



# Impulse Control

*Amanda Usen*

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## **Impulse Control** Amanda Usen

Survivalist Russ Donovan is known on TV as the “Wildest Man In The World.” The last thing this headstrong Aries guy needs is to be wrangled into a cross-promotional TV special with a popular homemaker—even a sexy little thing like Susannah Stone. Besides, the Adirondacks in the dead of winter is no place for amateurs...especially a stubborn homemaker who's determined to show him up every chance she gets.

Susannah's a working single mom who knows plenty about roughing it. She can take anything this mountain man dishes out. Now Russ and Susannah are taking their competitive rivalry to new levels, and not even the canned beef stew is safe. Then Russ and Susannah's on-camera sparks turn into a sizzling off-camera romance, and their two conflicting worlds collide. Sure, major differences can turn chemistry red-hot...they also make compromise nearly impossible.

## **Impulse Control Details**

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Author : Amanda Usen

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## From Reader Review Impulse Control for online ebook

### Mignon Mykel says

Received a copy from NetGalley/Barclay Publicity in exchange for an honest review.

Full review with excerpts and giveaway can be found on blog at:  
<http://mnonmklreviews.blogspot.com/20...>

4.5/5 stars

The day after I finished reading this book, Tommy Caldwell and Kevin Jorgeson climbed the summit of El Capiton -- free climbing the mountain with use of ropes and hands/feet only. I saw the headlines while waiting for my (wait for it...) quad venti nonfat 3 pump mocha 2 pump peppermint with whip mocha, before a night shift.

One paper only had a picture, another had a blurb. Finally, three papers down was a full, front-page story. I had to read it... for no other reason than the story seemed like something Russ Donovan would have accomplished.

Russ and Susannah really couldn't be more different... but in reality, they're pretty much the same. They both have deep insecurities, but they hide them extremely well behind their personas -- Russ being an extremist, and Susannah being little Miss Susie Homemaker. When Russ is pulled in to the old headquarters of his first show and is told they want to do a show that intermixes his with Susannah's 'at home' one, both he and Susannah want to say no.

He reminds her of her ex... And she is the epitome of everything Russ doesn't want.

Watching these two was entertaining. Russ's part of the show is first and while he doesn't set out to make Susannah a joke, he's fairly certain he can make a point out of her -- little housewife wouldn't (...shouldn't) know the first thing about hiking up a mountain. But Susannah, who's dealt with many humiliating years with her ex, researches and proves him wrong.

Susannah's ex did a number on her. I'm sure she may have been a confident woman before Ethan made her feel less than great, but she's very much not there anymore. Understandably, as many abuse victims do, she sees Ethan in many of the things Russ does -- and when he realizes this, he does his best to squash them.

...not that he succeeds (at squashing them).

And because she feels he makes a fool out of her on his part, when he comes to do the 'at home' portion, she has every intention of making a fool out of him.

These two are hardheaded; they tend to think the worse of the other even when that isn't the intention. They fell for one another rather quickly, but that's the case in many romances. Some of the dialogue was too long and drawn out. It would be more believable with pauses, breaths, and moving eyes or hands, rather than one long paragraph of simply verb-age but...

As a whole, I enjoyed this book. Russ, as much as he doesn't want to be, is a family man through and through, and makes a great addition to the Home of Susie.

## Heather in FL says

This was really cute. Gotta love opposites attract. If I'm being honest, her lack of self esteem started to bug me, but at the same time, I understand where it came from. And I also got his need to constantly be on the move. I loved that neither one of them backed down from a challenge and they both readily recognized when the other was doing well outside their respective elements. Overall cute story.

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## Michelle says

I don't even know where to start with this review...yes, I do. Buy this book! Seriously sexy, with a fantastic storyline and really dynamic characters! I'm such a fan of Amanda Usen's storytelling. I found myself laughing out loud several times, but was also moved to tears by this emotional romance. The dialogue between Susannah and Donovan was so genuine. Equal parts candid, flirty, and amusing. As for the seductive chemistry between this couple-it was off the charts HOT! Definitely a story to read if you need to warm up this winter.

To say that Donovan is smolderingly sexy, just doesn't do the character justice.

