



## The Fifth Favor

*Shelby Reed*

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## **The Fifth Favor** Shelby Reed

Imagine a world where a woman's every pleasure, every wish and wildest fantasy is granted by the man of her dreams. Such is Avalon, an elite, private club in Washington, D.C., that caters solely to female desires. There, magazine reporter Billie Cort meets Adrian, the club's most infamous companion, with the intent to interview him for an article on high-dollar male escorts. Billie can't foresee, however, how quickly Adrian will strip her defenses and expose her true desires and in the process, fulfill his own yearning for love.

## **The Fifth Favor Details**

Date : Published January 1st 2004 by Ellora's Cave

ISBN : 9781419951138

Author : Shelby Reed

Format : Paperback 322 pages

Genre : Adult Fiction, Erotica, Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Erotic Romance, Adult

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## From Reader Review The Fifth Favor for online ebook

### Duchess Nicole says

This the the story of an unremarkable, average woman who meets a remarkably shiny new man toy. She wins him over with her innocence and changes a lonely sexual god into a perfect life partner. Sounds familiar...hmmm...

It was okay. Romantic at times. Cheesy at times. I was in turns bored and turned on. So a three star read for me, even though I am once again in the minority with my average rating.

**"Teach me, Billie. All I know are scripted lies."**

Usually, you think of an investigative reporter as tough as nails, willing to get down and dirty to get the scoop. Not so with Billie. She's somewhat naive, and that innocence is what lands her in hot water when she meets the subject of her next big story.

Adrian is a male escort, and not only is he prime male flesh, built to please with the easy ability to seduce, but he's the top choice of women from all over the world. These women come to the sex club Avalon and pay upwards of a thousand dollars an hour for Adrian's services. And at first, Adrian seems to revel in his job.

During Billie's first interview with Adrian, these two seem to bring out a new desperation in each other. Adrian is intrigued by this woman who puts up a tough front but flinches at the slightest touch, blushes at a few naughty words...so he begins to play with her. And Billie is obviously attracted to the sex-on-a-man stick that she's stuck interviewing...who wouldn't be? When he makes it obvious that he'd like to *show* her just how good he is at his job, Billie makes it very clear that she's not willing to go that far for her job.

At least, not yet.

I seemed to enjoy this story a bit less than a lot of people. I didn't feel like I connected with either Adrian or Billie like I should have. I felt sympathy when Adrian's life is revealed in bits and pieces. But I also felt like he made his own bed, to a certain extent. No one was forcing him to stay in his line of work. He seemed to have just fallen in to a rut. Things start going very badly for him in personal ways, and Billie just happens to be let in on the man behind the mask, per se. She gets to see the real Adrian...heck, she gets to learn his real name! And she eventually caves in to his expert sexual ministrations. Yum, yum!

One thing that bothers me in romance novels is when a woman chases after a man...it screams of teenage desperation. Convincing a man is a whole different ballgame, but Billie doesn't do much convincing...she just tells Adrian what he *really* feels for her. Of course, he concurs.

Uuuh...really?

So for me, this relationship didn't flow naturally, and at times felt forced. I never got that comfortable feeling that I like with my romances. And there is a suspense sub plot to the romance that wasn't really necessary. It could have been okay had it been handled differently and not taken up so much page time. (view spoiler)

However, I can still see the appeal for many readers. It's a story of a beautiful man who needs the right woman to save him from himself.

**"For a man whose life encompassed the raw, emotionless aspect of base human urges, he was unequivocally inclined toward gentleness. The tenderness of him, the dichotomy he was proving himself to be drove all rational thought from her mind, snagged her breath in her throat and filled her with longing. Deeper than sexual. Soul deep..."**

I'd say, read this if you like escort books, if you like a little drama on the side, if you need a book with some hot loving. It was somewhat forgettable for me, but an easy way to pass the time.

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## **Alexis \*Reality Bites\* says**

SPOILER FREE REVIEW -mature content reader discretion is advised.

5 STARS out of 5

Genre: Adult Romance-Erotica

*'She'd never met a male prostitute, or visited a private club catering to women's sexual fantasies. And what surprised her most of all was that she liked the idea. Its lurid excitement. The thought that a woman could walk into this elegant space and choose her type of man for her type of pleasure.'*

Billie Court is a reporter for Illicit a women's magazine in Washington, D.C. Her current assignment has her at Avalon. Avalon is an upscale private club that provides male escorts and is run by a woman who goes by the name Azzure.

*'Its "companions" were rumored to be the most exquisite male specimens, representing every country, every culture, every female's ideal.'*

Avalon caters to societies wealthy women from all over the world for the right price of course...

*"They range in age from twenty-one to fifty, with most in their forties. Accomplished businesswomen. Doctors, diplomats, attorneys, politicians. Rich, lonely housewives."*

Billie is scheduled to meet with Adrian, Avalon's top earning escort.

## **The Pleasure of Giving**

*'He had long lashes, a seductive gaze that could unbutton, unhook, unzip every garment on a woman's body. His steady regard bathed her in heat.'*

Adrian is the epitome of sexy, it didn't take rocket science for Billie to see why he was Avalon's top earner. Once in his room Billie starts the interview but it's hard to break through Adrian's shell. She wants the real man not the seducer he's chosen to be. Sorrowfully, she does not crack that shell. However he does crack hers.

