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The relationship is pretend. The chemistry...isn't.

After her last job ended with a broken heart and a humiliating exit from the company, Shelby Leighton's project management career is back on track with a new job and a high-profile project. The problem: her new boss is a little too friendly, and the staff is talking. Can you say, "déjà vu?" The solution: casually mention a fictional new boyfriend.

New problem: she's expected to bring her new man to the upcoming corporate picnic.

Jake Magill doesn't do relationships. It's casual or nothing, but the hot blonde he's been eyeing at the coffee shop sure is something. Especially when she confesses her problem, and he finds himself offering to act as her date.

Sounds simple. Stroll around the party with Shelby's sexy curves clinging to his arm? He's all over it. Until he meets her boss—the man who once stole and married the one woman Jake thought he loved.

Now Jake's the one with a reason to pretend. If only to save his own pride...and Shelby from the predatory gaze of the man who could ruin her, and any chance of finding out if their fake connection is the real thing.

Product Warnings

Contains one desperate lady in need, and a pretend boyfriend who shows impressive dedication to nailing all—and then some—elements of his role. Oh my!

Sweet Deal Details

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From Reader Review Sweet Deal for online ebook

Lisa Gemmell says

3.5 stars, it was a cute book, some of it I felt like it dragged on, and the characters were easily to connect with, there is a part that had a tear or two. If you are looking for a nice read then this book is for you

Karla Doyle says

I thoroughly enjoyed this story. LOVED Jake. Definitely looking forward to reading more from Kelly Jamieson. :)

Mallory says

3.5 Stars

Heather in FL says

Another great character-driven story from Ms. Jamieson. She has such a way of writing her characters that I really care about what happens to them.

In this one, we have Shelby. She's been working at a job where her boss gives her a lot of extra attention and plum project assignments which has the rest of the office whispering behind their backs. Shelby is not oblivious to this and is horrified because she had a relationship with her boss at her last job and it ended badly. She needs this job and she needs to be able to earn the respect of her coworkers... rumors of a relationship with the *married* boss are not helping at all. When he suggests they go to the company picnic together -- one which his wife will probably not attend -- Shelby desperately blurts out that she'll be going with her boyfriend. Her nonexistent boyfriend. She doesn't even *want* a boyfriend after the experience at her last job. So now she's stuck.

While taking a break from work at the local coffee shop, the hot guy she's seen there several times stops to talk to her. They've been eying each other for months, but neither has ever really spoken to the other beyond the polite smile and "Hello". But today, he sits down, gets her to discuss what's bugging her, and then offers to pretend to be her boyfriend. Jake, for his part, is not looking for anything long-term. He was hurt very badly by his best friend and girlfriend who ended up falling in love with each other. Since then, he's kept his relationships short and impersonal.

When they show up to the picnic, turns out Shelby's boss and his wife are Jake's ex-girlfriend and ex-best friend. But Jake doesn't tell her all that. He says they used to know each other, but that's it. Jake doesn't want anyone's pity, and he also wants to show he's moved on by being there with such a hot girl... and he now wonders whether his ex-best friend could really be planning to cheat? Damn him if it will be with Shelby.

Anyway, after the picnic, during which Shelby and Jake had a great time together, they get down and dirty. She feels like it's some kind of reward for Jake for putting up with the ruse all day. But it turns out they're

extremely compatible. And while she didn't really expect to see him again, he calls her and invites her to dinner. And things continue to move from there. And feelings neither of them expected or wanted grow.

We end up with a bit of angst near the end, but thankfully both characters were mature enough to try to set things right, and we end up with an HEA. And there were a couple of interesting side stories as well. Really cute story with great chemistry.

