



Pepped Up & Wilder

Ali Dean

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Pepper:

The best part of a happy ending... finding out it's actually just the beginning. Having someone promise to be by your side, to chase dreams with, whisper troubles to, it's more than I could have imagined.

But after three seasons of Jace playing pro ball in Ohio, three long seasons, with him on the road, and me training all over the world, I'm questioning if we can really have it all. Harsh criticism of our relationship is all too familiar and uncovers old wounds. I only ever wanted to run and to be with Jace, and finding the perfect balance proves to be my greatest trial yet.

We vowed not to let our love deter each other's athletic goals, but I miss him. I miss us.

Jace:

The demands of our careers have us running in opposite directions, when we should be putting down roots, together. But escalating fame and an overbearing agent have me fumbling everything I hold dear, including Pepper.

After years of dedication and sacrifice, I'm finally in a position to trade to my hometown team. Moving back to Colorado could be the answer to all our problems, but just when I think we're finally on the right track, we're sacked with news that turns everything upside down. News that rattles me and sends Pepper into a tailspin. It's time for me to remind the girl that I fell in love with how to fight.

Until she's ready, I'll fight hard enough for the both of us. For better or for worse.

Pepped Up & Wilder Details

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Author : Ali Dean

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From Reader Review Pepped Up & Wilder for online ebook

Danielle K says

I wasn't sure what to expect from this new addition to the Pepper Jones series, but I definitely knew that I was excited for it. I always felt like there was just a little bit more of Pepper's story to be told and this book fit every expectation I didn't know I had.

Perhaps the standout of this book is how solid Pepper and Jace have become as a couple. Marriage certainly agrees with them, even if their work schedules keep them from spending as much time together as they would like. Each faces their own career challenges, but the strength of their marriage keeps them from losing balance.

In the past books, it felt like whenever Jace was low, Pepper was high, or vice versa. Now they are on the same page, riding the waves together and keeping honesty and love at the center of their relationship. The way they talk through their feelings and fears, each one willing to sacrifice for the other, is so special. The best part? It feels so authentic to their story and what they've been through together.

Although the relationship plays a huge role in this story, let's not forget that Pepper is the heart of this series. Pepper never fails to inspire me, but in this book she shines. Her confidence, vulnerability, strength, and love comes together in a way that shows she is comfortable with herself, flaws and all. In particular, her racing scenes really explore the depth of her resilience.

And let's not forget about our secondary characters! Both friend and foe, each interaction with the secondary characters adds to the overall plot. It's easy to get overcrowded with so many big personalities, but the balance in this book is perfect. We get to revisit some of our old high school pals and newer college friends and see how they're handling tricky adult friendships.

Pepped Up and Wilder is an incredible addition, but it does get a little darker than its predecessors. We see Jace and Pepper at their most vulnerable while navigating indescribable hardship. However, the way they move through it together is nothing short of heartwarming. I'll say this, Pepped Up and Wilder will make you cry all kinds of tears, and you'll be thanking Ali Dean by the end.

*I was given a free copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Ophelia says

When I first heard of there being a sixth book in this series I was hesitant to read it because for me the fifth book seemed like a lovely, sweet ending and I was worried that this would drag on the story unnecessarily. However, quickly into reading this book I found out that I could not be any more wrong and I urge those with the same thoughts to just give this book a go as they won't regret it.

Jace and Pepper are now in their 20's and have been married for 3 years however, with their different sporting careers demanding so much of their time they've had little of it to truly settle in their marriage so this book discusses how they've coped and what they intend to do in the future.

What I really noticed about this book is that while Jace and Pepper have grown up so has the content in the book. They've moved past the petty jealousy and are dealing with more 'adult' issues that I won't name due to

spoilers but has really highlighted their character development over the 3 years that have passed since the last book. Although don't worry it wouldn't be a Pepper Jones book if she didn't have to ignore other girls trying to get the now very famous Jace.

I loved how this book was both a sweet ending to the series but also dealt with some really heart wrenching issues that made me cry and laugh and realise just how mature they now are. They both haven't changed much considering Pepper is still considerate, kind and a little bit shy while Jace is still his confident, cocky self however, in a lot of ways they've changed immensely too. They've grown from their somewhat selfish teenage selves thinking about their own careers to mature adults wanting to settle down in their careers and live together in a place they can call home while considering the location based off of their partners.