*"Your eyes are a dead giveaway. You're starving, Billie. For love. For sex. For attention. Who denied you all these things?"*

Eventually things heat up and get a little to HOT for Billie so she decides to conclude the interview.

*'He wielded his words like weapons and sex toys. He was some kind of sorcerer. And dangerous to a woman like her, because he'd pinpointed vulnerabilities she didn't even know she had.'*

### **A favor for a favor**

After a tragedy involving one of Avalon's finest male escorts, Billie's story hits a dead end. Azzure denies another interview to the magazine amidst a tragedy. Billie shelves her work, that is until she lucks up and finds herself inside Adrian's home. He agrees to finish the interview but only if she grants a favor for a favor.

He provides personal info that he once refused to share. The good, the bad and the ugly.

*'..The business—prostitution—opens the doors to heaven...and hell. Drugs, money, iniquity. It's all there if you want it. I never knew pleasure could be twisted in a million different ways until I found Avalon.'*

Something happens between these two... Somehow they connect. After the interview, even though Billie can resist the temptation he lays out, it doesn't take long for things to heat up on a sexual level. She leaves his apartment without having sex with him. A few days later he calls in that favor...

Neither Billie or Adrian have any idea that this is just the beginning. These two will strip each other bare by the fifth favor.

### My Thoughts

LOVE LOVE LOVED IT!!!! I highly recommend this book! The writing is superb the author takes you on a journey of self discovery, love and acceptance.

"Adrian" was running from life outside of Avalon. And after meeting Billie he was running from the love she offered feeling he was unworthy.

**'In another time, another place, he could have loved this woman. He could have deserved her love.'**

-He had no clue that only he deemed himself unworthy.. His self worth had diminished, making him feel less than or not good enough for love.

**"What would happen if you were paid in love instead of cash? Would the world end? My God, Adrian. You're running scared."**

-Billie put those feelings back in his face so that he could see that fear was the true root to his problem. He was good enough but fear held him back.. He was stuck in a life that made him feel he could not move forward. But that was a lie. He could move forward. He could love and be loved.

**"What are you doing to me?"** he groaned against her lips, his voice feverish and hoarse. **"Whatever it is, don't stop. Don't ever stop touching me. Don't ever stop loving me..."** **"I can't stop,"** she replied, her words shaken as she clutched his hair and stared up into his eyes. **"I don't know how."**

### My Ratings

Characters- Seductive and Alluring

Writing Style- Seductive and Emotional

Plot/Storyline- Seductive, Strong and Entrancing

Steam Factor- High/Very Steamy

Overall- I loved it! Highly recommend it!!

**Now go forth and read. Then come tell us about it on Goodreads!**

For more reviews got to <http://realitybites-letsgetlost.blogs...>

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### Allison ♥?Will Never Conquer Her TBR♥? says

5+++++++ STARS!

One word for this book-SENSUALITY!

This book will likely top my favorites list for years to come! I loved loved loved every single part of it. The writing was almost poetic...with such detailed, sultry scenes that seriously made my heart race! The book never slowed- it was just this gradual build with the climax (pun intended) very late in the book. But the build!!! What a great ride. The author has an uncanny ability to build a sultry scene that doesn't even involve the act of sex, making it scorching hot! I was hooked from their first encounter within the first 10% in. Their chemistry and temptation simply built from there until I was ready to explode!

The story of uber hot Italian high paid escort Adrian meets sweet, innocent journalist Billie for an article she's writing for her employer Illicit Magazine. Adrian is very closed off in relation to his personal life. He gives Billie what she needs for her escort interview but draws the line at his private life..... But Billie needs that bit of personal information to bring this enigma to life in her article.

Adrian is taken by Billie's accepting innocence. She's freely giving of love, it's just too bad Adrian has no love to give...he's f@cked that out years ago. But he can't seem to get past her draw. He wants her but knows he will only hurt her.... As he hurts everyone who tries to break through his tough shell.

Billie is drawn to Adrian like a moth to a flame. What women wouldn't be. He's a master at reading a woman's body cues and plays her like the finest instrument. He's the master of seduction. But she's not a client and refuses to be played. She wants the person, not the high paid gigolo. But will he give her that protected piece of himself or his perfected act he uses to protect himself from love?

"I can touch you right here on this sofa, in a million different ways. Taste you. Take you to heaven and back again. I'm offering you the ultimate research for your article, Billie. You can say you don't want what I have to give but I know you're lying." SWOON!

My heart breaks for this broken man. He's kept his life hidden from his family. He's in a lifestyle he can't readily escape. Who'd want a man-whore like him? Especially a woman as worthy of love and goodness as Billie....

""I'm nothing. I have nothing of value to give you. No heart, not an ounce of love in me. It's all been fucked away."

If you're a fan of panty melting, slow build, angsty romance, this is the perfect book for you. My heart raced

during most of my read. I cannot convey the exquisite writing and dialogue this author presents. It seriously makes many other romance novels appear elementary in dialect.

Go forth and read! You will not be disappointed in this book!

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## Mirjana **\*\*DTR - Down to Read\*\*** says

### **\*\*4.5 stars\*\***

First off, let me just say that I am kicking myself in the ass for not having read this book sooner. Though in my defense, it just came out in ebook format in November, but that's not the point.

