build up of the story-line to the filling out of the actual characters. I don't know if there was a long end game on this one, but it just took too long to get going, I still wasn't sure what was really happening and why by the time I gave up.

Not for me on this occasion, there were just too many negative factors to keep me interested or invested in the story.

ARC provided via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

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### **Mandy says**

I love a good ex-con story but this one just didn't work for me. I felt no connection to Meghan and Eric. There was no chemistry between them at all.

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## Maya says

ARC received via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

### 3,5 STARS

Well, to be hones, this book didn't really meet my expectations. Sorry. It made me feel more like like this:

I don't know, if it was the constant push-pull play or Eric's almost immature POV but I simply couldn't connect to their story. Both Eric and Meghan have their past that is left unresolved when he goes to prison. Now that he's back so many things changed and some not for the better.

Meghan is having a new boyfriend, who treats her like a piece of trash and to tell you the truth, I never fully understood why she stayed with him for as long as she did. It takes her ending up beaten up by him, for her to finally leave him. I wished it didn't had to come to that but I was glad to see her leave his sorry ass. He never deserved her, anyway! So, it's safe to say I didn't harbour kind feelings for him!

Once she is free of her evil ex, she can start to breathe again and go for the one thing she never dreamed to have again. A second chance with Eric. But he, on the other hand, has different plans (as men usually do...). Since he's living under her brother's roof, he has clear 'instructions' to stay away from her. And you can imagine what comes out of that, right? YES, the boring pull-push play. Let me tell you, it goes on and on, till I almost gave up on them ever getting back together. Seriously, it takes a lot for them to finally see that what they have together simply cannot be ignored ANY LONGER!!!

Yes, I know I'm ranting but don't worry. They do have some great moments together and I loved to see Eric lose his composure and give into his feelings for Meghan.

*I just . . . forgot.*

*I forgot my promise to Noah. I forgot about Chip. I forgot about everything except the soft curves of her body.*

In the end, those two have to overcome so much. From the ultimate betrayal to finding love again, this story is an emotional roller coaster. I didn't know what I was getting into, when I first saw the blurb, but this was definitely not it. I'm just glad I gave their story a chance! :)

Safety-gang: Not really safe.(view spoiler)

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## Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

I'm really not sure how to start this review. I went into this book thinking it was a deep romance, which it is. However, this book is so, so much more than a romance.

I've read other books by Jill Sorenson so I wasn't really surprised at the excellent writing skills and storytelling ability. But what I was surprised about the depth of a story where she went into the actual life surrounding complications of the main characters.

She touched upon life in the barrio and surrounding areas and how different it can be for people that just get out of prison. She talks about how different lives become when you don't think you're good enough for someone because your life circumstances have changed. People look at you different and treat you different but inside you know you're the same good person. You just took responsibility for an action that changed your life.

The author also brings in other touchy subjects such as aggression towards women, abuse, body shaming, rape, and other crimes against women.

I loved watching the story develop. The author brings you a deep emotional book that is so much more than just a simple romance. You honestly have to experience this book to understand my review at all. If you have emotional triggers regarding the subject matter, it may be a book to skip. However, I think the author did an awesome job in highlighting these issues in our life today.

True love always finds a way and this book is a perfect example of what you thought was never meant to be becoming a wonderful happily ever after. Definitely a book to check out.

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## Dali says

*A touching story about young love, heartbreak and second chances.*

Eric Hernandez grew up in the rough environment of street gangs where tagging walls and selling drugs were an everyday occurrence. He knows he's made bad choices, one in particular landed him in jail as a violent offender. But after three years in prison, he's out and disposed to live on the straight and narrow. It's not easy turning a new leaf, especially when your past is threatening to catch up and the only girl he's ever loved is now a tempting and completely off-limits woman.

"This is what straight life is about. Hard work and simple pleasures."

Meghan Young had no other choice but to move on with her life after Eric's rejection when he was incarcerated. She continued with her college degree as a psych major, she even found a seemingly perfect athlete boyfriend. But looks can be deceiving and Eric's return unravels Meghan's barely there hold on her life. But even with the hardly contained attraction and emotions between her and Eric, can Meghan convince Eric to give himself and them a chance?

"She's different. She's still kind and caring and inquisitive, but different. More mature. The Meghan I knew back then was a small-town girl rebelling against her religious upbringing."

This Meghan is not so innocent, and all the more tempting.”

I’ve mentioned before that I love reading new authors and Jill Sorenson is a refreshing surprise. She was true to the difficult, tempting and distressing situations her characters faced from start to finish, not shying away from the complications of life after prison a young, toughened man who was no stranger to crime and gangs would have to face. Nor did she make Eric and Meghan’s transition from a heartbreaking young love to an adult, mature relationship smooth or easy.