The Book Tart says

Orinally reviewed at <http://thebooktart.com/new-fiction-re...>

I just finished Sweet Deal, a brand new erotic contemporary romance by Kelly Jamieson. This book is a sweet story; it's a complex story full of heart and emotion and relatable protagonists. Both characters have a lot of personal baggage, but it doesn't feel made up or contrived... They feel like real people with a past and pain and a future. Shelby and Jake have noticed each other in the coffee shop they frequent for a while. Shelby thinks her boss is showing her favoritism and she's stressed out at the position she's in, wishing she had a solution to her work drama. Jake comes over to her table and asks if he can sit with her. He'd noticed her for weeks and decided to make a move on the cute little blonde with the pretty shoes. They chat and, well, sometimes it's easier to tell a stranger your problems. Shelby shares her problem with Jake, that her boss asked her to go to the company picnic with him. Jake offers to help her out of an uncomfortable situation and volunteers to be her "date". :p They go to the picnic and are having fun getting to know each other with no pressure and then he gets introduced to her boss and unfortunately, he has a history with Andrew and his wife Gianna. He was dating Gianna and planning on starting a business with his best friend Andrew when Gianna dumped him and married Andrew. Shelby has no idea of their history and feels like he is just acting the perfect boyfriend he promised. He turns up the heat a bit because he wants to show them that he's fine and has a hot girl friend. So, there's that little deception....

There's a lot of chemistry between Shelby and Jake. The love scenes use descriptive language, but it's a sweet heat.... Very yummy *sigh* I liked the dialogue between them too, how they get to know each other and talk about more than favorite foods. They open up about their family, they both have baggage. Shelby's parents didn't pay much attention to her, her mother was very needy and her parents were either fighting or making up. She grew up looking for attention from men and then feeling empty when those relationships didn't last. Jake's mother left him when he was a child, taking his sisters with her. And then Gianna left him for his best friend, needless to say, he has abandonment issues and would rather love 'em and leave 'em then open up and get hurt. They are in this no strings "Sweet" deal arrangement of pretending to be in a relationship, it's faux, there's no pressure. They are in it for show and the benefit of hot sex. They continue to hang out and basically date, though they don't see it as that. They spend time together and of course, burn of the sheets *blush* those are delicious scenes.

Shelby's girlfriends, Myra, Riley and Kiera feel like girls I would be friends with and I want more! Kiera is dealing with her husband's terminal illness. That's an intense, heavy situation and the girls are there for each other. Kelly Jamieson doesn't shy away from the pain of a loss. She doesn't make it a heavy burden on the story but it is a part of the story. Death is part of life and it was very emotional to see the friends support each other.. I loved watching Jake lend emotional strength to Shelby. There's a beautiful scene where Shelby calls him cause she just needs a hug and he volunteers to come over, and they sit on the couch and she falls asleep in his arms... I cried reading this story, I also laughed out loud. I liked the characters. I totally enjoyed this story and watching Shelby and Jake discover that their "sweet" deal could be even sweeter.

If you like contemporary romance and enjoy some steam with your stories. Go Get This Book!

((hugs)) The Queen of Tarts

Phuong says

Shelby feels uncomfortable whenever her boss seems to be overly friendly and of course, the rumor mill doesn't help. In order to alleviate this problem, she informs him that she has a boyfriend but now she has another problem. Where can she come up with a pretend boyfriend on such short notice to bring to a company picnic? Luckily for her, Jake has noticed her whenever he sees her at a coffee shop and she has too. They strike up a conversation where she mentions her problem and Jake agrees to help her out. Things don't go as smoothly as planned when Jake's past comes back to haunt him in the present as well as his growing feelings for Shelby. He continues to make dates with her and is there for her when there's a tragedy. The relationship between Jake and Shelby was written beautifully and I really enjoyed how it seemed to naturally progressed from pretend boyfriend/girlfriend to friendship then love. Kelly Jamieson created two main characters who were nice, fun, lovable and had incredible chemistry together and the supporting characters were great as well. The friendship between Shelby and her three best friends, Myra, Riley and Kiera was so real-life like and I enjoyed the emotions each scene brought forth. I smiled, laughed, cried and yes, even excited at the hot sex scenes. I'm looking forward to reading stories on Shelby's friends especially Kiera's.

Lori says

I could not put this book down. I loved seeing the transformation in both Shelby and Jake. Jake, Jake, Jake...what a man! He truly was remarkable, flaws and all.

Such a great story that I will read again and again.

Rinny Rainwind says

This was not in standing with her other work. The main characters were not interesting. It never took off so you feel for the characters. The concept was ok, but her other books are a lot better. All in all a good read.

Saly says

A nice enough read, pretence turns into more.