Where do I begin my praises? Let's start with the first thing you notice when you open up a book.....the writing. Ms. Shelby Reed definitely has the gift of golden keystrokes. The writing was simply phenomenal. To present such a taboo storyline, make you shove pretenses aside and simply allow the story to unfold without judgment was brilliant. By 5%, I wasn't just sucked into the story, **I was drowning in it.**

The words wrapped around you like expensive cashmere, and painted a picture that you could see as clearly as if you were right there. When you stumble across an author like this, it really does highlight the fact that there are plenty of people out there that can certainly write a book, but fewer that can truly tell a story.

I was completely entranced by Billie and Adrian. These very strong, yet deeply vulnerable characters. Their attraction and connection evident from the first meeting, which only grew deeper with every interaction.

"Whatever he wanted, she would gladly give."

The story progressed at such a natural pace, nothing felt forced, every moment exactly where it belonged. Through it all, you ached with them.....ached for them. Placing your faith in Billie as she tried to peel back all the broken layers of Adrian's façade. To get down to the core of him, the man and not the whore.

"I'm nothing. I have nothing of value to give you. No heart, not an ounce of love in me. It's all been fucked away."

"What does a woman want to hear from the man who loves her? Teach me, Billie. All I know are scripted lies."

You may ask, why not 5 stars? Well I had two small disappointments that kept me from whole-heartedly giving this a full 5 stars.

1. No epilogue :( Now, I know this is not a problem for many, but I really would've liked to have seen a brief picture of a couple of years or even a couple of months down the road.
2. I was annoyed by one of Billie's actions that put a damper on what should have been a really great moment. It's not a HUGE spoiler, and I kept my explanation vague, but I'll put in a spoiler for those that want to go in knowing nothing. (view spoiler)

I was wishing for a 5 star read, so thank you Shelby Reed for fulfilling that wish.

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### **Kristen says**

Review posted at: Swept Away By Romance

#### **5 highly sensual and provocative stars!**

I loved this book! Absolutely loved it!

It's very difficult to find a well written, character driven, and richly developed escort/client trope, but that's exactly what I found in the book *The Fifth Favor*.

I wish I had the time to properly shower this review with all my thoughts and feelings about this very sensual, tantalizing, and compelling story but I don't. What I can do is share my overall impressions. For an erotica, I found this book more provocative than explicit and very well developed. There was something magnetic about this book for me and I was completely pulled in and captivated from start to finish. I devoured every single sensual line and provocative description. The intense sexual tension and chemistry between the two main leads jumped off the pages and was palpable. It was such a decadent treat!

If you love the escort/client romances like me, I highly suggest you give this one a try.

Note: Thank you Baba for letting me know about this gem of a story. You know how much I love my escort romances.

\*\*This book is only offered in paperback at this time. The ebook copy will be available November 5, 2013.

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### **\* Meli Mel \* says**

♥♥♥ 4 SENSUAL STARS ♥♥♥

*"A favor for a favor."*

~~~~~

*"Pleasure for pleasure. Truth for truth. Injury for injury. Equally given, equally received."*

Billie Cort is a reporter for a magazine called *Illicit*. She is working on an article about expensive male prostitutes, and in order to do that she must do some research. She is told to go to *Avalon*, a high-end private club where she is to interview the best of the best, Adrian. The attraction is immediate once she lays eyes on him, and it seems like Adrian is also feeling it too.

Adrian. **\*sigh\*** What can I say about Adrian? He was **über swoony, sexy, and charming**. I have never shivered so **much** in my life just from reading what Adrian **said** and **did** to Billie. He was one hell of a **seducer** and I found myself falling under his **spell**.

*"She wasn't the kind of woman who could give away sex without giving away her heart, and he liked that in her, that vulnerability....Maybe, at the very bottom of it, he knew a whore - even a high-priced one - didn't deserve a woman like Billie. She was reality, gritty and truthful and tangible. He... he was a phantom born out of... imagination."*

*"Looking at Billie, touching her, tasting her, had filled him with a wanting fiercer than any he'd known. For the first time, he was faced with something he couldn't truly have, because of what he'd become."*

He was intrigued by the **innocence** that he saw in Billie and at first all he wants is to give her a **taste** of what he can do. He is so closed off though, that he lets no one know the **real** him. Billie has the power to make him **lower** his defences and view his **vulnerabilty**. Soon, he starts to **fall** for her because she **accepts** and sees him as he is, the **person**, not the escort **persona** he plays. He starts seeing the things he **could** have had in his life, but might no longer be able **to** have. He feels like like he is no longer **worthy** of anything good, like **love**, especially from a woman so **wonderful** as Billie.

*In another time, another place, he could have loved this woman. He could have deserved her love.*

~~~~~

*"Your eyes are a dead giveaway. You're starving, Billie. For love. For sex. For attention. Who denied you all these things?"*

Billie wants to **understand** Adrian more. She wants to find out **who** he is. She is the first woman to ever say **no** to Adrian. She isn't a one night stand kind of woman but **resisting** Adrian proves hard for her. When **everything** he does drives her hormones into **chaos**. All she **wants** is for him to **accept** that he has **feelings**

for her as well. And to also see the **wonderful** things she **sees** in him.

