



Just Friends

Delaney Diamond

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Should they risk their friendship for a chance at love?

Alannah Bailey is tired of being the boring best friend of Trenton Johnson and decides on a makeover. After the changes, she starts dating, but instead of being happy, Trenton acts like he wants to keep her under lock and key.

Trenton is used to partying and having his pick of women. Such an advantage comes with the Johnson name, their money, and his own good looks. When he needs down time, he depends on his best buddy, Alannah. But he doesn't like the changes he sees in her lately, and by the time he figures out why, it might be too late.

Just Friends Details

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From Reader Review Just Friends for online ebook

TeeLovesToRead* says

4-5 stars for Trent

It is my first time reading anything from this author , Delaney Diamond .

I was impressed with her writing style because it kept my attention from the beginning to the end. I read this book in one sitting.

I was also inlove with Trent, who is best friends with Alannah. This book is about the journey from being childhood best friends, best friends as Adults and eventually becoming Lovers.

This is not an easy transition since Trent is a known player , being dubbed by his frat brothers as *Mr Loverman!* . Alot of misunderstandings took place but they weren't overdramatic .

I truly enjoyed this gem of a book but it tended to be toooooo long that I felt it dragging hence not giving it 5 stars but 4-5 stars but that didn't stop me from powering on (not getting boring but just long) .

I can recommend this book to anyone who loves African American romance and M/F.

Its also can be read as a standalone even though the Johnsons family is included since it part of a series.

Cant wait for Terri's and Gavin's book. :)

Connie says

Really cute story! Parts of it were laugh-out-loud good, but the trauma Trent suffered as a child was heartbreaking. Really happy Trent and Alannah are long time friends who discover their feelings go way deeper than friendship. At first, Trent didn't want Alannah as a girlfriend, but he didn't want anyone else to have her either. So glad Alannah didn't put up with that foolishness once she realized what Trent was doing!

Shawnette says

I absolutely LOVE a good friends to lovers story...but this one fell a little short...Trenton didn't deserve Alanna as a lover...Trent was kind of a selfish rich JERK...before he realized he loved Lana he blocked every possible "like/love" interest by allowing interested men to think she was his girl...however once he realized his true feelings he tried to change his wicked ways...until he messed up HORRIBLY...and IMHO Lana was too forgiving of his misdeed way too QUICKLY...Trenton's childhood background was EXTREMELY intense and sad...due to the heroine being too much of a "doormat" and Trent's mistreatment of her I had difficulty ENJOYING this book the way I had hoped...it's always good catching up w/the rest of the Johnson family.

Mary says

Great story. This series is getting better with each story.

April says

This is my Favorite by Far I love a Friend to Lover story there Journey was hard but well worth it!!!!!! Now on to book #4 and Happy reading everyone...

Jacky says

I enjoy friends to lover tales on occasion. This one started out pretty good. I liked Alannah and Trent as friends, but it was hard to believe that she was so naive to believe for so long that is all there was to their relationship. Also, was her friend Terri so self involved that she didn't wonder why men were not talking to Alannah at the club?

Once Trent and Alannah moved into the "more than friends" zone, I felt like Trent was disrespectful and Alannah was too forgiving. Especially after the move he made with Beth, and the way he dismissed Connor .

This book in the series was between a 2.5 and 3 for me.

KTHEB says

.....Um?

I didn't even bother to finished reading the rest of this book once I got to 70% because Lana just became real pathetic in my eyes the way she just easily forgave Trenton after he slept with her, then got it on with Beth like nothing happen??? Then he's got some nerve barging in her house and talking the way he did to Beth like she is so wrong for having Connor over? I'm officially done reading any more books from Delaney Diamond this is yet again another disappointing book just like book 1, and 2 and that stand alone Novel. Reading these books by this author just makes me feel disgusted that these women let men treat them like crap, like lesser then an equal to them, and get hostile with there choice of words even though it's always the MANS fault in these books like this just killed me so much I just stopped reading.

Monica says

This is the third installment of the Johnson family book series.

This book was more fun than the other two. I loved the characters, their back story of how they met and their voyage to maturity. This book asked two questions? 1)How do you get out of the "friend zone"? and 2) Are you will to deal with the fallout of getting out of the friend zone?

I really liked this book. I read it overnight because I needed to know what was going on with these two. I like this author!

Deloris says

APB Perspective Review:

This is my favorite book by Delany Diamond , I always feel like I want more when I read her books not because I I don't enjoy her storytelling it's because I do and I always feel like there is more to know about the people in her books. I did not feel that way when I finished Just Friends, I am full, she broke down the characters so much and built them back up that I felt like I knew them , I felt their pain, their happiness and the thread that drew them together. . Trenton's story was heartbreaking I could understand his hesitation to trust love , he learned at an early age that love hurts , and was not sure if he deserved love. Alannah a women I really liked getting to know , the awkward nerd best friend, always loved him , I enjoyed the way their story unfolds . Angel was genius I love that dog, "good girl Angel!" This book was just good and I love the direction this series is going , I can't wait to see what happens next , I can't wait to read , the why's and the how's Delaney is moving in a good direction with her writing but hey ,she always does. Delaney is an author whose books I always purchase , and after reading this book I know I will continue to do the same.