Some of my favorite lines:

"I've got hard covered, sweetheart. I like soft."

"Because you seem to have some serious misapprehensions about what men find attractive, and I dare you to let me set you straight."

Yeah...sexy just doesn't cover it at all. I dare you to read this book and not love it!

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## Michelle says

[image error]

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## Janell Sutherland says

This is a romance made for television. Russ Donovan is the star of a show called Wild Man, where he goes out in the wild and does dangerous things. He's living! And surviving! Susannah Stone is a Martha Stewart-in-the-making, only more relatable, because she's not always perfect. She's just gotten through a divorce and has a 14-month-old, and she doesn't have time for anything.

Enter the network. Their boss tells them to combine their shows for a ratings bump...or else. Neither one is interested; Russ doesn't want to waste his time on a pink princess, and Susannah has a kid and doesn't have time, remember? But there's some subtle bribery going on, and soon enough, Susannah's preparing to snowshoe up a mountain with Russ.

Susannah is insecure about a lot of things. Her post-baby body, for one, and her bedroom skills, for another. Her ex-husband really did a number on her self esteem. The problem is, Russ looks a lot like her ex. So she's

attracted to him, but figures he's the worst thing ever, and she keeps her distance.

Russ is driven by the memory of his dead brother. He's secure in his survival skills, but he's really, really distracted by the sight of Susannah in her snow pants. He even points out the bulge in his pants to the cameraman. When they share a tent for the night (Russ and Susannah, not Russ and the cameraman), he doesn't hide his attraction. Susannah doesn't believe him for a second, of course, but she does let Russ try to convince her that she's attractive and sexually responsive.

They share a sleeping bag for two nights, and it must be the world's biggest sleeping bag because, dude. The hardest part about sleeping in a sleeping bag is the size, because you can't bend your knees and you can barely roll over. (The second-hardest part about sleeping in a sleeping bag is the sound of the nylon fabric rubbing against the sleeping pad as you try to roll over without falling off the pad. The third-hardest part is everything else. Everything is the worst in a sleeping bag.) Somehow Russ and Susannah get up to some kissing and groping without cutting off their circulation or elbowing each other in the face.

The flip side of the show has Russ cooking dinner at Susannah's house, but, come on. How hard is that? I wish she'd had him fold a fitted sheet. Russ did get to play with the plot moppet — I mean Susannah's son — and change a diaper, but he wasn't nearly as challenged as Susannah was.

This is a romance novel, not an actual tv show. I had to remind myself of that several times, mainly when Russ was hanging out at Susannah's house. Who films in their actual house? And lets strangers bond with their actual child on camera? And why didn't anyone tell Susannah to hand Russ a fitted sheet?

Overall, I'd say this was a cute, occasionally spicy book. Russ seemed to choose Susannah because his manly bits were always on alert around her. He had other thoughts about her, but mostly he thought with his other head. Susannah chose Russ because he boosted her self esteem and liked her kid and was good in bed. What's not to like about that? Their romance was quick, condensed into the filming of a few tv shows, but the ending hit some emotional spots and I actually believed it.

Rating: C+

This review originally posted on Red Hot Books at: <http://redhotbooks.com/2015/01/review...>

Review copy provided by the publisher

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### **Bette Hansen says**

I love this author and I definitely loved this book! It's a great opposites attract story and I was thoroughly entertained by it.

When two reality TV show stars are paired up for a new show neither can say no to, the hilarity begins and the sparks fly. Total opposites, Russ and Susannah are out to prove the other can't cut it when put to the test.

Great story concept and one you definitely don't want to miss, I highly recommend it.

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### **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Slick's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

I really don't want to write this review, I want to stop right now and say go buy Impulse Control by Amanda Usen and read it and you'll understand why I loved this book so much. Two television personalities; one who teaches survivalist skills and one who teaches home and life skills are thrown together by a network executive determined to boost ratings for one and promising to help the other with his pet charity. Two people who seem exact opposites; a man who lives for the next adrenaline rush and a woman who wants to grow her empire and raise her son but they find that adventures come in all shapes and sizes and experiencing them together is way more exciting.

