



## Jagged

*Lauren Dane*

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## **Jagged** Lauren Dane

Vicktor Orlov took one look at the wary gaze and slow-to-trust personality of the deliciously sexy and fascinating Rachel Dolan and knew he wanted more than just a casual friendship. But as a natural protector, he also knew bossiness and overprotective maneuvering would push her away rather than draw her close. He'll use every tool in his easygoing arsenal to convince her to take a chance on them.

Rachel's flourishing new career as a tattoo artist has brought color back into a life previously damaged by a series of bad choices and violence. She knows she can trust Vic—it's herself she's not sure of. She doesn't want to be caged or controlled. Doesn't want to be protected so much she has no ability to make her own choices.

And damn if the man doesn't know it.

When Vic finally drops all pretenses of "just friends" and focuses all his careful affection and irresistible seduction on her, Rachel knows she's falling hard for the laid-back pretty-boy Russian she discovers has a relentlessly steel spine when it comes to her.

And she can't resist.

## **Jagged Details**

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Author : Lauren Dane

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## From Reader Review Jagged for online ebook

### Deb says

*Jagged* book #2 in the Whiskey Sharp Series is rich with yummy hotness as it is filled with family drama, with a touch of suspense. A brilliant dose of what **Lauren Dane** does best!

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### ? BookAddict ✍️ La Crimson Femme says

The second book in the Whiskey Sharp series is not to be missed. When it comes to Ms. Dane, I can rely on her to move and seduce me with her characters. The two characters in this story made me fall in love with her all over again. This story is best read after reading the first book. This can be read as a standalone but it is so much better after reading the first one.

Vicktor Orlov a sexy man who runs a bakery with his family. He originally had other dreams in his life, but a tragedy in the family pulled him into the family business. It's a good thing too, because he meets Rachel Dolan in a round about way through his mother and their shop. Rachel is puzzle for him in some ways because she is so strong and left a life he had wanted. Yet she is fragile in ways that only a damaged woman would show. The good thing about damaged people is, they know they can survive. And survive, Rachel does, despite her overbearing parents.

Vicktor's Russian heritage makes me think of him like a big burly bear, ready to charge and defend a moment's notice. Yet his a big cuddly teddy bear when he wants to hold Rachel close to him. Rachel's past life in the FBI ended when she became the hunted. To bring her out of her depression and move on, she started a new life as a tattoo artist. She is really good at it and it brings her a peace of mind that she enjoys. Getting involved with a Russian bakery who may or may not have ties to the Russian Mafia is the last thing she wants. Yet she can not help but be charmed by his gifts of ... sweets.

These two characters are adorable together. I love Vicktor and how he interacts with his family and Rachel. Since his cousin is head over heels in love with Rachel's sister, it is another advantage he uses to pull Rachel closer to him. What he doesn't realize is how far Rachel's parents will go to keep them apart and Rachel by their side.

If a reader read the first book, there is already background knowledge of Rachel's heinous parental units. Her father is a petty tyrant and it comes out clearly why he wants Rachel in his grasps. When Rachel learns more about what her parents did to her younger sister, it breaks her heart and forces her to remove these toxic people out of her life. What surprised me is how much harder her parents pushed and how they really think they are in the right. It baffles me and disgusts me. The way Ms. Dane writes it, I can see it so clearly and it is a fear that any adult would appreciate. It is not unheard of for family to try and declare an adult not towing the line as incompetent and try to commit them. I have always thought this was one of the more abused uses of power. Ms. Dane shows how easily a person can loose control of their life. It's scary, that is for sure. The contrast between Rachel and Vicktor's family only makes it more glaring how terrible her can be.

This story is more than dysfunctional families. The heart of it is what a loving and accepting family can be. The romance and chemistry between these two characters is heartwarming. The scenes where they are intimate are special. The way Ms. Dane brings us along Vicktor's slow and sweet courting of Rachel may make a reader sigh in envy. His old world charm clearly comes through the written word. When it comes to writing moving romance, Ms. Dane is one of the best. This erotic romance is highly recommended to readers

who love happily ever afters.

*\*provided by NetGalley*

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## **Suzi (Obsessive Reading Disorder) says**

Just ok for me. Not anything to get excited about. Not horrible either.

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## **Dali says**

Dane continues her Whiskey Sharp series with the tale of sexy Russian baker VICKTOR Orlov and ex-FBI agent turned tattoo artist Rachel Dolan.

After a tragic even turns Rachel's life upside down, putting the pieces of her life back together has been a steady but slow going process despite her parent's misguided actions. But with the help of her sister Maybe and the support of her friends, she's gained her independence and confidence, and is almost certain she's ready to trust a bit more and let people in... almost.