Shonnie says

Wait, what?

I wouldn't recommend this book to anyone even if I was paid. I chose this rating because the story was stupid and juvenile. I'm not a fan of the heroine being naive, weak willed and desperate. The threats the hero made because he has money was a huge turnoff and I was waiting for both of these characters to die and violent death just so the book could be over. Sorry Delaney but this might be my last book. Can't read preteen behavioral characters.

Metris says

Trenton Johnson came to Alannah Stewarts rescue when she was only 8 years old and he continued to be her protector and best friend for 20+ years afterwards never crossing that friendship line. Lana has always been in love with Trenton and being his best friends she had to put up with constantly seeing and hearing about his many bed buddy; until one day she decided it was time for her to CHANGE. Change is Good but it can also be bad. Will Alannah's "change" strengthen her and Trenton relationship or weaken it???

Nice Nice Nice story!!!

Tia Kelly says

Plot?:

Friends to lovers. Need I say more? I love when best friends figure out that there is another special bond

bringing them together. Who doesn't?! I like it even more when the author takes us through the journey with them just as Delaney Diamond did in Just Friends.

In Just Friends, we get to know more about Trenton Johnson and Alannah Bailey - two characters that have known each other for years. Trenton is a member of the wealthy Johnson family and Alannah is on "like a member of the family" status with the Johnsons (thanks to her friendship with Trenton). I've read many add dollar signs and *poof* instant swoon-worthy kinship stories, but that's not the case with these two... Sure there are perks to being Trenton Johnson's best friend, but there's one benefit this friend has always felt she missed out on and that's the romantic tie Alannah wishes they could share.

Delaney Diamond did a great job when she captured the not-so-easy path only the most daring of friends take to become lovers with hopes to stay that way. The pacing of this story flowed well; the twists and turns gave this story some depth and texture; loved the humor and appreciated the contemporary, not-so-sweet aspect of the story.

Loved. Loved. Loved!

Characterization?:

Trenton Johnson... a man of many talents, as well as being the wealthy, green-eyed playboy with a rep that blogs love to keep tabs on. Everything has a place in his life – his career with the Johnson family brewery, the women in his "public" phone, and even his best friend Alannah - whose friendship is constant and consistent. Trenton has a deeply rooted story that helps us understand the natural chemistry between these two characters, and that he's not just the cute overprotective friend. Trenton is a man that would give the world to Alannah if he could... even if she didn't ask for it.

Alannah Bailey... remember her? If you read Unforgettable or Perfect, you're familiar with Alannah. If you let Alannah describe herself, she'd say she is "boring and invisible." For Alannah, that's a problem, especially when it keeps her from her lifelong crush Trenton. Knowing what her best friend Trenton is attracted to and how those women differ from who she is, Alannah returns from vacation with a new 'do, new attitude and... a new crush that is not Trenton Johnson?! However, Alannah isn't playing a star that is cast in the typical makeover to land her man type of role. The makeover awakens a few things, but there's more to Alannah than a weekend trip to the MAC store.

These two, Trenton and Alannah, are well developed and their tale is weaved so organically leaving plenty of 'smiles' and 'aww' moments. (My personal favorite is the walk to the parking garage, but I refuse to spoil the moment for you.)

I loved them together AND I loved who they were apart. (Well, maybe I didn't necessarily like an action or two on occasion... Once you read the book you will know which scenes I'm referring to.) Diamond didn't just tell the reader: Meet my two characters and just trust me when I say they have always liked each other. Diamond takes us on the journey with them to demonstrate the natural chemistry and proves that it has always existed - a great demonstration of showing and not telling. Nothing too far fetched and no over-the-top behaviors, either.

In my opinion, these two make up her best-developed couple.

Evocative Appeal?:

From the first chapter, I felt something for Trenton and Alannah. I couldn't wait to see the moment when these two would get together. Then something else happened... I didn't just want to see them together, but I wanted to see both of them happy and at peace.

As I got further into this story, the scenes played out so well that I could have been watching these two in real life. I knew these emotions and felt them from cover to cover, so when more of who Trenton and

Alannah were as individuals come out, the more I became invested in their personal well-being.

I also appreciate that although this is technically a romance, it has a contemporary fiction feel to it. A couple of scenes actually made me question if it is even a romance at all, but in a good way... I am all for the sweet romance story full of nothing but bliss and happy dialogue... sometimes that's all I am looking for, hot in and out HEA... but Delaney Diamond didn't fall into the trap of delivering a hollow love story with nothing but a well-loved plot idea, sizzling sex, and a sexy hero whose only purpose is to wait to be undressed on the pages... (Those stories remind me of chocolate bunnies in Easter baskets... I am always pissed if I bite into the ears expecting a solid chunk of candy to chew on only to find its hollow inside! So disappointing.) Without fear, Diamond brought the good, bad and ugly side of her characters in this one, and because of it her story and characters had texture.