I really **enjoyed** every moment of this book. The **teasing**, the **seduction**, all of it had me **not** wanting to put this book down. Adrian was so **sexy and yummy** and **normal**, definitely not your **typical** severely broken male main character. Still, he was **not** perfect. Billie, may have been **innocent** in some ways but she sure knew **what** she **wanted** and wasn't afraid to **voice** it and **go** after it.

*“What are you doing to me?” he groaned against her lips, his voice feverish and hoarse.  
“Whatever it is, don’t stop. Don’t ever stop touching me. Don’t ever stop loving me...”*

*“I can’t stop,” she replied, her words shaken as she clutched his hair and stared up into his eyes. “I don’t know how.”*

I **loved** seeing these characters **help** each other learn **more** of themselves. The whole book was **full** of a good dose of **steam**. The only thing I felt **lacking** in this book was the ending. There was a HEA but it was a bit **rushed** and it **really** left me **wanting** more, so I was disappointed. I would have **liked** there to have been an epilogue or something. Overall, it was a **very** enjoyable read.

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## Sylvia says

This is one of my favorite books of all time. Every time I read it, it hits me hard emotionally. Ms. Reed is a powerfully moving writer and I've loved everything she's ever written, but this book especially has a special place on my bookshelves and in my heart.

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## Rosalinda \*KRASNORADA\* says

### 4.5 HOT STARS

**I just LOVED this book, BIG TIME!** Why am I not giving it a 5? Because I missed an epilogue! But anyway, this is in my favorite pile, I would recommend this to everyone!

Billie is a reporter and she is working on an article about gigolos. Adrian \*SIGH\* is a gigolo, he sells his body to rich women. They meet for an interview and boy, you can feel the sparks!

During that first encounter, he asks her for a dance and the chemistry between them is just soooooo much!.

**For once I can touch  
What my heart used to dream of  
Long before I knew  
Someone warm like you  
Would make my dreams come true**

Adrian's life is not really easy but it's the life he's chosen. As Baba (<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>) said on her review, is also great reading about normal people who have not been tortured in their childhood.

Something happens with one of his colleagues in Avalon (the place they work for) and Adrian's life changes. He is also confused because he hasn't been interested in a woman for 8 years but Billie is just what he needs. She is normal, sweet, beautiful, tangible...

**"I can touch you right here on this sofa, in a million different ways. Taste you. Take you to heaven and back again"**

So he decides to start a game with Billie, no feelings involved...

**A FAVOR FOR A FAVOR**

**"Why did you invite me tonight, Adrian?"  
"You remind me there's still a world out there"**

**"You kissed me like you meant it, and I liked it"**

Adrian and Billie are playing a game very dangerous because they are falling in love with each other even if they never intended to.

**"Lei sono bello, Il mio amore"**

I don't really want to spoil the story for you but pls read it! I loooooved it and will read more from this author :)

Love scenes were GREAT, I love it when characters don't have sex straight away because sometimes the wait is worth it and this time it was more than worth it.

**"This is my bed. You're the only woman I want here -" he guided her hand to his heart "-and here."**

Thanks Baba for your rec :)

**BR with my sweet Mandy**

## Baba says

5+++ utterly sensual and delicious stars!\*\*\*\*\*Review completed February 28, 2013

### Meet Adrian...

*“Sex with a stranger. You can’t rationalize it or justify it, but you can enjoy it. And I promise you will.”*

*“You tell yourself that, and maybe it buys you a modicum of propriety. But the truth is you don’t know me outside of what I want you to know. And still you’re here, and you desire me, and I desire you. Names don’t matter. Pleasure matters. This.”*

Yes, I’m going to admit it, I have a secret fetish for great escort books as well as stories that feature a younger hero and an older heroine. *The Fifth Favor* fits the bill perfectly. Prepare yourself to be gushed upon...

**Wow, what a fabulous book! I loved and devoured it!** Once in a while you luck out and find a special read that will stay with you for a long time. *The Fifth Favor* is such a book, and I will never forget Adrian. Ever. The man seduces with a look, a touch, with his voice and his hands and...his mouth. The sound of his voice has the same enticing effect of a physical caress. Needless to say that I absolutely love Adrian. He is sexual prowess personified. \*Le sigh\*

*“(...)As for me, I simply enjoy sex, enjoy giving pleasure, especially when the woman appears to have known so little in her life.” His black gaze dropped to her lips. “The sound of her cry at climax, the astonishment, the shatter of every pretense at that instant of ecstasy...it’s nearly as satisfying to me as the experience of orgasm itself.” He waited, attention unwavering on her face.*

*“Haven’t you ever had a man withhold his orgasm for your own pleasure, Billie? It’s a privilege to me. A test of strength and generosity and self-control. It offers its own kind of pleasure. The pleasure of giving.”*

*“It sounds supremely difficult,” she said huskily.*

*“A skilled lover is also a skilled listener, Ms. Cort.”*

*Despite the fact that I pride myself on sensing a woman’s need, the occasion does arise when I have to stop and simply...ask.”*

*Face-to-Face with Fantasy*

Billie Cort is a journalist and writes for the magazine *Illicit*. It's the first time that she has to write an article about a male prostitute, a high-end prostitute who is working for a very elegant as well as expensive private club, that is. Instead of feeling thrilled though, Billie is self-conscious and when she meets Adrian, the star of *Avalon*, things are getting 'worse'. The man is a perfect, exotic creature. With a body to die for, Adrian is utterly handsome and sexy as all get out. Talk about intensity.