What I loved so much about this book is how normal Susannah Stone seems; she has a career she loves, a son she adores, an ex-husband who did a number on her self esteem and she suffers from all the insecurities that any woman suffers from when a relationship has gone horribly wrong and when she's gone through child birth and her body is no longer the same. However, I absolutely loved her no nonsense attitude, her spirit, and her willingness to do whatever she had to in order to continue her very successful show. While it is easy to think that it will be Susannah who has all the issues in this book, that is far from the truth because Russ "Wild Man" Donovan is just better at covering his up and running away from them but he soon finds out that when the right person catches him life can be really good.

I love the way they both quickly learn how special the other person is and that they admire each other for their ability to adapt and put their best foot forward. I love that Russ did everything in his power to make Susannah feel good about herself and her accomplishments and I love how Susannah and her son, Billy, made Russ see that he was more than the "wild man" he branded himself as.

Add sizzling hot chemistry both in the wild and in the kitchen, witty dialog, an adorable baby, and two people who discover they are more than their public personas and you have one spectacular book that you don't want to miss. Amanda Usen has done it again and I think Impulse Control may be her best book to date!

Review copy provided for an honest review.

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## **Maura says**

Susannah Stone is a divorced, single-mom, fast becoming the next Martha Stewart, while Russ Donovan is an adrenaline junkie, the Wild Man who lives for his survival show. In a bid for ratings, their producer pairs them up, combining their shows. Both are determined to come out on top, to show the other they can handle the unfamiliar environments. When they finally act on their attraction, it's difficult to tell whether it's real or an attempt to boost ratings. There are times when the connection between them feels deep and lasting, while at other times, Susannah can't tell if Russ is just playing a role. What she does know is that Russ is not the kind of guy to stick around. And Susannah is quickly learning just how strong she is and just how much she deserves a guy with staying-power.

I liked aspects of this story. I really like that Susannah makes growth and actually overcomes her insecurities. Even there at the end, she doesn't just (view spoiler). Which is really taking control. I sort of liked the by play between them, even though at times I wanted them to just clear the air already and make it absolutely clear what is and isn't a part of the TV show. And that's the part I didn't like - the TV show - particularly once it reached Susannah's home...then it felt more like an invasion of privacy. But it's the existence of the TV show that creates most of the tension, since that's what pushes them to one-up the other and what makes it impossible for them to know what the other is feeling. So I'm torn really.

I did wonder one thing. If Lance's death created so much guilt for Russ that he had to live his life for his little

brother (or at least that's what he tells himself.) He cuts off family connections, he pushes his body and his spirit to the limit more or less seeking new and more dangerous ways to kill himself all in the name of guilt. How in the world was he able to justify carrying on a no-strings sexual affair with his brother's girlfriend? On that note though, the epilogue was great. Russ's dream of Lance was truly awesome. (view spoiler).

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## **Emily (Mrs B's Books) says**

**\*\*My thanks to NetGalley and Entangled Publishing LLC, for providing me with a free copy for an honest review\*\***

Both Russ Donovan and Susannah Stone are big TV personalities who have been told by their TV station that they are being thrown together to make a new programme where each will be put in the others environment to see how they cope. Neither expect much from the other, however the chemistry between them sizzles.

Susannah is also a mum to a toddler and has come out of a marriage feeling very low about herself, but refuses to let the world see her as anything other than a survivor. She makes the best out of everything, even if it means pushing her physical boundaries a little too far.

Susannah does not want to seem weak and Russ's complete opinion about her changes over the weekend, as does Susannah's about Russ.

The media attention gets in the way and they spend time apart until the next segment has to be filmed in her home, where Susannah tries him in the domesticated setting. Russ shows a soft sweet side to himself along with some passion.

With a past that he can't let go of, Russ bails only to find that Susannah and her son occupy his mind constantly until he can no longer stand being apart any longer.

A sweet yet fast read with a few naughty sections to ramp up the heat.

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## **WTF Are You Reading? says**

It is not often that I sit down to write a review with a tear stained face and a happy heart. But after just having finished Amanda Usen's *Impulse Control*, I am more than happy to report that this wonderfully hopeful and heartfelt read has indeed transformed me into quite the blubbing mess.

The reason?

It's all in the story.

Susannah Stone is a women who seems to have it all.