I admit that from time to time, I've become emotionally invested in a story whenever good writing is involved... Just Friends had me feeling everything under the sun. I plan to continue to read the rest of the series as it is released, because I want to know more about Gavin and Xavier (the Johnson brothers featured in upcoming books four and five). Now I'm definitely checking them out upon release just so I can get updates on Trenton and Alannah, too. (By the way, loved the updates on the Johnson family and to view the other side of book two during Just Friends.)

Worth a Re-read?:

Without a doubt – yes.

There's good romance and then there is great romance... I think Delaney Diamond is one of the few consistent present-day romance authors that will deliver a novel worth reading over and over again. Her tales are timeless, well versed and reach readers without even trying to be something it isn't. Just Friends is both a great series read and stand-alone. (Don't tell her, but this is my favorite of the Johnson Family series, too.) If you read this novel as a first-time intro to the series, you will not feel lost at all... however, I know it will make you want to pick up Unforgettable and Perfect once you're through. Then when you pick up Just Friends again - because I know you will want to do it – you will love this story that much more a second (or third) time around.

Guilty Pleasure Factor?:

Yes! Yes! Oh my goodness... YES!

Once you discover Trenton's "nickname" then you'll know why. Delaney Diamond is great with bringing on the heat. She delivers sex and lovemaking without dirtying it up or making it over the top. There are no shock factors to keep the reader engaged, and again, just good solid, organic writing that helps the reader feel the chemistry between Trenton and Alannah.

"You know what I would do to you? What I want to do to you right now?"

"Why don't you tell me?" she said, voice wavering a little.

"I don't think you can handle a man with my appetite. I'm not one of your little boyfriends..."

"Prove it."

They definitely put it on each other in this one.

The Bottom Line?:

For me, Just Friends has to be my favorite novel by Delaney Diamond - period. She's an author whose work keeps getting better and better with each release. I really enjoyed how well rounded her characters were in this one and that the heroine stands out just as much as the hero. Trenton and Alannah shared the spotlight on this one.

Just Friends also appears to be not just her lengthiest novel, but also the meatiest delivering the most flavor. Just Friends is not just a one-click and add to the book list... it's a read now. Kick off spring feeling good by reading this one.

- Tia Kelly (one-half of the 'Two Writers, Two Takes. One Book at a Time.' review team)

P. says

Love the Johnson Family.

Trenton is all about protecting his best friend Alannah, even from himself. Problem she no longer wants his form of protection as he tends to ward off possible suitors. Alannah, all dressed up to see Trent perform as the Underground and attract possible suitors. Only no one bits and she thinks the reason is something is wrong with her not realizing that Trenton sort of let everyone know hands off as Alannah is "his"

These two are so cute together. Onto the next Johnson - Gavin.

KBeautiful1 says

Trenton Johnson, you just knew from the previous two books that this man was going to be something else and he didn't disappoint. Alannah Bailey the best friend since they were 8 years old and has been in love with Trent from then.

Trenton Johnson, Billionaire playboy, hard worker in the family business just having fun. His best friend Alannah is always there for him and with him, they do everything together. But things are about to change and Trenton may very well find himself on the outside.

Alannah Bailey, Geek and Biologist doing incredible ground breaking work. In love with her best friend forever but has decided it was time to make a major change in her life. Hopefully the changes will get Trenton to notice her. He notices alright but doesn't like them one bit because other men are noticing and are interested. Alannah has even met someone much to the chagrin of Trenton.

Trenton and Alannah story comes together, beautifully but painful. Two souls, one already knows from the time Trenton rescues her on the playground when she was eight years old and the other who from not speaking for a whole year, spoke up in her defense and as they grew so has their friendship. But Alannah wants to be more to Trenton and Trenton doesn't see it or does he? Trenton has his own deep rooted painful scars from his past as a child growing up. Things he experienced and seen have let wounds that he didn't believe would heal but Alannah has been healing him and that is why he is struggling with this new change in her because of what it may mean for him.

Alannah's life has been wrapped around Trenton's for so long that she feels she has no identity outside of him, so they changes are needed and if that mean breaking away from then so be it. It was fantastic to see Trenton fighting for her once he admitted how he really felt about her and has always felt about her. The struggle that these two went through was real and the writer made you feel every emotion from them both. When you read what Trenton went through as a child, it is beyond heartbreaking. It also explains how Trenton came to live with his cousins and being raised by his Uncle Cyrus Sr. and his wife Constance. Trenton and Alannah's book is a beautiful love story that you do not want to miss.

Also in this story we get to learn a little more about Ivy's twin brother Gavin who is an acute adrenaline junkie, who is always doing some death defying odds. But the question is why is he doing this and does he have a death wish?

Xavier seems to be fitting into his role as the COO nicely and he is still involved in his charity works over in Africa. Cyrus and Daniella welcome their son and you see how it has mellowed out Cyrus considerably. And what of Mother Constance? Will she find love a second time around? Or is there no more room in her heart for another since losing the love of her life Cyrus Sr.? Hopefully author Delaney Diamond may have an answer for us.

Well Until My Next Review Ciao Bellas!