From the moment he met Rachel, Vicktor knew he wanted a lot more than friendship between them, but contrary to his protective nature appreciated that she needed time and an easygoing approach to gain her trust. And when he finally thinks it's time to get out of the friend zone, he's is determined to romance her. How can a girl resist flowers, heart shaped baked goods and an alluring Russian?

Both lead characters are likeable, they're both strong and caring but I must confess I adored Vicktor. He radiates confidence and thoughtfulness which are extremely sexy and is increased by his loved for his family. And even though he's a natural protector he respects Rachel's need for self-reliance.

The Orlov clan, whom we've met in the previous installment are a loveable group who are in each other's business but also take care of each other and are painted in a charming light.

*Jagged* is book #2 of the Whiskey Sharp series by author Lauren Dane and a wonderful addition to the series. Told from both points of view with a happy ending.

3.5 stars

\* I was given an ARC of this book courtesy of the author via NetGalley. The excerpts are from that copy. I am voluntarily reviewing this title. \*

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## **Jennifer says**

ARC received for review

Another yummy Russian and this one bakes. Just as emotional as the previous book, her parents are still sh\*ts, but at least we find out more about the kidnapping...kind of.

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## **Jess says**

DNF around 50%. Dane just isn't for me anymore. It happens I guess, a writers style and my reading preferences just stop meshing. Moving on.

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## **Lover of Romance says**

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance

Jagged which is book two in Dane's Whiskey Sharp series is a book I grabbed up from my library and since I hadn't read much of this author I decided to go for book two in the series. I would like to mention that this book would probably be better read after reading book one. There was a big confusion that I had dealing with the heroine and her past that is a major factor in this romance. I catch on pretty quickly but I feel like the author could have done a better job of explaining previous events that happened to the heroine to make more sense for the reader but I am hoping everything will make more sense when I read book one "Unraveled".

Jagged begins with our heroine and hero who are Viktor Orlov and Rachel Dolan. Viktor has Russian heritage, his parents having come from Russia and migrated to the states, hoping to make a better life and started their own bakery. Viktor, took over the responsibility of the Bakery when his brother died from a drug overdose. Viktor is close to his family but now he has finally decided to take a chance on Rachel, a woman he has wanted to be with for three years but knew she needed the time and space before he made any moves. Rachel, was an agent for the government and loved her work at the time. But then she was kidnapped, tortured by a crazy man, and mentally and emotionally she never fully recovered and still deals with the aftermath of those events. But Rachel has also dealt with emotionally abusive parents who are hassling Rachel and would prefer she be institutionalized and find themselves ashamed of their daughters. Viktor and Rachel have always had great chemistry, but when Viktor makes his move on the sexy Rachel, she is more than ready to start something special with Viktor, a sexy Russian baker who gives her all the warm fuzzies and sees the real Rachel and values her and as they begin in their courtship and find a way to get to their happy ending and help each other find some peace from their tormented pasts.

Jagged, is a story that I found sweet and endearing. I really loved seeing these two characters come together. I did find what happened to Rachel a bit confusing, I was really lost about the events for most of the book so it really distracted me from enjoying this book like I really wanted to. However, the actual romance that develops between Victor and Rachel was enchanting. I loved how open they are to each other and to the romantic relationship they desire for each other.

We do see the fun interactions with Viktor's family though and I really loved seeing how much they love Rachel and her sister. They accept Rachel with open arms, they know of her past and how her father is tormenting her, but they just love Rachel from the get-go. There is some fun banter and they are such a charming and close-knit family who is hard working and so fun and loyal to each other. Then we see the drama between Rachel and her sister with their parents. And boy her father especially is a piece of work and you really see the strength of Rachel at her core, in how she handles her father and her past. Not everything

is easy, but she has such inner strength and courage.

Overall I found Jagged to be a heartwarming romance that gives you plenty of Russian lovin', a story of family ties, and a tale of redemption and healing. SUPERB!

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### **Jenea Whittington says**

After reading the first installment in the series and enjoying the writing and the characters so much, I was pretty anxious to get my hands on the second book. This one picks not too long from where the first one leaves off, but this time we get Rachel and Vicktor's story. And it was a good one!

We first meet Maybe's sister Rachel in book one, this girl has been went through something that left both physical scars and mental and emotional scars too. Physical scars heal, but the other takes time, but Rachel wants her life back. She wants normalcy. A career change was a great start for her, if only her parents would see her for who she has become. Their constant interference only stifles her recovery. I do giver her a lot of credit though, she has come a long way and is strong and stands her ground with her father. Man, is he a piece of work! He makes me so mad! I could go on about him...