Melissa says

I really really enjoyed this book! Shelby had a feeling her boss only giving her the promotions and good projects because he was interested in her even though he was married so she told him she had a boyfriend to get him to back off. Jake, uber hottie and nice guy that he was, offered to pretend to be Shelby's boyfriend for her work picnic while they were at the coffee shop one day. When they get to the picnic, he finds out that

her boss Andrew is the same Andrew who used to be his best friend and stole his fiance from him over a year ago.

Their relationship is supposed to be pretend but the chemistry between Shelby and Jake is seriously smoking and the sex involved is like super hot! I really really enjoyed this book even though I'm more of a boy-love book reader. This caught and kept my attention really well! I recommend it highly!

Leigh says

3.75 stars!

Theme: pretend relationship

heroine = She's well... intelligent and independent. But I don't really like her (sorry).

Hero = Damn! I want a hero like Jake haha. He's good in bed and out of it. If I were the heroine, I think I'd be having lots of squirting with him hahahaha!

heroine + Hero = boom! flaming passion lels.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

KcLu's review posted on Guilty Pleasures

Sweet Deal was the first book I read by Kelly Jamieson, and boy did I find a new author to love! I love the premise of two peeps who think they are just in it for the fun, but don't realize they are falling deep in love with each other! This one was done beautifully.

Shelby Leighton has a past that would make anyone cringe. Her parents are so wrapped up in their ongoing soap opera that they forget about her, and have been doing so since she was very young. She was fired from her last job after her affair with her boss went bad, and he ruined her career. Now she finally has a new job, and thinks history is repeating itself. Her new boss seems to be a little too friendly, and everyone in the office is talking about them. What's a girl to do to fix this problem?? Lie about having a boyfriend of course. Only problem how is she supposed to produce one at the corporate picnic the following weekend?

Jake Magill's past is no bed of roses either. He learned early on that women leave, so he avoids relationships like the plague. For months he has been seeing this sexy blonde at the coffee shop near his work, and he finally goes chat with her. They have a great conversation, and Shelby tells him about her issues with her boss. He offers to be her "boyfriend", and things go really great till he sees who her boss is. His former best friend who stole and married the one woman Jake thought he loved. Seeing the two people he didn't want to see ever again kinda lights a fire under him to make the relationship between him and Shelby look good. Joke's them because the chemistry between them ignites into some smoking hot panty melting sex.

I loved this book. Jake is so tough, but he is the best fake boyfriend ever. (Little did he know he would transition into real boyfriend fast). He stands by Shelby though some tough stuff. I have to say I'm half in love with Jake myself. I'm going to have to add him to my list of book boyfriends. This is a great fun read.

Katherine says

I bought this one from Books on Board.

Meh. This wasn't a sweet deal for me. The characters didn't really gel for me. Sub-plots didn't work either. Found the story and characters annoying. I was surprised at this book - it wasn't nearly as good as her other books.

Jess says

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

Blog rating: 3.5/5

Shelby and Jake need each other for a pretend relationship. They meet innocently enough, both having seen the other at the local coffee shop by their offices, but Shelby is certain her current (married) boss is wanting a more personal relationship and the people in her office are starting to whisper about it. Shelby is all too familiar with office gossip, she was in a relationship with her previous boss only to have that go downhill resulting in said boss letting her take the fall for a mistake which got her fired. She had a hard time getting hired after that, but Andrew, her current boss, took a chance on her, now her suspicions are going crazy with what exactly Andrew is after. After he invites her to the company picnic, she invents a boyfriend and is now stressing about how she's going to get out of that little white lie. She runs into Jake at the coffee shop, he introduces himself and as Shelby has a chair available at her table, he asks to sit with her (why can't that ever happen to me at Starbucks? But I digress...) Innocent, charming conversation has Shelby admitting that she needs to find a boyfriend fast and Jake agrees to help her out. Little does he know, her boss Andrew is Jake's ex-best friend and the same man that stole away Jake's fiancée.

What starts out as a simple plan to play boyfriend/girlfriend of course doesn't stay simple and easy for long. Feelings get in the way and what begins as a date to Shelby's company picnic turns into a follow up lunch, dinner, spending the evenings at each others place and eventually heading into the bedroom. Shelby is convinced that she can keep her heart out of it, that there's nothing wrong with having some sexy fun times with Jake, but she's all heart and slowly starts falling for him. Jake is falling too, and each of them thinks they're the only one moving past the initial "fake" relationship, not realizing that the other person is experiencing deeper feelings too. They have a very sweet relationship. They've both been burned in the past by not only significant others, but with their families, feelings of being ignored or past-over by parents is a big issue for them both and they find a shared connection in that, that only brings them closer together. Their sex scenes were simply hot. They had a nice combination of sexy and sweet, especially as the story progressed, the scenes got sweeter and more emotional and it was easy to like this couple.

