



## Between The Lines

*K.D. Williamson*

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## **Between The Lines** K.D. Williamson

Psychiatrist Dr. Tonya Preston lives a life of cool detachment, often sacrificing her personal needs to appease her opinionated father. She often finds it easier to deal with patients than confront her family or her own issues. When her path dramatically crosses that of irrepressible rookie police officer Haley Jordan, she's thrown out of her comfort zone. Things have come easy for Haley, who has a drama-free life filled with love and friends that Tonya finds as alluring as the irreverent woman behind the badge. An attraction simmers between them, drawing them to each other. But will it be enough when work, family and a confronting police case starts to tear at their fledgling relationship?

## **Between The Lines Details**

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Author : K.D. Williamson

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## From Reader Review Between The Lines for online ebook

### Heath says

3.5 rounded up

This was good, but it felt a little long.

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### Jem says

A few key takeaways for people who don't want to bother with long reviews:

1. If you're new to the author, KD Williamson writes Cops and Docs lesbian romances with a heavy dose of psychological drama but is a little light on the thrills
2. Even though this is the third book in the Cops and Docs series, it is a stand-alone and completely unrelated to the first two books and thus, can be read independently.
3. The romance is slow burn (very slow burn) but the sex, when they finally get to it, is very, very hot. Worth the wait? Oh yes!
4. There is a significant age gap (20 something vs 36)
6. The book touches on social issues (Katrina, crime, racism, sexism, classism) but deals mainly with family and work relationship conflicts
7. Lots of local color (New Orleans accents, food, neighborhoods, potholes)
8. The cop is packing. And it's not just her service weapon. ;)

The long version:

Haley is a rookie NOPD cop stuck with a partner with an unfortunate nickname Tang and an even worse attitude. At first, he appears to live up to his reputation as the stereotypical lazy, misogynist and borderline abusive cop, but as Haley looks beyond his 'attitude', she begins to discover a side of him that most people never see. That same knack for drawing people out led Haley to Dr. Tonya Preston. A terrifying crime brought them together. For any other cop, Tonya would be just another victim, but Haley's compassion and her natural empathy, plus a few extra...attributes, impresses the good doctor enough for her to take notice.

Tonya may be a doctor, but she has a sh\*t ton of issues going all the way back to childhood. Instead of wallowing in self-pity and victimhood though, Tonya has taken the bull by the horns and become a psychiatrist herself. Unfortunately, she's stuck with no way forward because she lives 24/7 with the same people she's having major issues with--her family. Her means of coping and protecting her psyche is a cool detachment from deep personal relationships. In other words, she's just existing. But fate has other ideas. An unexpected encounter with a young, butch cop who sees her as more than just a 'victim' sets the stage for a (okay, wouldn't it be nice to say a 'whirlwind romance', but sorry...its just the exact opposite) very slow-burn, drawn-out, beat-around-the-bush (no pun intended ;) ) romance. Will Haley be the one to draw her out of her shell? Can they overcome their wildly different tastes, lifestyles and a significant age gap? And can she do it in time before the typical romance reader starts to lose interest? ;)

When I pick up a series book, there is usually something that ties them together. A continuing storyline, some recurring characters, or maybe the same organization/setting. Especially since the second book is a direct sequel of the first. So I expected this third book to have some kind of connection, and ended up spending the first few chapters looking for Kellie or Nora or someone from the first two books to show up, even in a cameo. :( Nope. This is surprisingly a completely different book. All new city. All new characters.

The only thing they have in common is that they're also cop/doc--and they got lots of issues ;)

The thing about this author's writing is that it's always chock full of drama. All kinds of it. It's never just the romance. That's just too easy. Relationship drama is always first and foremost, and then there's friends, family and work drama, and drama that's just in the characters' heads. She works all of that into her stories, so if 'romance plus lots of drama' is your thing, you're in book heaven.