The owner of Avalon, the cold-hearted and mean b@tch Azure, said to Billie:

*"Good luck, Ms. Cort." (...) "Enjoy yourself. Adrian has a wonderful way of sliding beneath a woman's skin. I'd be prepared for anything if I were you."*

Truer words have never been spoken...

Adrian's seductive gaze unsettles Billie, she feels uncomfortable, however, at the same time it turns her on and the more they talk the more she feels attracted to him.

Adrian, the masked enigma, is a complex and fascinating character. He switched from being a high-end prostitute to an incredibly vulnerable and private man in no time flat. It was astounding. Billie, however, would not be misled and began to unravel the intriguing man. As a matter of fact, Billie was the first woman who really touched him to his core. Billie caught him off-guard, and she put his world upside down. Their mutual attraction was fierce and intense, the sexual tension was so palpable and thick that you could cut it with a knife. Also, Billie provided the link to the "normal" life, a life he thought was lost to him. She put everything into perspective. He fell for her because she was honest, warm and real. Besides, Billie epitomized the type of woman he was not used to, a woman he could fall in love with, a woman also who was longing to have a healthy and loving relationship. But Adrian didn't do relationships. This being said, Billie taught Adrian how to love but at the same time she terrified him immensely because he felt unworthy of her love.

What I found remarkable was the fact that Adrian didn't look for cheap excuses, he took all the blame.

*"I'm the only one who went wrong, Rosie. It's not your fault, or Mama or Papa's. Just mine. And then my refusal to see my life for what it had become--the road to hell."*

*"It's because you haven't explored sexual boundaries of any sort, Billie," he went on, "I'd venture to say you're virginal in every aspect except the physical. Pleasure could become so familiar to you, so certain and reaffirming, if you felt safe and loved and sure about what you were doing. But you don't feel safe when you're giving yourself to a man, do you? It terrifies you."*

*"I want to show you what I do." He slid a hand along the back of the sofa and inched toward her. "I want you to know why women pay for me." Billie recovered just in time to flatten a palm against his chest. "Adrian, no."*

*He paused. "I'm sorry--no?"*

*"Right. That's what I said." She swallowed and felt like a child bypassing a jar labeled Free Candy.*

*(...)*

*“Our track record is beginning to worry me.”*

*The dry comment brought a reluctant smile to her lips. “You don’t hear ‘no’ very often, do you?”*

*“I can’t remember the last time.”*

Sometimes the foreplay with all its sexual tension and chemistry is so stunning that this whole process is even better than the sexual act itself. Don’t get me wrong. Their first “real” lovemaking was breathlessly beautiful, however, their make-out sessions, which I enjoyed tremendously, were incredibly lascivious and lush with emotion; they left me wanting more...**and more**. This story oozes sensuality and temptation as all get out, it’s simply mind-boggling. In fact, the author writes chemistry with an irresistible force, you can’t evade it and you can’t help but fall for Adrian and Billie. It was so sublime I thought I might combust and I was happy to tag along when they embarked upon a very enticing journey into sexual oblivion. Well, it goes without saying that *The Fifth Favor* provides one of the best build-up I’ve ever read, and I believe that every woman needs a man like Adrian in her life. No, scratch that. There is only one Adrian and I claim him. He is mine and I do not like to share.

*“I won’t have sex with you.”*

*“It’s not required.” A somnolent mask dropped over his features as he caught the top button of her blouse between two fingers and unfastened it. “I can touch you right here on this sofa, in a million different ways. Taste you. Take you to heaven and back again. I’m offering you the ultimate research for your article, Billie. You can say you don’t want what I have to give, but I’ll know you’re lying.”*

*They kissed, long and ravenous and angry. Catching her hand, he folded it against his chest, where his own heart beat a quickened, steady rhythm. Instantly the kiss softened, became languid, a little contrite, laced with lingering desire.*

*“If you write about us, he said breathlessly, resting his forehead against hers, “you’ll owe me.”*

*“A favor for a favor?” She kissed him again, her lips clinging to his. No one had ever tasted as good as this man.*

*“I share the blame. This is what you truly wanted to hear from me, and I admit it. I’m nothing. I have nothing of value to give you. No heart, not an ounce of love in me. It’s all been fucked away.”*

*“Shut up,” she whispered, leaning her head back against the hard brick rather than look at him. “Shut up, Adrian. You’re a liar.”*

Adrian's best (view spoiler)

### **What didn’t work for me**

*The Fifth Favor* would have been one of my all-time favorite books **IF...**

...the ending had been better. It felt too rushed and I was slightly disappointed.

**The mirror scene was BEAUTIFUL.**

*“What are you doing to me?” he groaned against her lips, his voice feverish and hoarse.  
“Whatever it is, don’t stop. Don’t ever stop touching me. Don’t ever stop loving me...”  
“I can’t stop,” she replied, her words shaken as she clutched his hair and stared up into his eyes. “I don’t know how.”*

#### **A shout out to one specific GR friend of mine**

Adrian took Billie to heaven in a hammock. \*bats eyelashes innocently\*  
I highly recommend you to read this book—I’m sure you won’t regret it.

