



## Not with the Band

*Kelli Warner*

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Drama. Jerks. Another new school. Those are three things Kassidy Perry vows to avoid her senior year of high school. Unfortunately, it looks like the Universe didn't get the memo. When her mom marries the football coach from a rival high school, Kassidy's forced to move (again), enroll in a new school (again) and adapt to life with three stepbrothers, including the school's star quarterback who's barely said two words to her. And what's up with her incredibly hot-yet-cocky neighbor who's developed a weird habit of climbing the trellis to her bedroom's balcony? Nothing about her senior year is turning out the way Kassidy planned-and that's before a revealed family secret drops the biggest bombshell yet. Jordan Lawson could care less about football, even though he's starting his senior year on the radar of college recruiters. He just wants to play music with his band, win a national contest with a record label and pursue his dream of being a musician. When those plans are threatened, his saving grace lies in the hands of his new stepsister. But how can he ask Kassidy for a monumental favor, when he's partly to blame for derailing her life? And what if getting what he wants puts her dreams in jeopardy? In her debut YA novel, Kelli Warner weaves a humorous and relatable story about finding your way in a world you can't control-and what happens when the people you least expect turn out to be the ones you need the most.

## Not with the Band Details

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## From Reader Review Not with the Band for online ebook

### Andrea Ahn says

Overall it was a cute read. Pretty predictable, but what do you expect when ready a light YA book.

Things I like:

- \* Cassidy's character was well developed and was a witty teenager with normal teenager problems. (Until the end, which was the only surprise in the book).
- \* The parents in the book were actually a presence in the book, so that had a nice involvement.
- \* The relationship between Jordan and Lauren was pretty cute, and made sense with how long they have been together.

Things that were too simple:

- \* Falling in love with Lucas after only a few months and right after a different heartbreak, too quick.
- \* There were so many hours in the day to go to school, football, band, homework, family dinner, watch TV, and parties... Are there 40 hours in the day?
- \* The predictability of the whole book.

3.5/5 stars, it cute for the younger generation.

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### Danielle (Life of a Literary Nerd) says

#### 3.5 Stars

This was such a perfect palate cleanser book. One of those that's fun and dramatic and doesn't take itself too seriously. I was struggling reading 2 other books, but I flew through this one and it made me want to read more. This story has really got it all - family drama, romance, sports, high school politics, and music - but it didn't feel overcrowded. Cassidy just lives a well-rounded life. I had a lot of fun with this book and I'm glad I picked it up!

*I received a copy of the book from the author in exchange for an honest review*

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### Tayo says

Huzzah!! Huzzah I say for contemporary books with strong, well-developed characters.

I loved everything about this book. And I mean everything. I generally love contemporary, but it's a very difficult genre to get right. That's because while most other genres are generally plot-driven (or at least they should be IMO), contemporaries will live and die by the characters. If the characters are one-dimensional - dead. If the characters are completely unrelatable - done. If they're boring - done. But this book ticked all the boxes for me. The central character Cassidy was awesome. I loved the added benefit of the second POV from Brandon. Multiple POVs can be tricky because I often will prefer one to the other. But in this case I loved both so much and it added a necessary dimension to the book of everyone being sympathetic because you understand their decision making.

I loved that this book was only about Kassidy adjusting to a new family dynamic, but also about Brandon. Loved it!

I loved the ship and how reasonable it was. Mild spoiler. The two love interests had a fight/falling out. Eventually had a conversation about it....and resolved it. What?! When was the last time this happened in YA. I was here for it.

I could go on and on. Super disappointed there aren't more works from this author. I was ready to devour it all.

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### **Melinda Ives says**

#### **Loved it**

I loved it, finely a good romantic book with three love story's. But more than that it was a story of two family's coming to gather into one big large happy FAMILY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE the book didn't say once the Lord's name in vain repeatedly through out the book.

^^^ I can't be I read for once a book that didn't have nasty sex scenes over and over again. I absolutely loved that, I grate written book with substance doesn't need all the dirty sex scenes.

Just read the book it was really good.