Normally I don't care how long books are, as long as I'm blissfully unaware of it...meaning I'm so immersed in the story I don't feel it. But because this is super slow burn, and whole scenes rather than descriptive words are used to establish character and relationships, plus there are subplots going on with both sides of the relationship (which felt irrelevant at the time)--these add up to a lot of pages. For comparison, the first book in the series is 91K words, the second is 73K and the third clocks in at a whopping 117K. I wouldn't say that the book contains filler because it doesn't. More like excess fat. The scenes are mostly relevant and add to the depth of the characters. Even the subplots, while tangential, will become important later on, and segue into the main plot nicely towards the end. However, and this was probably exacerbated by my limited reading time, it felt like the whole plot was advancing in real time. I don't have a problem with the slow burn romance. On the contrary, I think it's just right pace for them, as both are in uncharted waters, and Tonya, after being inside her shell for so long, needs time to feel the waters, so to speak. What did bog down the story for me were the scenes with friends and co-workers. Some felt repetitive and some were a bit too drawn out. But once the main characters step out of their comfort zones and start taking a chance on each other, the book does perk up quite a bit. There's a nice bit of conflict towards the end, though I wished it had come sooner rather than so late in the book.

As is usual for the author, we get to know her very complex main characters thoroughly, inside and out. Characterization is always her strongest suit. The excellent banter is still there, and so are the quotable quotes that I find myself highlighting throughout the book. And who can forget the spicy hot intimate scenes. It's for these reasons plus the nuanced and realistic plot resolutions that I'm giving the book a bit higher rating than I normally would if some parts of it made me feel impatient.

4.40 stars

ARC from Ylva

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### **Tiff says**

KD Williamson knows how to write a smoking hot book. Girl can get those fires started! Super hot slow burn that keeps you reading a frantic pace. This is a fire you want to jump into.

Haley Jordan is a rookie on the New Orleans police department. Right out of the academy, Haley is sentenced to work with a less than awesome, Tang ( a nickname derived from poontang is never, ever a good sign, NEVEREVER). Tang is, as you probably guessed 100% inappropriate. He makes remarks that would give an HR department a heart attack. Haley sucks it up for the greater good and focuses on being a good cop, one she knows the people of NOLA need. Haley knows that the past haunts this police force, corruption was rampant and the citizens of this great city do not trust them for a lot of good reasons. She wants to change that perception with small steps in the right direction.

Dr. Tonya Preston is a psychiatrist. While helping other people with their darkest demons, Dr. Preston has a pile of them herself. A product of a mother with severe bipolar depression and a father that just wanted to sweep it under the rug, Tonya turned to medicine to greater understand her mother's disease. Her father's

indifference to her holds her back from really spreading her wings. She has chosen to exist rather than flourish even though professionally she has been quite successful.

When Tonya meets Haley in the direst of circumstances a bond is formed. Haley comes to the doctor's rescue as she was being carjacked and possibly much worse. Haley stepped in, and yes, she helped save the day, but she also treated Tonya, with the utmost respect and kindness. This moment of dire circumstances and human kindness set up the beginnings of a connection. Upon running into each other at a local bar a short time later, Haley makes no bones about wanting to date Tonya. Tonya, however, has reservations, not because she's not undeniably attracted to the young officer, but because of how much baggage she's currently carrying. Tonya needs to be in a better place emotionally before she can begin seeing someone. Haley doesn't let this speed bump stop her, she takes Tony up on her offer of friendship and they take their time getting to know each other before taking it to the next level. Let the tension build and build.

My only quibble and it's just a teeny tiny one (I don't mean it that way :) is I personally thought too much time was spent on what Haley was packing. I felt like it was almost a character in itself. It was everywhere, all the time. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed this one. I loved how KD Williamson built up both characters and then brought them into a relationship. You felt as though you knew both of the mains individually and then as a couple, even the sub-characters were well-fleshed out. I appreciated southern slang done right. Only someone true to the south can pull it off. Perfect touch! Great story, great characters, lots of tension and it was fan the flames hot.

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## Jade says

\*ARC provided by the Publisher for an honest review\*

I am a big fan of K.D Williamson's first two books in the cops and docs series so I was really interested to see where she would go with this book and this storyline.

I really liked Hayley in this book, she was really relatable and I liked that the author didn't try to turn her into a hero type of cop, she made her real and gave her quirks which I could completely relate to (I also have meltdowns when characters I love die) and even though she didn't have a hero complex, she was still a good cop.

The storyline for Tonya was quite well done and the author did a good job of conveying her struggles and how she overcame them and I definitely look forward to seeing more of her growth.

The thing that caused me to not enjoy this book as much as I wanted to was the excessive use of the New Orleans dialect. I love an author that knows how to give their characters personality and stays true to the place and time but for me, the dialect caused me to have to slow down my reading pace and gave the first part of the book a bit of a stilted feel to it. This might just be because I am not used to that way of speaking but I do think the author could have toned it down a bit like she did in the rest of the book.