Eric is not your typical anti-hero or charming, charismatic hero, a fact I loved. Even with the sexy hard edges surrounding an artist’s soul, there was something that didn’t let me fully connect with him. I wanted him to succeed though, so very much. He accepted his errors and never hid behind a victim card. It was sad to see him struggle to find a job, difficult to try to control his emotions and actions, stressful to see him try to keep out of trouble when trouble liked to visit him on a regular basis. I truly wanted him to find himself, his place and happiness.

*“Back in the day I used to make fun of guys who got hung up on their girlfriends... There’s nothing unmanly about wanting to keep your woman happy. It’s a strength, not a weakness.”*

Meghan, even though having an “easier” life compared to Eric, she still has to go through what most young adults do when transitioning from student to the real world. Add to that the fact that she was in love with a criminal while dating a less than perfect jock and you can surmise that her life wasn’t that easy. I liked that she was strong enough to get out of her abusive relationship and that she saw beyond Eric’s past, saw the good person lying underneath the exterior coarseness, and fought for what she wanted.

The chemistry between Eric and Meghan is palpable, not only to them and the supporting characters. It completely leaped off the pages.

*“I’ve never been like that before, so rough and aggressive. Her passionate response surprised me. Not only did she enjoy my caveman act, she followed me into the shower.”*

I loved all the secondary characters who not only supported Eric and Meghan, but also enhanced this story about hope and love with the support and strength of family and friends. I did some investigating and found out that Ms. Sorenson has previously written about Eric’s sister-in-law and Meghan’s brother in a novel called *The Edge of Night*, which I’ve already added to my read list, and I hope we’ll soon get the story about Meghan’s best friend Kelsea.

*Against the Wall* is a contemporary, young adult romance by Jill Sorenson. This story is told from alternating points of view, explicit sexual content, with a happy ending.

Amazon -> <http://amzn.to/1NKscfj>

3.5 stars

\* I was given an ARC of this book courtesy of the author via Tasty Book Tours & NetGalley. The excerpts



are from that copy. \*

More reviews \* Stalk us on FaceBook \* As well as Twitter \* Pinterest Board for Book Teasers

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## **Naksed says**

*Today is my first day back in Chula Vista, the border town where I was born. It's the only place I've ever called home. The only place I've ever been, besides Mexico. And prison. I'm still down for my barrio, Castle Park. I can hold my head high on these streets. I'll probably die on these streets.*

Eric Hernandez, *Against the Wall*

Jill Sorenson blew me away with her portrayal of a young Mexican-American struggling to go straight after gang life landed him in jail for manslaughter. Take away all the window dressing of a tepid romance and it was his personal story of struggle, survival, hope and redemption that was the heart of *Against the Wall*.

The first person narrative of Eric Hernandez was so real. I was inside his head. I was trembling alongside him every time a low rider ominously rode by, presumably trying to extract revenge for past sins.

I was sweating alongside him as he was given the most menial jobs and had to smile and be thankful because no one else would even give another chance to a felon so he had to shut up and bear it.

I looked at the world through his artist's eyes and stayed up all night right along with him sketching, mixing paints, creating beauty out of despair and pain and yes, even hope.

I was awed and frustrated and hopeful and pessimistic and forever shifting moods right along with him.

I was fighting the same urges, white-knuckling it, repeating my mantra of staying out of jail at all costs, calculating how far I would have to go before the willful destruction of my honor, my values, and my identity, completely reduced me to nothingness, all in the name of keeping the peace.

I don't know how she did it but Jill Sorenson lived inside a 20 something year old gang member's head and opened up his mind, heart and soul for me to live his experience.

*It's harder than I thought, being free. It's overwhelming.*

The plight of an ex-con going "free." So ironic because he had more freedom, respect, realistic expectations and structure in prison than on the outside, where he has to constantly fight so many urges and temptations. Going back to his friends, to the gang life. Getting embroiled in territory wars. Or letting down his family. Getting back into the system. Become another statistic. Yeah, freedom can be heavy, suffocating in fact.

*"Do you want me to stay?" I ask him.*

*"No."*

*"You're all fucked up."*

*"I always will be."*

*This makes my eyes burn with a sudden, unstoppable rush of tears. Junior kept me alive in prison. He's had my back for years. And now I have to turn my back on him. There's no way we can continue to be friends.*

Yeah, well, my eyes burned too, reading this book. It was really eerie how the author managed to make these characters come alive, manage to get to the heart and soul of these otherwise faceless statistics that are only good for selling headlines and illustrating political agendas.