*The Fifth Favor* is a compellingly written escort story. This book will captivate many readers because it's an emotional read that features interesting characters and a very good plot. It's all there: a little bit of drama and intrigue, really good character, plot and romance development through emotion, steamy yet incredibly tasteful and beautiful erotic scenes. Do yourself a favor and read this book. **This is erotic romance at its very best!**

If you liked or loved *Damaged Goods* then you will enjoy *The Fifth Favor* too. Also, readers who didn't particularly like *Escorted* might enjoy *The Fifth Favor* all the more. There is nothing clinical about this story. It will turn you on but at the same time it will warm your heart as well. Looking back now I'm still completely and utterly thrilled when I think of Adrian. He will strip you bare and he will be your pleasure, I promise.

#### **As a side note**

I would like to say thank-you to the author for writing a hero with a loving and perfectly normal childhood. When was the last time I’ve read *that*? Truth be told, I can’t remember.

*“What’s your pleasure?” he asked from across the room. She met his eyes and leaned to remove first one pump from her foot, then the other. “You.”*

**Steam 3.5 to 4**  
**Chemistry 5**  
**Sensuality 5**  
**Eroticism 4.5**

P.S. *The Fifth Favor* gets the **Babalicious Stamp of Approval**.

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#### **Natasha is a Book Junkie says**

**Never judge a book by its cover.** No, SERIOUSLY, this is not a metaphor - never judge a book by its tacky cover!

Just when I thought I wasn't in the mood for a book like this, I ended up devouring it. The idea of a story about a male gigolo, apart from forever reminding me of Rob Schneider in the movie *Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo* and making me giggle like an idiot, just never appealed to me in the slightest. So, I started reading this book expecting not to be impressed. Boy, was I wrong! The story flows so naturally and so beautifully and before I realized it I was trapped in it, completely invested in the characters and their fates.

But this is not your Disney-variety love story. The hero - Adrian - is a male gigolo, a man paid for sex, a man very good at what he does and highly in demand by his exclusive clients, and the heroine - Billie - is a reporter hired to interview him and write an article on his unique lifestyle. Billie has never met anyone like Adrian before. While she knows that everything he tells her about himself and the way he acts with her is all part of his gigolo persona, he manages to get under her skin and before you know it he is all she can think about. However, it is Adrian's reaction to Billie that is most exciting. She clearly does not belong in his world but she never judges him and offers him only kindness and honesty. By doing this, she slowly divests him of all his defenses, one by one, leaving him vulnerable and exposed. She makes him question his life choices and for the first time in his life Adrian is not in control of himself. He starts questioning everything in his life.

Adrian did nothing for me while he was in 'gigolo mode' but every time Christopher appeared, even just as a twinkle in Adrian's eyes or an unguarded reaction to something that Billie said or did, my heart missed a beat. His defenselessness was intoxicating and made those scenes where he fought his feelings for Billie by maintaining his gigolo façade all the more appealing. The chemistry between Adrian/Christopher and Billie was so potent and palpable that it permeated every scene they were in together. I have rarely come across such a well-written and intense love scene as the one when they finally consummate their relationship in the biblical sense - all NINE pages of it! Words escape me, for once. It wasn't just the perfect climax to their ever-growing attraction, it was also the perfect expression of the intensity of their feelings for each other. It literally brought tears to my eyes.

The battle in Adrian is trifold - he fights his feelings for Billie which make him lose control and remind him of someone he used to be a long time ago; he fights Billie and her feelings for him, believing that he is undeserving of her love; and he fights against himself and what is left of Christopher in him.

*"In another time, another place, he could have loved this woman. He could have deserved her love. But the sentiment was as far removed from his grasp as reality was from Avalon. He'd forfeited it in exchange for life in a gilded cage, and his relationship with Billie was a casualty of that choice, plain and simple."*

Billie falls for Adrian much more easily than he does for her. She is unafraid of those feelings because she sees the man behind the gigolo act and she is willing to risk her own heartbreak while fighting for him. But she is not prepared to compromise her own integrity and what she believes real love should be like.

*"Walking away from you with a broken heart is easier to handle than selling my soul to make love with you. I'm sorry, Adrian. I might be lonely, and naïve, and all the things you think about me. But I'm also true to myself, and I won't denigrate my feelings for you. They're much too precious in a world that offers so little love."*

This book truly blew away all my expectations. There was nothing tacky or too predictable in this story. We knew Adrian and Billie would end up together, that was a given, but I never expected to encounter such depth in the development of these characters, Adrian in particular. Maybe the ending was a bit rushed, maybe I would have preferred a lengthier anti-climax, maybe I would have liked to find out a bit more about Billie and her story, but I guess this book was all about Adrian's journey of self-awareness, regret,

forgiveness and self-acceptance. Their love story was the trigger and Adrian would have probably never made those choices without Billie's love and support, but it did not take away from the enormity of the journey itself.