1. A top rated how-to show that rivals Martha Stewart.
2. A beautiful home.

3. Financial security.
4. Great friends.
5. Beauty
6. An awesome 14-month old son.
7. Stellar intelligence.

But...

All Susannah can see is:

1. The stretchmarks that have transformed her body into a road map of motherhood.
2. The raised contours of the 6-inch Cesarean Section scar that has forever changed the landscape of her once pristine bikini line.
3. The "still there" baby weight that makes her just a little too soft in places.
4. The time that her demanding work schedule takes way from her son.
5. The fact that she was never, and will never be the woman that her now ex-husband wants.
6. Her fear of life, love, taking risks, and being hurt.

Then she meets him.

Russ "The Wild Man" Donavon, the star of an Emmy-award winning adventure show, world traveler extraordinaire, and a man who lives a life seemingly predicated upon chasing that next big risk.

When these two are thrown together for a show that combines his love for outdoor adventure with her domestic savvy; the on-camera chemistry is ratings gold.

What neither she nor he could have ever anticipated however, is that the lingering glances, furtive touches, and snarky banter that they share are all just a precursor to a much deeper and more primal bond.

Susannah's story is the story of many single mothers, (myself included) who have survived relationships that have left them a little worse for wear, and very wary of matters of love and sex.

That is not to say that she is not desirous of said entanglements; she is just not sure that she still has "the right stuff" for the job.

In other words she can't see the forest for the trees.

So when someone like Russ, who is wild, seemingly carefree, and oh soo HAWT comes along and wants her...

First instinct...Danger Will Robinson!

The magic of this story is that Russ is not trying to change or save Susannah.

Truth be told, he is the one in need of the S.O.S flares and life raft.

Instead, he is trying to get her to see herself for the beautiful, resilient, honest, loyal, resourceful, caring, and supremely SEXY "wild woman" that she is.

Because it is only after she begins to love herself that she can even hope to come into the fullness of what

true and untamed love really means.

As if things couldn't get any better for readers...we get a peek inside the psyche of the man himself!

That's right!

This tale comes equipped with a look at things from Russ's POV!

For a man who claims to be "all about the action" his thoughts are proof that still waters run mighty deep.

If you are looking for a story that will stoke the embers of your passion, inspire you to be your best you, make you smile from ear to ear, and make you proud to be a phenomenal woman. Look no further than *Impulse Control*.

You'll be glad you did!

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## **Dirty Dayna says**

5 Wildman and WildWoMan Stars

Okay I am going to be honest I did not see myself loving this as much as I did and yay me!!

Susannah's husband left her and her small child 15 months I believe alone and she decided she was going to teach the average American how to take care of a child, cook dinner and take care of the house in yoga pants and vomit. Her show is very popular her competitor on another network is a man named Russ and his show is basically a man Vs wild TV show where they drop him places and he hikes very risky mountains and all in all man things.

The show producer decides to merge the two shows for a few episodes to see if both parties are still successful. The show will be combine Wild Man and At home. To make at Home in the Wild. It throws both characters out of their comfort zones and every moment is filmed but what they don't know is the sound is recorded too.. Attractions heat up when they are stuck on a mountain with a wet sleeping bag and one suitable one

S: Id rather hike through hell than have you see me naked. --- His mouth left her neck so fast she felt the breeze.

R: Says the woman who just had her tongue down my throat.

As they fall asleep in the same sleeping bag R wakes up to being kisses by S in her sleep ..

As they chuckle..and further that kiss on to some nice little O's R is thankful he taped over the webcam so no one would know their secret ( until Russ boards the plane alone and is informed that the sound still worked on the webcam)

Even tho both character are mortified they continue to follow their hearts and flirty texts and webpage tagging.

And as they both try to best eachother they both realize they aren't pretending to like eachother for tv ratings the love that has developed is more.

But Russ needs to accept that his brother has died and he cant keep climbing mountains to remember his brother and he needs to start living for himself and for his family... and for the family he found along the way

R: Will you marry me?

S: Id rather hike through hell....then live without you. Yes!!!