Once in a while, you pick up a book on a whim and you are absolutely blown out of the water because it was not what you were expecting. This was one of those instances. I bow down to you Ms. Sorenson. You amazed me with this one.

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**monica ? says**

[Not really (hide spoiler)]

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**Auntee says**

I was looking for something *different* and I definitely got it with this fast-paced, easy to read yet very interesting (and hot) romance. How often do you get a romance where the hero is a convicted felon? And could you imagine rooting for him to get his HEA? Jill Sorenson's writing skills had me pulling for talented 'bad boy' artist Eric Hernandez and 'good girl' college student Meghan Young to get past all the obstacles in their way and make a go at a real relationship. There were many times where I was on the edge hoping that Eric would not make a wrong choice and head down the wrong road again. I really loved seeing him mature throughout the book and his determination to turn his life around and I had high hopes for his future with Meghan.

*Eric...*

*Meghan...*

This book is a sequel of sorts to *The Edge of Night*--Meghan's brother is the hero of that book and Eric's sister-in-law is the heroine.

More to come closer to release date. 4 1/2 stars

*ARC provided by the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Lisa says**

*ARC received via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

2.5 stars. Unfortunately, this book was a struggle for me to finish. I had a very hard time connecting with the characters and while the storyline was compelling it just didn't keep me engaged.

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### **Paige says**

3 "Redeemed" Stars

*Against the Wall* was my first book by Jill Sorenson. It was a bit dark, a bit gritty, a lot sexy and really well written. While I think it can stand on its own, it was a follow up novel (which I wasn't aware of when I started reading). I kind of wish I would have read the first book so I could have seen more of Eric and Meghan's transition, though I was able to understand this story as it was.

Eric is out of prison after spending the last three years behind bars for killing another gang member in a knife fight. While it wasn't his knife and he was only doing it in self defense, he had a long enough list of crimes, he knew why he went away. Now living with his pseudo-brother's house with a girl that's like a sister to him and his niece, he's trying to keep his distance from Meghan. Before he went to jail, he and Meghan had a relationship which he viciously severed. Now Meghan has a rich boyfriend and he's trying to move on too by working at a tattoo shop. But his life seems to constantly revolve around Meghan and he's finding it difficult to stay detached.

Meghan loved Eric with all her 19 year old heart. Now three years later, she's still in love with him and finding her current relationship to be deteriorating. With Eric living with her brother, she can't get him out of her head. As they fumble around each other, sparks fly and so do their clothes. But Meghan can't seem to get behind Eric's facade and when she starts chipping away, she's not sure she likes what she finds.

This was a really well written, slow building love story. Even though I was missing some of their back story, I could feel the tension between them. I thought Eric's transformation seemed realistic to his situation. There were times that I was a bit flustered with Meghan and her choices and attitude but she grew on me. I'm definitely interested in checking out more of Jill's writing after reading this because I really enjoyed her style and her story telling ability.

ARC provided by publisher via Netgalley for honest review.

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## **Kristine says**

Original review can be found at <http://kristineandterri.blogspot.ca/2...>

\*\* I received an advanced readers copy from Loveswept via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.  
Thank you!\*\*

This book was OK but I really felt like I was missing a part of the story. Meghan and Eric's history before he went to prison was very vague and I thought I was missing a piece of the puzzle. I had to go back and check because I thought that perhaps this was a sequel but no. It was hard to route for their forbidden love when I couldn't feel and didn't know the beginning of their story.

Eric was a hard character for me to like. He came across as an immature, horny teenager. I understand that he spent three years in prison but he came across as a young boy just discovering what his penis could do with no control over his hormones. It was not sexy on him at all. Meghan also came across as younger than she was and their relationship felt like it wasn't anything deeper than raging hormones on both parts.

I don't want it to sound like I hated the book because I didn't. I just think that there was a lack of emotion and feeling to the story that could have made it great. It was still entertaining but just didn't pull at my heart strings as much as I would have liked. For me, I needed the story before the story in order to appreciate it fully.

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## **XxTainaxX says**

I love to read redemption and second chance stories but unfortunately, I found myself unable to really connect with the characters. Eric has this immature way of rationalizing situations that really turns me off to him. There's a particular scene where he accidentally hurts someone and his thoughts switch to self harm immediately. Then there's Meghan who in a way keeps another man on a string, when her heart is not committed. Not to say that Chip didn't have warning signs all over him for other reasons. The story is a bit convoluted with the different sub plots. The love scenes were pretty good. Lol I won't see hoods the same again.

ARC received in exchange for an honest review.

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