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### **Jen ♥Star-Crossed Book Blog♥ says**

**\*\*\*3.5/5 Stars\*\*\***

**Not with the Band was such a charming story!** So here are some of my thoughts.....

#### **★ Beautiful Themes -**

**Lucas is afraid he will hurt me, but he's also the guy who defended me, who's shared more with me in the last ten minutes than I'm pretty sure he's ever shared with anyone in his life. I hold onto him because I can't let him go. I cling to him as if he is the first ounce of daylight to touch me after what seems like an eternity lost in complete darkness. -**

**Kassidy**

This book had so many beautiful themes within the pages. Since I could talk forever about each one, I'm just going to list them out -

Dealing with jealousy and competition. Finding acceptance within yourself, for who you truly are. Blending families and exploring the struggles and hope within that. Falling in love. Discovering your voice and standing up for yourself and the ones you love.

Oh they were all so perfectly tied into the story!

#### **★ A Love Story I Adored -**

**His hand drops to my waist and he tugs the drawstring of my pajamas pants, pulling me against him as his arms slide around my back. Without a word, Lucas buries his face in my neck and—just holds me.**

**A jagged breath escapes my lips and I have no idea how this just happened.**

**I don't even know what *this* is. - Cassidy with Lucas**

I loved what unfolded between Cassidy and Lucas. Lucas is Cassidy's step-brother's best friend fyi. So he was always around their family. But the way that Cassidy and Lucas' tentative friendship started to turn into something more, well it was soooo much fun! Especially since Lucas would pull Cassidy into him and then take a step back because of something I cannot mention. If you like relationships with a lot of tug and pull, then you'll probably enjoy how theirs evolves over time too.

★ **Different Dual Narrative -**

**I shake my head and stare up at the stars. Is it too much to ask that one of them will tumble out of the sky and right onto my head so I don't have to answer his question? - Cassidy talking to Jordan**

The dual narrative wasn't a couple, they were step-brother (Jordan) and step-sister(Cassidy). And while I adored Jordan and his thoughts, I definitely would have loved it *more* if this was a dual narrative between Cassidy and Lucas (the love interest). I was more invested in Cassidy's life, so I desperately wanted to know what Lucas' thoughts and secrets were. Lucas completely charmed me and I wanted to know much, much more about that tortured soul. Sigh.

★ **An Involved Family -**

**“Kass, calm down.” There's the slightest hint of warning in her voice, but I ignore it.**

**“No. I won't calm down. I got screwed, Mom!” - Cassidy**

Having the narrative be between the step-brother and step-sister made this book more family oriented. And it was nice seeing all the family members play a distinct and important role in this book. Their parents and siblings were always around whether it was during family dinner, a bbq, or just typical moments that you would find within a household. It was so refreshing seeing a realistic family *actually* interacting and being around one another.

★ **A Surprising Twist -**

**Drawing in another deep breath, I lick my dry lips and give Jordan a slight nod.**

***How in the world did I get myself into this?* - Cassidy**

So while I easily figured out some things here and there, I was completely thrown off for the big twist. I caught the clues, I just thought they meant something else. So I was definitely shocked with the direction the book took. I didn't see that coming at all. BUT one aspect of this did bug me. One of the characters never tells Lucas about said twist. And he's so entrenched in their family that I was definitely bummed out that it didn't happen.

★ **Some Easy Fixes -**

**Lucas heads towards me, but then veers off course and takes a seat on Kassidy's bed.  
"Are you crazy?! You're a dead man if you stay in here!"  
Lucas leans back on his palms and gives me that grin he always seems to flash right  
before we find ourselves in big trouble. Unfortunately, I've seen that grin more times than  
I can count. - Jordan**

Some of the problems felt as though they were solved a little too easily for me. Maybe that makes me a cynic? Especially since I know that sometimes life can turn out much easier than one expects. But still, it wasn't just one thing. So I did struggle a little with those moments.

**So while I had a few issues with Not With the Band, I still think it's a great debut! And I'm definitely looking forward to checking out this author's future releases! If you enjoy YA Romance that's adorable but also covers some bigger topics, then definitely give this one a try!**

*For more of my reviews, please visit:*

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## **Guillermina Ortiz says**

### **I really like this book**

It caught my attention on the very first page all the way to the last (with some tears every now and then) leaving me wanting for more  
I will definitely recommend this book

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## **John Clark says**

Kassidy has endured more moves than she can count. Every time she settled in at a new school and made friends, Mom hauled her to another city when she got a new job. Finally at the start of her senior year, they make a shorter move when Mom falls in love with the football coach at Kassie's rival school. Now, she's not only faced with dealing with three stepbrothers, but she's going to be a star on the soccer team that has been her old school's biggest rival.