I would recommend this book as the perfect ending for anyone that enjoyed the first five books in the series and if you haven't already read this series then I would suggest you start it as it's perfect for those who enjoy high school/college sports romances.

Reyne Clark says

*Let me preface this review by saying you must read the first 5 novels in this series to enjoy this one to its fullest. I started reading this series in early 2016 and have read it a total of three times, so to say I was anticipating this book would be an understatement. Even though I had to wait a bit for it, Pepped Up & Wilder does not disappoint. If I could give this book 10 stars, I would! I LOVE this book for so many reasons, I will try to list a few. #1 It is written with a complexity that truly astounds me. Ms. Dean can weave a story with a strong, sports oriented female lead, like no other, but the maturity she gives Pepper in this last book is lovely to read. And lets not forget Jace (in his love for all things Pepper) has grown by leaps and bounds through out this series, into a character I adore. #2 Ali writes sports like no other. I really don't like running at all, but when I read this book I wanted to run down the block. She gives us everything we need to know about the ends and outs of running and football as they relate to Jace and Pepper's lives, but it is never boring or takes away from the story. #3 We get all those loose ends tied up but in a way that isn't too contrived or forced. It doesn't seem rushed. It plays out like it should, and you end up satisfied instead of longing. #4 As a reader, you can tell Ms. Dean is invested in writing these characters. You feel the love she has for bringing them to life in our minds. From the beginning of this series to now, I feel her writing has really matured and it shows in the careful way she broaches subjects that happen and how Jace, Pepper, and their family and friends deal with them. If you loved reading the rest of the Pepper Series, this book is a MUST-have conclusion!

Kate McMurry says

Fantastic final book in the Pepper Jones six-book series

This New Adult novel is the sixth book in a six-book series about Pepper Jones and Jace Wilder, whom we have previously encountered in book 1, PEPPED UP, book 2, ALL PEPPED UP, book 3, PEPPED UP AND READY, book 4, PEP TALKS, and book 5, PEPPED UP FOREVER. The books in this series are not stand-alone, and it is recommended that they be read in order. Note that this review will be a spoiler for the previous 5 books if you have not read them yet.

Pepper and Jace are now in their early 20's. Jace has recently completed his second season playing professional football as a quarterback for the Browns in Cleveland, Ohio. They have been married almost

three years, but most of that time they have spent apart, due to Pepper training and competing all over the world as a potentially Olympic-caliber competitor, and Jace has been both traveling extensively with his team and for paid promotional gigs and public appearances that his control-freak agent swears are increasing his chances to transfer to his team of choice, the Stallions in Denver. Jace and Pepper want to return to their hometown of Brockton, Colorado, very near Denver. Jace's father and Pepper's grandmother have homes on the same street in Brockton, where Pepper and Jace were raised as children from the time Jace was four and Pepper three years old.

Pepper and Jace are completely committed to an equal partnership in their marriage, with each living their dream of being a professional athlete. But pursuing their demanding careers is taking a toll on their marriage. They are both sad and lonely at being so frequently apart. In the midst of their distress over the impact of their careers on their marriage, an unexpected, major life event (which it would be a spoiler to reveal) further impacts their marriage in a negative way, and it will take everything they both have to give to pull each other through it.

Fans of this terrific, girl/woman-power, sports-romance series will be delighted with this final Pepper Jones entry. As in the previous books, there is a heavy emphasis on Pepper's running ambitions, and there are many exciting and inspiring scenes in that regard. As for the romantic relationship between these two attractive, highly sympathetic protagonists, it is great! They meet many difficult challenges as a united front.

Jace has grown hugely across this series, and he really comes into his own in this novel as a truly superior romantic hero. Because of that, their relationship has matured greatly as well.

The ongoing, delightful cast of recurring subcharacters is here again to enjoy, including Pepper's quirky, loveable grandmother, Jace's father, Jace's half-brother, Pepper's best friend, and a coterie of new and old friends from Pepper's various running teams and Jace's new and old friends from football.

As a particular treat, Ms. Dean offers her fans a delightful epilogue set 16 years in the future when Pepper is 40 and Jace is 41, which means this entire series has traversed 24 years. Quite a feat!

As in the previous two books of the series, this book is written from the alternating points of view of Pepper and Jace, which is something I enjoyed very much.

There is very little drinking in this book, and Pepper and Jace are both legally of age now, so it is a non-issue that they drink socially. The few sex scenes are tender and non-graphic and are between the protagonists as a loving, married couple.