Ms Reed is a masterful wordsmith. Her descriptions are skillfully intertwined between dialogues and they are superb - "*Seconds ticked by. Dread tightened her chest, closed her throat, ached in the marrow of her bones like a pervading cancer.*" Her words can manipulate every single emotion that she wishes you to feel, leaving you raw and breathless.

Seriously, never EVER judge a book by its cover!

~ N ♥

See this review on my blog!

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### **It's just me Shelly B says**

WOW!!! What a treat this book turned out to be, I was glued to the pages!! Adrian and Billie's story fascinated me.

**"Pleasure for pleasure. Truth for truth. Injury for injury. Equally given, equally received."**

Adrian....he was so mysterious, guarded, fascinating, sexy, aloof and down right **YUMMY!**

He was a high priced escort....YES.....basically a male prostitute but a mighty fine one. I'd have to throw some money his way;) He had been in this profession so long that he was basically an actor. He seduced women, said what they wanted to hear, did what it would take to please them and collect his money. He did this night after night for 8 years at the lovely establishment of Avalon.

**"...the quintessential prince of Avalon. Her finest hour. No one could supplant the dark, sultry swathe he carved through Avalon's halls."**

Billie is a reporter for a women's magazine called Illicit. She is innocent, but worldly, kind, honest and could possibly be Mr. Adrian's ultimate downfall.

She interviews him for an article she's writing and the **build up** begins!!

However the one thing she wants from him is for him to be his TRUE self not the actor that he portrays everyday. Can she break him down and get this or will he simply tear her heart out?

Well basically that's true for Adrian and Billie. However once it was all over it was so beautiful!! The build up was amazing, you just wanted them to tear each others clothes off and get down to it!! However at the

same time you didn't want that because that's how everyone treated him, it was the first book I understood the reasoning for waiting and the anticipation had my mouth watering!!

That's all I'm going to give you, bottom line READ the book! It was fantastic, hot and mysterious. I look forward to reading more from this author!

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## Michelle says

4.5 Slow Burn Stars!

Wow! Started this one last night and couldn't put it down. I loved it!  
Holy shit batman this was hot! Whew!

Billie is a reporter for a magazine and she gets the green light from Avalon's club owner Azure to interview the prince of the club Adrian. Adrian has been at the high priced woman's club working for eight years. He is the best escort Avalon has and his menu is always full.

When Billie and Adrian meet the tension between them is thick. The build up was a very slow burn and I couldn't read fast enough. I was praying that when they finally did the deed I wasn't disappointed. I was NOT disappointed! It was so worth the wait!

How was it possible to go from sheer indignation to shivering arousal within the course of a few sentences? He wielded his words like weapons and sex toys. He was some kind of sorcerer. And dangerous to a woman like her, because he'd pinpointed vulnerabilities she didn't even know she had.

I loved Billie. She was just as sexy as Adrian. She went after what she wanted and I knew Adrian was going to fall and fall hard.

"Afraid to live without women clamoring to pay top dollar for you. All that money...it's a measure of your value, right? It's your self-esteem. What would happen if you were paid in love instead of cash? Would the world end? My God, Adrian. You're running scared."

Adrian was sex on a stick. He had me melting when he talked. I loved him! It all started with...

"A favor for a favor, Billie. What do you say?"

I loved how Adrian was in complete control with the woman at the club but when it came to Billie he had no control.

“I can touch you right here on this sofa, in a million different ways. Taste you. Take you to heaven and back again. I’m offering you the ultimate research for your article, Billie. You can say you don’t want what I have to give, but I’ll know you’re lying.”

I loved that Billie knew what he did for a living but saw something in Adrian nobody else did. When these two finally came together it was explosive.

There was some drama here in there and I was a bit sad at one point. I felt bad for Lucien. I hated Azure the money hungry bitch. I also kind of was angry with Billie toward the end when she had something to tell Adrian and didn't tell him at first. I also was very excited that we didn't get details of Adrian while he was working. I hate reading about the main characters with other men/woman:))

Now why not a complete five star? Where was the epilogue? Ugh! I needed/wanted more at the end! I've said this two times already this week at the end of a book! WooooHoooo!!! I can't help it! I hope the book funk I was stuck in last month has vanished! lol

This is my first book by Shelby Reed and I hope to find more of her books to enjoy. If you like to read about escorts and you love a slow burn this book is for you! I hope you give it a try and enjoy it:))

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## **KatLynne says**

### **4.5 Stars!**

**Adrian - Beautiful - Sinfully Sexy - Exquisite - "Lei sono bello, Il mio amore"**

### **One of the most Sensual Books I've Read!**

#### **“A favor for a favor”**

Billie Cort is a reporter for a popular magazine and sets out to interview Adrian, the most polished and alluring male prostitute working at Avalon, a private woman’s club. She’s anxious to meet the man who receives \$1000 per hour to fulfill the dreams and fantasies of clients from all over the world. She didn’t expect him to be so mesmerizing. This exquisite creature is a fine specimen of man and it wasn’t long before she understood his magnetic appeal.

**“He had long lashes, a seductive gaze that could unbutton, unhook, unzip every garment on a woman’s body. His steady regard bathed her in heat.”**

Unfortunately, her attempts to breach his armor failed. Her article needed the personal aspects to be appealing to her audience. She wanted more than Adrian’s world at Avalon where everything was an act and all emotion was scripted. She wanted a glimpse into the real man and a show of true emotion. It wasn’t long before she realized that everything she desired from him had nothing to do with the article. He’d touched something deep inside and opened a flood gate of emotion.