\*entire audience swoon\*

## **Sheri (Tangled Up In Books) says**

Originally posted on my blog: Tangled Up In Books

*I received a copy of this book, from the publisher, in exchange for an honest review. In no way did this sway either my review or my rating!*

Have I told you lately just how much I enjoy books where the main characters don't get along/have some sort of rivalry/are enemies before hand? It always cracks me up and puts a huge smile on my face watching two people with an obvious intense chemistry fight their feelings, and each other. Just reading that blurb let me know that I had to read this book and I did end up enjoying the storyline a lot!

The characters were fun up to a point. Susannah had zero self esteem. Okay I somewhat take that back. When it came to her show At Home and cooking and being a mom she was full of confidence so I really enjoyed her in that aspect. It's just that part of her character's thing is that in her past she was really torn down from a relationship and made to feel unworthy and a failure in basically every other area of her life. And she's one of those women who will bend and reinvent herself to please others. I can't stand women like that. I always feel like shaking them and screaming have an opinion of your own!! But once I pushed past that she really was a fun character. Watching her grow and gain confidence.

Russ, well, I took issue with him as well. I loved the fact that he was very alpha male. And there have been plenty of times in which a guy who is real cocky will crack me up and make me fall for him anyway but it was too in your face with Russ. Too much of the all-the-women-from-my-past-who-screamed-my-name-never-complained for me. And yes...he did say something very similar to Susannah at one point. He's actually such a great character. Very much a Bear Grylls type of a guy, has that type of a survival reality show going on. I loved everything about him except that one thing so he still made me swoon on more than one occasion!

The plot was such a fun concept and it was executed really well. I loved the idea of someone who's very Martha Stewart like having to do a merged reality show with someone very Bear Grylls like. Seeing both Russ and Susannah try to live in each other's worlds made for lots of fun moments. Not to mention the oh so steamy ones. Holy chemistry Batman. These two have got it! I'm glad I gave this one a chance, very worth it in the end!

Thank you Entangled Publishing for allowing me the opportunity to read and review this book!

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## **sparklyunikorn says**

1/3/2017 - enda entu berani ka macha heroine nyu udah bisi anak daha o.O

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## **CassandraG says**

Russ Donovan and Susannah Stone made quite the interesting couple once they managed to hook up and be civilized and refrained from killing one another. Russ was a reality TV survivalist and the son from a wealthy family who was fighting with his demons since the loss of someone very close to him. Susannah was an up and coming reality TV star herself, but she was more at home in the kitchen than on a mountain. They each had reservations about the other. Each had their own secrets and support systems. Russ's family would also tell him he's an idiot, when the circumstances call for it and Berman to. He just might deserve his own story to, devious sly devil that he is. And she had her adorable son Billy and a few people to help her out and on the rare occasion would get to see her ex. It was a fast read and a good story with very likeable characters. So if you get a chance to pick up a copy, you won't be disappointed.

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### **Maria Rose says**

This opposites attract contemporary romance is the story of Russ and Susie, two TV personalities who have vastly different shows. Russ headlines an outdoor wilderness adventure program, while Susie has a lifestyle show dealing with all things domestic. Ostensibly to improve Susie's show ratings, their boss has decided to have each of them crossover to the other's program. Despite their differences in approaches to life, there is an instant chemistry between them that is only heightened by their close quarters. But can single mother Susie convince Russ that home is where the heart is?

I loved this story! Russ and Susie were both really fun, down to earth characters. Russ is the charming playboy, ready to take on any dare and thriving in his adventurous life - or so it seems on the surface. When confronted with Susie and her infant son, domesticated life extraordinaire, he finds himself inexplicably drawn to the idea of hearth and home, a scary proposition for him when all he's ever wanted was to push himself higher and farther in memory of his deceased brother. Susie is trying to balance her career and single motherhood after having been through a failed marriage. I really liked how her character became more adventurous and self confident as the story progressed and she was put into situations she would never have picked for herself. Equally I enjoyed how Russ dealt with things that were outside of his element, putting on his game face and making the best of situations. The sexual tension between them is high from the beginning of the story, leading to several steamy love scenes as they fight their attraction to each other. There were a lot of funny and entertaining scenes in this story as well as some emotional moments as Russ comes to grips with what he wants for his life and Susie goes after what she wants too. 5 stars for this delightful read!

Note: a copy of this story was provided by the publisher for review.

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