I devoured this entire series in less than a week, and I am both happy and sad that I finished the Pepper series today. Happy because I enjoyed it so much, and sad to leave such wonderful characters behind. This is definitely a series I will re-read many times in the future. These books are all "keepers"!

I rate this book as follows:

Heroine: 5 stars

Romantic Hero: 5 stars

Subcharacters: 5 stars

Setting: 5 stars

Romance Plot: 5 stars

Woman-Power Sports Plot: 5 stars

Writing: 5 stars

Overall: 5 stars

Amazeballs Book Addicts says

This is book six in the Pepper Jones series. It can not be read as a standalone. I was happy with the way book five ended and wasn't sure if a book six was needed but it was. This is the conclusion of Pepper and Jace's story and it's so good. We get to see them reach all their goals. They have gone through so much and grown so much along the way. Jace and Pepper still go through their ups and downs and struggle with the paths their life takes them. After reading this one I very happy with the way it all turned out.

Danny {literary_owl} says

I'm so happy I read this series. It's unexplainable how much I loved everything about this story. This last book was unbelievably amazing. I fell in love all over again for this couple.

"But then I saw her. It was always like this when I saw Pepper in a crowd. Not even a crowd. Just, anywhere. Especially when it had been over a week since I'd last touched her. She was so damn bright. Like a glow of light around her, some sort of angel. I knew that kind of shit was supposed to wear off. Seeing her through this lens, the one where she was just it for me, my peace, my calm, my everything, it had only grown more into focus over the years. Sure, there were pretty women everywhere, but Pepper was the only one who shone like this for me."

After everything they went through, Pepper grew up to be a confident and strong woman. She did not care about the snakes bullies of the past or the new ones from. She faced everything with her head up. And their marriage only got stronger despite everything that was thrown their way.

I loved it. The epilogue was one of the most beautiful things I've ever read. It left me with a smiley face and butterflies in my stomach. There was so much love and so much strength between them, it's inspiring. Never thought I'd love sports romances so much. I'm so glad I read this series. It'll forever be one of my favorites now.

Thanks, Ali, for writing this amazing series. It was such an incredible journey! ❤️?

Jennifer Pierson says

This is book 6 in the Pepper Jones series, so obviously you really need to read books 1-5 first, and in order, because this is the journey of Pepper & Jace, and luckily, Ali Dean put all 5 previous titles in one easy box set, so no excuses! Now, Pepper & Jace have slayed all their dragons, or so they thought, and are married. He's playing pro-football, while she's finally running professionally, trying to reach the Olympics while training all over the world. They aren't together all the time, as their careers keep them apart, but their love is real. However, there are outside forces trying to tear them apart, shocker right? And it's opening new wounds, but Pepper has grown up, so the reactions aren't the same. However, there's a HUGE twist that seriously threatens to derail them for real, and it's so realistic that it brought tears to my eyes. And this is why I gave this 5 stars, because it showed me that Jace has truly grown up and matured. See, he has always been

the reason for my anger so many times, as his reactions were selfish & immature, which had me wanting to hurt him so many times throughout books 1-5 to the point that I wanted to pull my hair out. But the talented Ali Dean developed him as he grew up which had me forgiving him finally, so I was happy, and the Epilogue had me ready to dance! So finally, I have to HIGHLY HIGHLY HIGHLY RECOMMEND Pepped Up & Wilder to ALL!

Jessiereads says

* Received this book in exchange for an honest review*

Wonderful finale for the Pepper Jones series. Pepped Up & Wilder is book six in the series. The conclusion to Pepper and Jace's love story.

The duo are now currently in their 20's. Jace is in his second season of football with a professional football team the Browns. While Pepper a potential Olympic competitor is training/competing around the world. The pair have been married for three years now most of it spent apart due to their hectic schedules. Will the distance cause problems or will it make the heart grow fonder? They both are striving for an end goal to be able to own a home back in their hometown and close to family.

These two struggle to find the balance between their goals/careers and their marriage. Can they make it work? When an unexpected tragedy happens the two will have to fight with all they got to stay afloat. Will they be able to handle it? Or will it crush them apart?

This series took me on an emotional rollercoaster ride and this story was like the big finale before the end of the ride. I cried and laughed so much my mom probably thought I was going insane. I loved seeing the vulnerability of these two characters in the story. We get to see how much these characters have matured throughout the series. Especially Jace he was amazing in this book. Overall a beautiful ending. Also an amazing epilogue which takes place 16 years later. Great work Ali Dean!