After living eight years surrounded by Avalon, Adrian knew he had nothing to offer a woman like Billie. But

the need in him was too great to be denied.

**“She would swallow him in impossibilities, enfold him in warmth and love and commitment. And realize, eventually, that she’d settled for a man whose only value lay in his ability to sexualize everything around him.”**

While realizing the impossibility of a relationship, he cannot resist the pull. He also knew he’d hate himself later for the pain he’ll inflict. The choices he’d made at twenty haunt him and there’s nothing in him deserving of her love.

**"In another time, another place, he could have loved this woman. He could have deserved her love. But the sentiment was as far removed from his grasp as reality was from Avalon. He'd forfeited it in exchange for life in a gilded cage, and his relationship with Billie was a casualty of that choice, plain and simple."**

Shelby Reed’s poetic writing is very appealing and within the first few pages I was enthralled. I wasn’t expecting to be so captivated. Its sultry seductive flavor is intense. It's a poignant journey, very provocative and passionate. If an epilogue had been included it would have been a full 5 star read for me. I highly recommend you give this a try.

Thank you Babs for the rec! It's one of my favorite reads this year.

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**Sharon ∞👉 is an emotional book junkie 👈∞ says**

3.5 - 4 ★'s

Billie Cort was sent to Avalon, a high priced club catering to women, to interview Adrian, a companion (aka escort), for her magazine. They were both drawn to each other but Billie turned Adrian down and as they say....let the games begin!

Sit back, relax and enjoy your popcorn....because for me, this book was all about the slow build and I both loved it and hated it! Some parts seemed to just drag but I also loved how it took a while for Billie and Adrian to fall for each other. Adrian came up with the idea of "a favor for a favor" and I especially loved that.

Billie is definitely the good girl but she's also smart enough to know when something good is standing in front of her. Once she warms to the idea of having feelings for Adrian, she has to decide if she can deal with his lifestyle.

Adrian is majorly yummy and everyone wants him. He hasn't been turned down ~ *ever* ~ until Billie. It was wonderful seeing the 'real' him but those parts were so few in the beginning that he came off a bit cold for me. Luckily, that changed towards the end.

But that doesn't mean there weren't plenty of romantic and sexy times and as much as I enjoyed the sexy times, Adrian won me over with his romantic gestures. The scenes in the park and on the hammock were my favorites!

And I just have to say that I loved Rudy. I was so happy he was included in the story...him and his banana were so cute and funny!

Of course, there's plenty of drama. There's a really horrible part with Adrian's best friend that causes huge problems for Adrian. It also doesn't help that his boss, Azure, is a major "B". (I can't believe she invited Billie to the social gathering!) And just when things seem to be headed in the right direction, Billie's life has to cause some drama as well. I think that part was a killer...ugh!

The ending was worth it. Overall, I enjoyed the story and I really liked the characters. It wasn't as good as *Damaged Goods* in my opinion but absolutely worth reading!

Favorite quotes:

- ♥ “Anything of value must be repaid, Billie. I insist. A favor for a favor.”
  - ♥ “I’m waiting for you to make it right between us again. Make it right, \*\*\*. Give me a reason to stay.”
  - ♥ “That you’ll come back to me. Be with me. Fill the spot in my life that belongs to you.”
- 

## Marina says

*This is a world where the rich and powerful anonymous females have their way in buying their way through their satisfaction.*

Is a relationship between a male escort and a female reporter ever going to steady and strengthen? Does **Christopher**, aka Adrian, deserve a life beyond the realms of the fake golden cage he has confided himself into? Can **Billie** trully give herself over to a man who could shutter her heart by solely pointing her towards the gates of pleasure?

Can he embrace the possibility of experiencing something real?  
Can she accept the rejection that stems from his profession?

*"Billie. I want my life back."*

*"Then hang up and don't call me again, because I'm not going to pay you for sex, Adrian. What I offer is a worthless currency in your world."*

*The phone disconnected with a muted click. Billie lay there, dry-eyed, receiver clutched to her chest, and forced her illogical grief back to a place of common sense. But it wasn't until much, much later that it really sank in...the score was finally even. Pleasure for pleasure. Truth for truth. Injury for injury. Equally given, equally received. No debt bound them. No emotion. No trust.*

*"Walking away from you with a broken heart is easier to handle than selling my soul to make love with you. I'm sorry, Adrian. I might be lonely, and naïve, and all the things you think about me. But I'm also true to myself, and I won't denigrate my feelings for you. They're much too precious in a world that offers so little love."*

*"You can't keep me here."*

*"No, I can't."*

*"What do you want?"*

*He stepped impossibly closer, and the warm, familiar scent of his skin, mixed with the lingering smell of liquor, assailed her senses.*

*"You," he said starkly. "And not seeing you for the past two weeks has only made you seem like an unreachable fantasy. I can't eat, I can't sleep. I can't remember what my life was like before you were in it." His voice dropped, the words dredged up from some deep well of despondency within him. "I can't remember what my life was like before I became a stranger to everyone and everything that used to feel right, and good, and valuable to me."*

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