That should be enough stress, but Mom is pregnant with twins, her oldest stepbrother talks her into temporarily replacing his girlfriend, who moved away, as the band's lead singer (great scene dealing with how Jordan and Lucas discover her talent), there is a girl on the soccer team who is out to get her and next door neighbor, Lucas keeps climbing up to her balcony and telling her things while acting completely different than he does at school.

Lucas has had years of experience dealing with feelings of low self worth and lack of trust. They come to a head at just about the same time Kassie's blindsided by a stranger who turns everything she ever believed upside down. How everything plays out makes for a stellar read. I'm eager for this author to write more books.

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## Stefani Malosh says

### Love it

Had a very hard time putting this book down. Very well written. I felt like I was in the story. I can't wait for her next book!!

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## Sandra says

### Really great

This book was really great. It was perfectly written for the genre, the emotions were written beautifully. This is probably one of the best split view books I've read and how refreshing that it was a pair of step siblings and not bf/gf.

The only negative is there were a few typos/spots that need editing but it didn't take away from the story.

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## \*Rachelle\* says

### 4 stars

RTC

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## Edit~A says

**“Dating him *would* be fun,” she says. “For about ten minutes. But then he’ll just move on to the next girl.”**

**“How do you know that?” I ask softly.**

**“*Everybody* who knows Lucas knows that,” she answers. “If there was ever a love ‘em and leave ‘em high school Romeo—” She squares my shoulders so that I’m staring across the crowd in Lucas’ direction. “That, sweetie, is him.” She spins me back around to face her and her expression is stern. “Save yourself the heartache. Admire Lucas from a safe distance like the rest of us do and leave well enough alone.”**

**“But maybe he just hasn’t met the right girl,” I offer.**

I really really enjoyed the book. it was an adorable YA Contemporary Romance book not about one or two but many characters. The author did an amazing job presenting various life situations that teenagers, or just people in general face, and also good or bad reactions to them. Hopefully, those who read the book will take some lessons from it, because there are some that people need to really think about.

**“Have you ever done something and realized later you made a big mistake?”**

**“Of course. Everybody makes mistakes.”**

**Taking a deep breath, I turn to face her. “His name is Erik. And he was a mistake. Case closed.”**

It was a fast paced, cute, fluffy story, just what I needed after the heavy themed readings that I was doing. I liked Jordan a lot, to be honest at first I thought him and Kassidy were going to end up together, that this was their story, but it was not the case. It made me intrigued and I wanted to see where was this going. Most of all I wanted to find out who is Erik and what happened with him. However, I was waiting for something more, but I just get the regular 'planting the self-doubting seed' theme.

**“Can’t sleep?” I ask him. It’s become my standard greeting each night he’s here.**

**“Not yet,” he says softly and I smile. That’s his standard reply.**

While the book was full of romance when it came to Kassidy and Lucas, in Jordan's case nothing happened. Yes, it showed how devoted and in love he was, how serious and mature he was when he came to his girlfriend and their relationship. However, I wanted someone for Jordan, seriously, I wanted Laurel back or something, because I felt that he was dealing with so much, trying to meet so many people's expectations, and do not let down his da, but in all this he was so lonely. I wanted Meghan with Jordan. I knew there was Laurel, but she was not really there, and while their love was cute, for the story it would have been fun to see Jordan with someone there with him.

**“She’s made me who I am.”**

**“No, she didn’t,” I say softly and Kassidy rests her questioning eyes on me. “You made yourself who you are. She was just there to lead by example and encourage you along the way. But *you* did it. You really should give yourself some credit.”**

I have to admit, even though I loved the book at some points it turned in to a lot of drama... First of all some things that totally did not make sense. For instance, Kass knowing Laurel to the point that she could call her and make her talk about stuff that she could not even share with her boyfriend? It just did not make sense to me... Secondly, adoption on top of Lucas's story, I think that was a bit too much, because now it seemed forced. It was a pity cause I felt it will affect the story.

**Jordan is right there with me, matching my words. He looks so happy right now, like he was born to do this. Like he was born to do nothing *but* this.**

I cannot say how much I loved Amy and Brandon, and these kids should have really appreciated them and be glad to have parents like those. They reminded me of my parents whom I haven’t seen for a year now, because they helped me to move to another country, my dream country to reach my dreams. I even guessed that they were going to help Lucas out, that is how angelic they were.