Caitlin says

Wow! I can't believe that this is the actual, real deal, final book in the Pepper Jones series. Ali Dean sure did take us on an emotional roller coaster on this one. I felt almost every single emotion in this one. The writing is amazing and the story line even better. I fell in love with Jace and Pepper and their love story all over again. I really hope that this author publishes some more novellas for this couple!

Susan Trewick says

This is the sixth book in this series, it's not a standalone, you must read the previous books as you would get lost off.

Jace and Pepper are both following their dreams and working as professional athletes, but working and traveling puts a strain on their marriage. Both have demanding careers but are supportive of each other, though they both have moments of feeling lonely and missing the other. They both want to live back in their home town next to their family but have to work hard to make that happen. An unexpected event puts more strain on the couple, making them work hard to find a happy medium and get their life together back on

track.

I enjoyed reading this final book in the series, I loved getting to see both Pepper and Jace mature over the course of this series, especially Jace he really comes into his own in this book. We get to catch up with past characters and meet some new ones, the reader is taken on an emotional roller coaster with this couple over the course of this series but more so in this book, we also get a wonderful epilogue. I do hope we get more from this couple, a fabulous end to this amazing series.

*** reviewed for sweet & spicy reads-ARC provided for honest review ***

Jessica says

It's no surprise that I fell in love with Pepped Up & Wilder! I've reread this series so many times and I adore Ali Dean for giving us this book. Pepper and Jace have grown so much and their strength grows even further in this book. I dreaded the book ending because I didn't want to leave these characters. I even bought all the books in paperback so that I can continue to snuggle up and read them whenever I want; I suggest you do the same!!!

Jennifer says

I felt compelled to finish this series even when I thought I'd already finished it. I read the rest of the series a couple of years ago when I was already reaching my tolerance of YA/NA ridiculousness so I was glad this featured slightly older characters. They're 24ish and come across some basic and common real life adult issues. This was an ok story. I'm glad there was absolutely no OP drama, but I was a little bored. Jace, the H, turned out to be a really stand up guy and that made me happy for Pepper. She is awesome.

The writing style just isn't my favourite and I had a hard time connecting because of that. Overall I'm glad I read it just to see the MCs get their HEA.

Trigger warning (view spoiler)

Garden Of REden says

REVIEWED BY CASSIE

There is nothing like a series "closer" (you never know what could happen, but they seem wrapped up and forever happy now). The goodbyes are always bittersweet, and the book never feels quite long enough and yet for Pepper and Jace my heartfelt content. This series is special. It spans YA-NA, and the transition was extraordinary and smooth. Like a true progression/aging of a person.

Nothing would have or could have prepared me for the heartache they go through despite having a deep understanding of it myself. However, I appreciated something that effects so many ladies in this book world being brought to life in such a realistic way despite this being a fictional story. I cried with Pepper, and I felt the weight of Jace's thoughts and emotions weighing on every part of me. This book despite the beautiful

HEA/epilogue is a tearjerker.

Pepper has always been a character to admire. She is steadfast, loyal, and a fierce competitor. It was difficult to see her hurt so badly again, but as always, she sets the pace on how to bounce back with grace and dignity despite the awful circumstances she had in this book. Pepper Jones Wilder is indeed a phenomenon.

Jace. Always protecting and lovingly controlling situations to help his family succeed. This hasn't changed, but he has displayed how emotionally available he has become to/for Pepper, and that is the best arc for his character. He has proven how multi-dimensional he is as a character throughout the series.

I am going to miss Shadow Lane and will often be revisiting. The characters and secondary characters will always be an extension of my book family.

catherine lawrence says

Ali Dean did it again. This book was amazing. I'm not putting any spoilers out there but it was the best out of all of them. The perfect way to end it even though I hope it's not over. I love Pepper and Jace and this book just made me love them more. Ali Dean is amazing and everyone should read it. It's Pepper and Jace just being, well, Pepper and Jace.

Jacqueline Hawkes says

When I finished Pepped Up Forever I felt like I needed more of Jace and Peppers' story but Pepper up & Wilder really ended the story for me.

Like the rest of the series this book is not without its obstacles for this couple but the maturity in the characters was so refreshing.

The friend aspect of this book was not as prevalent as past books but that is true to post college real life.

Loved it!

I received a free copy of this book via Booksprout and am voluntarily leaving a review.