Beside the dialect, I really wish that the author had done a little more with the Tang storyline because I saw a lot of potential there which I thought was a bit wasted, as a hiccup in Hayley and Tonya's relationship.

I would definitely love to see these characters grow more if there is a continuation in their story because by the end of the book they had grown on me.

3.5 stars

## **Starsandsun18 says**

This book is full of twists and turns. I really like the first two of this series so I'm really looking forward to the 3rd installment. Although I know this is now a new story. Nora and Kelli are not related to this and not even mentioned.

Tonya has a white Mom and a black dad. Because of her color she was often bullied. Either because she was not too white or not too black. She has a younger sister named Tracy. She became the breadwinner of her family when her father lost everything. She's also a psychiatrist.

I was really feeling sorry for her especially with the way her father treated her. I can't blame why she became "hard to reach". She turned everyone out and she's living in denial.

Good thing she fixed her relationship with her sister who loves her so much.

To her father, I was really hopeful that he will come around but I guess till the end, he was still that cold father towards her especially on her sexuality.

Haley is a rookie cop and her partner, Tang is an ass towards her. I was really in love-hate relationship with Tang.

You will be really pissed off him and at the same time feel bad for him. Actually, he's one of my favorites on this book no matter what. I was really sad that he turned that way. I was expecting him to be better and I was also hoping that he'll meet Stephanie. And there's Nate and Jen, Haley's best friends.

Most of the time, I'm usually avoiding a butch/femme fiction because of the usual cocky MC. (No offense guys) Not all but most that I've encountered is usually like that. And I don't really like it. So, I was preparing myself to read something like that on this book. Surprisingly, it's pretty bearable. And It's hard not to fall in love with Haley. She didn't give up on both Tonya and Tang. And for that, it's a wow for me. She's really likable.

Character growth is one of the reason why I like this book but It's a slow burn so you have to be really patient. I almost gave up on the first quarter of the book but I'm glad I didn't.

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## **Agirlcandream says**

This third book in the Cops and Docs series features two new characters, psychiatrist Tonya Preston and the much younger butch cop, Haley Preston. There are secondary characters to love or loathe and a setting, the city of New Orleans, which influences and impacts the lives of Tonya and Haley.

Haley is a rookie cop and mad gamer who enjoys hanging out at the local bars with friends playing pool and playing the field. With Haley's good looks and butch confidence, she has no lack of interested ladies lining up to sample all that Haley has to offer. It's impossible not to love Haley and her positive outlook on life even when she is saddled with a slime-ball of a partner at work. She sees the best in everyone and is willing to go the extra distance when she finds herself attracted to the older, slightly remote but very attractive Tonya.

Tonya has spent her life putting other first. She's dealt with caring for her mother when no one else would, protecting her younger sister from harm and allowing her father to ignore his own responsibilities to his wife

and family. She has financially supported her sister's education for years and allowed her dad to move in with her after he lost his home during Hurricane Katrina. Her relationship with her father is a difficult one. Williamson touches on the strained relationship between Tonya and her father and the emotional toll it takes on Tonya's life.

What I loved about this novel is that Haley and Tonya could not be more different when they meet for the first time. Williamson proceeds to bring these two together and shows us that age, race and background influences can be overcome when two women make a love connection that cannot be ignored. I liked how their age difference was never a factor in their relationship. Tonya's personal life was almost non-existent before she meets Haley. My favourite part of this story was watching Tonya blossom and allow herself to experience all that a loving relationship has to offer.

I also appreciated that the author doesn't try to tie everything up in a neat little bow. Life is messy. Relationships, no matter how solid can be slammed by events that the couple cannot predict or control. We might all dream of fairy tale endings for our fictional couples but life is rarely that simple. No matter the adversity, I think this fictional couple has the stuff to weather whatever storms come their way.

Review copy provided by Ylva Publishing.

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## **Alexis says**

### **New characters, same great writing!**

Book 3 of the "Cops and Docs" series by KD Williamson introduces up to two brand new characters in New Orleans. This time it's easygoing police officer Haley Jordan and emotionally closed off psychiatrist Dr. Tonya Preston.

The synopsis speaks for itself so I'll skip summarizing the whole story.