Visitor Orlev is all aloha male, built and gorgeous, and he bakes. How sexy is that?!?! He has admired Rachel from the sidelines for quite a while, flirting a little here and there, but never pressuring. He watched her growth and determination, which made him want her even more. Their interactions were so funny at times and down right steamy at others. It was so clear how much he truly cared for her and would do anything for her.

Of course, what would this book be without the rest of the big, lovin Orlev family. This family is just amazing! During the course of this, we learn more about the awful event that brought Rachel where she is today. Her memories were frightening, and so emotional and my heart went out to her. Vickor was never far away though, always for her. Their journey together was one I couldn't get enough of.

Jagged had all the feels. Anger for Rachel's parent actions, heartache for her pain and some pretty great swoons moments from the slow burning romance. The next installment will be out in May, and will be a couple of characters that were part of both the first and second books. And I can't wait to read it too. Whiskey Sharp is a fantastic series for fans of contemporary romance.

#WhiskeySharp:Jagged #NetGalley

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## Jackie says

### Book Info

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### **BOOK BLURB**

Viktor Orlov took one look at the wary gaze and slow-to-trust personality of the deliciously sexy and fascinating Rachel Dolan and knew he wanted more than just a casual friendship. But as a natural protector, he also knew bossiness and overprotective maneuvering would push her away rather than draw her close. He'll use every tool in his easygoing arsenal to convince her to take a chance on them.

Rachel's flourishing new career as a tattoo artist has brought color back into a life previously damaged by a series of bad choices and violence. She knows she can trust Vic—it's herself she's not sure of. She doesn't want to be caged or controlled. Doesn't want to be protected so much she has no ability to make her own choices.

And damn if the man doesn't know it.

When Vic finally drops all pretenses of "just friends" and focuses all his careful affection and irresistible seduction on her, Rachel knows she's falling hard for the laid-back pretty-boy Russian she discovers has a relentlessly steel spine when it comes to her.

And she can't resist.

### **My Thoughts**

Returning to the Dolan sisters felt like catching up with old friends. I thought that Rachel Dolan had made great strides in book 1 but in this book she really manages to shine.

The fact that she is no longer an FBI agent has been something that her overbearing father just cannot accept and his continual insistence that her new life tattooing is not something she can be proud of much less expect her parents to escalate. Once again she is drawn into the man's bid to control her, lawyers become involved as do his fellow law enforcement officers at one point. Only this time she has the full support of the man she cannot get enough of and his entire family as well sending the message in no uncertain terms that Rachel is

no longer the frail creature she once was.

This friends-to-lovers romance for Rachel and Vicktor was almost able to top the previous offering with her sister Maybe and Vics cousin Alexsei. Almost, but not quite, as at this point for me books 1 and 2 are both wonderful fulfilling reads in their own way.

Now when book three comes out we see how things have changed with the two couples and get to see another pairing take place in the trilogy as girlfriend Cora finds her own true love. I can hardly wait!

*[EArc from Netgalley]*

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### **Jess says**

Sometimes the way Lauren Dane writes dialogue makes me batty, but this was one of the books where those tics were overcome by the romance. Really liked this, really liked Rachel and Vic together. I'd get one of her tattoos. And I like a hero that woos by cooking.

Looking forward to book three based on the sample in this one.

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### **April Symes says**

I love author Lauren Dane and have been an avid fan of hers since late 2006/early 2007. I love all genres she writes, it's her contemporary romances that really get me pumped up. This is book 2 in the Whiskey Sharp series, book is Jagged. This is Vicktor and Rachel's story. They are friends yet there is a chemistry between them, a heat and this intense connection that immediately leaps off the pages.

The story does continue from book 1 Unraveled and the story in book 1 was Alexsei and Maybe's story and it streamlines into bk 2 and Vicktor and Rachel's story but there are still some lingering issues that will be addressed in book 2. Vic and Rachel's love affair is unique, phenomenal, and heartwarming. Theirs isn't an insta-love but more of a friends to lovers story that starts off as a slow burn and builds to an epic conclusion. Slow burn because it took 3 years for their relationship to become a relationship. Yet it pays off in a lot of ways and the banter, the heat reflects that. Vicktor really understood who Rachel truly was and he accepted her, didn't try to change her and loved her for who she was, not what she could bring him or do for him. Anything else is an added bonus in Vicktor's eyes. Rachel didn't think she would have love in her life, would ever be in love yet Vicktor shows Rachel what true love is and means. Make sure to keep tissues handy for this read. There are several twists and turns in this story that kept me on the edge of my seat yet it all pays off in the beautiful end. Ms. Dane wrote such a fabulous and stirring romance that I didn't want the story to end. This was such a great read, now I am praying we get Cora's story next!!!