She wrapped her arms around his back and held on tight, as tight as she could. His face buried between her breasts, he drew in long, ragged breaths. He had to feel it too. It was too powerful not too.

Oh dear Lord. This wasn't supposed to happen to them. This was a deal. A sweet deal, yes, but a deal nonetheless, both of them on the same page about not wanting a relationship, not wanting anything more than hot sex and a fake boyfriend for her.

There was nothing fake about the emotion swelling in her, so achingly lovely, so terrifyingly real. He

consumed her, he took possession of her, and she'd willingly let him, given herself over to him completely, and not just her body, knowing that giving herself to him was not only what he wanted and needed, but was what she wanted and needed. *He* was what she wanted and needed.

(...)

“Oh, Shelby.” His murmured words had her blinking tears as he moved on her, lifting himself so he could kiss her. A long, tender kiss that had her heart turning over. “You undo me, baby. Completely undo me.”

What I didn't necessarily like was their lack of communication – especially on the part of Jake not coming clean about his past with Andrew and his wife to Shelby. A few times I thought 'oh, just tell her the truth already!', but it adds some angst for the couple to overcome and what I did like was as a result, we get to know Andrew a bit more. I liked the man he turned out to be at the end and one of the stand out scenes for me was an airing out of everything between Jake and Andrew.

Shelby's three best friends are introduced and I hope Kelly Jamieson has plans to give them each a story. One friend went through a horrible, tragedy losing her husband. The storyline definitely brought the fun, light feeling of the story down quite a bit, but it served its purpose for Jake, cementing his presence in Shelby's life.

This was my first Kelly Jamieson book and I really enjoyed her writing and the characters she brought to life on page. Shelby and Jake felt real to me, much of their story takes place in the office, and around everyday life and watching them go from a fake relationship to something much deeper was an enjoyable ride.

Anna says

Review first published at Ex Libris.

Sweet Deal is another lukewarm romance novel in a long string of lukewarm romances I keep picking up lately I'm afraid. I don't know how I do it, but I just keep picking romantic titles that sound exactly like my kind of thing only for them to end up being kind of like my thing.

Sweet Deal is the second novel I read by Kelly Jamieson (the first one being Hot Ride) and again my thoughts on it are more or less the same: interesting story, full of potential, but the result is a book that could easily have been so much better. Because the potential is all there. The writing style is pretty good and fast paced. The characters are well developed and with a background (something that I really missed in Hot Ride) and the sex scenes are pretty hot. But still, I missed something. I found myself unable to fully connect with the main characters and their problems even if they were decently developed. More than once I thought that Shelby was overreacting (not on the sexual harassment matter mind you) while Jake was just too good to be true. I mean who on earth volunteers to help someone they don't even know the way Jake did for Shelby? I mean one minute they are introduced and the next he volunteers to help her out of a difficult situation. And not only that but he starts caring for her way too easily for a man who just doesn't do relationships. Like I said, too good to be true.

Did I enjoy reading Sweet Deal? Sure. I had a good time while reading it despite the number of times I rolled my eyes at things but in the end of day, Sweet Deal is hardly a story I will remember for long. It's been a week since I read it and I already have a hard time remembering details to compose my review. So even if I did enjoy it in overall, sadly it's one of those books that I will forget as soon as I reach its last page. And it's

sad because there was the potential for a mind blowing book if for nothing else but the romantic scenes Kelly Jamieson writes. But no matter how good they were, they didn't manage to make me really care for the characters and their happily ever after. Or move past the fact that the story was as cliché as one could get in a romantic story. I mean it was so predictable that I knew what was coming chapters before.

Verdict: Sweet Deal was a sweet romantic story that one will really enjoy reading but won't remember for long. It's similar to a whole other romantic stories out there so if you're searching for a mind-blowing story just search elsewhere. If you just want to have a good time with a book, then Sweet Deal is just the book for you! You will enjoy yourselves while reading it, that's for sure :)