**“I don’t want to hurt you. But I can’t promise you I won’t. Tell me to go, Kassidy. Please.”**

It’s unfortunate that there are people like Lucas who did not know what it was like to have a good household. I really liked his character. He was a nice guy who was hiding behind a mask to cover his flaws. While reading about him, I once again realized how much we all hide, and try to cover everything up with a fake smile, pretending that we are ok, that we do not hurt.

**“I don’t remember asking you to love me,” I say, my words breaking and I’m irritated that I sound so pitiful. “But I also didn’t ask you to climb my balcony and say all the things you said to me.” I blink back a thin veil of tears that blur my vision. “And I certainly wasn’t aware that I had to make a formal request that you treat me like a human being with feelings. Maybe you should have been a little more upfront that you didn’t plan to stick around.”**

I liked how the story was told from two different POVs that were not romantically involved with each other. I loved their sibling-love relationship development. I loved almost EVERYTHING about this book! Glad

that Laurel got back in the end for Jordan, because he needed her, he needed someone to be there for him as well, even though he was strong, but I felt that Meghan was left out somehow, but I understand.

**There's a defining moment in everyone's life when you have to decide exactly what you want, and how badly you're willing to work for it.**

I LOVED this book actually. I am glad that after that drama the author picked up the pace right where she left it before that. It was a super light, heartwarming read that would cheer everyone who reads it.

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## **Megan Besing says**

### **Love, music, family drama...makes for a good story**

Really like that the split pov was a bit different than most split pov books by giving a voice to the siblings and not the typical hero/heroine love interest. It gave it a well rounded feel for everything going on in the story. Good storyline, just enough romance, contains some minor language, and has humor. Glad I gave it a chance. I'd give the next story by this author a go to.

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## **Jace says**

4.5 Stars.

It's been a long time since I've been able to finish a book longer than a hundred pages or so in as short of a time as I did with this one. To say I was surprised by that would be an understatement. I entered a giveaway and truthfully didn't expect to like the book as much as I did. Most of the books I've won in giveaways have found themselves in the dark recesses of my shelves after only being able to bear a chapter or two. Not with the Band was different. Is different.

The story progresses in such a fantastic and believable way that had me falling so in love with all of the characters in all of their complexities. Cassidy is not at all happy about the prospect of her 3 new stepbrothers, and definitely not so thrilled with her new school and stepbrother's best friend climbing into her balcony like it's his own personal jungle gym. And Jordan isn't too thrilled with the situation either. The way these two come together to form an incredible friendship and siblingship (is that a word?) made the whole book worth a read. I was rooting for the chapter where Cassidy would call Jordan her brother - and mean it - and Jordan would call Cassidy family too. Spoiler alert: they both came and were glorious. While the relationship between Cassidy and Lucas was well developed and pretty cute, it wasn't what made me fall in love with either character. Lucas' no hold bar attitude towards his best friend and his selfishness had me loving Lucas, albeit a little late in the game. And Cassidy's strong but damaged personality coming through as a result of an emotionally abusive relationship had me connecting to her in a way I hadn't expected to at first glance. What really sealed the deal of this book for me was the relationship between Jordan and Cassidy though. How it went from barely tolerating each other to an alliance to a casual friendship to a closer friendship to true siblings and family. It was all so cohesive and brilliantly realistic and great, and I loved every second of it.

Rarely do I write reviews of the books I love or even consider to be favorites, and yet I've made an exception for this one. While it may not make it to my list of favorites, it's definitely up there as one of the best and most well developed books I've read in a long time. (Also, I was completely picturing this book as set up like

TV series and think it would make a FANTASTIC TV show so someone get on that please and thank you x).

Read. This. Book.

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### **Nikki says**

#### **Sweet story**

Kass and Lucas are like the perfect golden couple and this book is more around their sports and the other activity they do. It also shows Jordan's point of view which he is Kassie's stepbrother. The whole story came together very great and I would definitely recommend reading this book!!!

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### **Marisol says**

#### **Couldn't put it down (Beware: itsy bitsy spoiler)**

I have to say I was pleasantly surprised by this book. When I started reading it I was kind of expecting Cassidy and Jordan to end up together (I know, I know) but seriously Lucas was perfect! I'd definitely recommend this book!

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