My Rating: 4.8 stars \*\*\*\*\*

"I received an advanced copy of this book from the author at no cost to me."

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## **Tina says**

Eh. Not a lot here. There are more books in this series coming but I think this'll be my last It just isn't working for me.

Like the previous book, all the drama came from the heroine's family. The actual romance was boring. The hero was the most emotionally available, well adjusted, does and says all the right things person you ever want to meet in a book. IRL this would be great, but in a romance novel -- not so much. I don't need heart rending angst or outright enmity, but I do need some romantic conflict so I can root for the couple to get together and have their HEA. There just was NO conflict. I didn't need to root for them, they were together almost from page one.

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## **Jenn says**

I just can't. I'm sorry. I felt nothing here. I just didn't care. I stopped at 38%.

I didn't read the first book and I'm so glad I didn't. There's a character named Maybe? Seriously? Why? I'm just waiting for a cousin named "Because" to pop up. Very weird. Made me roll my eyes every time I saw it. Guess I'm getting picky in my old age.

I received an ARC for an honest review.

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## **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

I loved the first book in this series, Whiskey Sharp: Unraveled, but Jagged was one of the best books I've read in awhile. Rachel Dolan and Viktor Orlov are two of my favorite heroine/heroes-the damaged, yet strong and resilient heroine, and the easygoing, sweet hero who loves nothing more than taking care of the people he loves. Add in some wicked humor and scorching sex scenes, and this friends to lover (my favorite!) story had me hooked from the start! The Orlov family-a tight-knit bunch of 'crazy Russians' charmed me from the moment we met in Whiskey Sharp: Unraveled. Getting to know them better just made me love them more. The way they welcomed both Rachel and Maybe into their family, giving them the love, affection, and support they never had before was touching, but not sappy. It was perfectly written--all of the good and bad that comes with a large family.

Rachel and Vic have been circling each other for several years, so their transition from friends to lovers felt very natural, inevitable even. We don't get all the details of Rachel's past, which I appreciate- I don't read romance for grisly details of a serial killer-but we do get just enough to understand her. The escalating drama with Rachel and Maybe's family is pretty crazy, but worked given their past behavior. For me, this book has it all-great characters, who I was fully invested in, drama, suspense, humor, heartbreak and tragedy, romance, and some pretty great sex. It was one of those books I didn't want to end. Fortunately, there's a third book, Whiskey Sharp: Torn to look forward to!

## **Bookgasms Book Blog says**

I have loved Lauren Dane for a few years now and although I love all the genres she writes in, her contemporary books are my absolute favorite, namely her Ink & Chrome series. Now after reading Whiskey Sharp Unraveled and now book two, Whiskey sharp: Jagged - Good Lord..I am hooked. I absolutely loved this book so much. Viktor and Rachel were such an amazing follow up to Alexsei and Maybe's story. It was just a fantastic portrayal of two people, Rachel and Viktor and their love story. I loved their chemistry, banter, friendship and families and honestly could not get enough of their story.

Whiskey Sharp: Jagged is the second book in this series and while the romance is independent from the first book there is a continuing storyline arc from book one that must be read in order. Plus you would honestly be missing out on so much from book one. Gahh!!! Where to start!?! This novel was absolutely amazing. Vic and Rachel's love affair was a slow burn of epic proportions. Namely because it developed for three years. First through friendship and then covert looks of longing and developing feelings we saw in Alexsei and Maybe's book. But when Vic finally made his move - Goddamn was this novel explosive!!

Viktor Orlev saw who the real Rachel Dolan was inside. Not the victim or the survivor but the Phoenix who was reborn after her horrible ordeal. I say Phoenix because those who have read this novel will know the significance of it and the feeling of freedom that Vic instills in Rachel. I loved that he loved her strength, protectiveness and fully believed she was an independent and capable woman. He thought she was not only gorgeous on the outside but on the inside as well and someone who deserved all the best things in life.

I loved them so much namely because this novel felt like I was coming back to visit old friends. Their love story was sexy and dreamy and just so beautiful to read. I never wanted it to end and seriously can't wait for Cora's story!!!

I would like to thank Netgalley and Harlequin for an advanced copy of this book for an honest review. Bravo!! 5 stars!! Ratula

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