I wasn't expecting to get as caught up in the story as I had but sure enough I had a hard time putting it down for the night. The plot was very engaging and the pacing was also good aside from a few pages that I skimmed because I really didn't care for the description of gaming and watching certain tv shows.

The main characters themselves were a lot of fun to get to know and experience their growth throughout the book and their chemistry was great. As for the secondary characters, well those I had a love-hate relationship with but they really flushed out the story lines. All in all this was a good read and I hope the author adds more books to this series.

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## **Willow says**

I have ended this book with a mix feeling between like and meh.

Haley is a rookie cop who struggles with her job partner. Then one day, while being off duty help Tonya in a critical situation. They feel attraction instantly but Tonya refuses to get involved with anyone because of her family situation.

I liked Haley's character. I found her funny, perky and with the perfect personality. Tonya's not so much, there were times where I thought that all of her family situation were a little forced maybe. Because I don't

think anyone real will have hold onto them that much after all they make her go through. I liked the chemistry they had and all of the be not to be, etc.

But for me the book should have just been their story. Tonya's struggles to open up to Hailey. Her changed. The change she made in Haley's life too. The added drama in the end, with all the situation with Tang was forced. Like there has to be drama or it wouldn't work the book. For me the only drama this book needed was what i said before.

Overall 3.5 stars.

\*An ARC was given to me from YLVA for a honest review.

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### **Gaby LezReviewBooks says**

This is the third book in the author's series Cops and Docs. The characters are new so it can be read as a stand alone novel. Written from the point of view of both main characters, the plot presents the story of rookie butch cop Haley and psychiatrist femme Tonya who meet in dire circumstances which triggers a series of events that include their romantic involvement. However, there is more to this book than the romance, there is a good amount of personal introspection, family problems, identity struggles and trust issues. Throughout the book, the main characters explore their own conflicts as well as their slow burn relationship. Their relationship dynamic is clearly butch-femme, very stereotypical. It is not my favourite in terms of lesbian romances but the author pulls it well. The secondary characters support the story with realism in the main plot and subplots.

Overall, a good read if you are looking for a butch-femme romance with some personal angst. 4 stars.

ARC provided by the publisher and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

See all my reviews at  
[www.lezreviewbooks.com](http://www.lezreviewbooks.com)

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### **Diane Wallace says**

Very impress, conflict helps to create interest, and when there's interest the story strays far away from the pits of boredom..example being one of the main leading ladies having so many issues with her parents in the past and present but still supporting her father 100% no matter what. This book was so well written, it has depth, incredible chemistry, good side story and lots of added family drama to make it even better when comes to energy and fire..do enjoy the characterization of both main/leads because the author pursuit each's best side like their talent and educational gifts etc Lots of sweet moments with friends and family but then there were tragedy also but before you can complete a sentence the book is finished with an awesome ending i think to this very nice series which makes me wonder if there is another book in this continuing storyline ...my thing is everyone should go out and get this very well written series because IT'S REALLY GOOD

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## Mishell Henderson says

This is my first time doing an ARC and posting a review on goodreads. Wow! Okay where do I start here? I think some people will really get this book and some won't. It is a slow burn first of all which I didn't mind at all. It was a courtship in a way and a delight to read Tonya and Haley get to know each other. It was a natural and very mature progression that I'm sure some people may not have patience with, but it was like getting to know real people and watching them fall in love. They talk on the phone, they date, they meet the friends and so on. The romance was sweet and HOT and I do mean hot. She builds that tension slowly so that when it gets there it's on fire. That's one of the things I really loved.

The other thing was the characters. You get to know them first, separately. KD went deep and without that I don't think I would've liked Tonya but the more I read about her the more I understood. The more I wanted to know. She's strong and caught between doing her duty in taking care of her family and making her own path. Her father is a trip but being a lesbian in the black community especially and dealing with family isn't always easy. Haley is a delight from the start she likes her cereal and her women drama free. She's funny, sarcastic and has a huge heart that's easily seen with her friends, Tonya and even her partner. You get a peek into both Tonya and Haley's career. I don't know how she does it but KD makes these characters fly off the page. The dialogue, the tension, the humor, the sex and the little drama just blends all together very nicely. Even Haley's partner Tang was fleshed out and the lead up to their conflict was realistic and built nicely. It's a long book but the writing style makes things flow. This is book 3 but it seems like a stand alone story but if the other two are as good as this one. I definitely will be giving them a look. This was a very good book and addictive as well.

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## Lex Kent says

While this is the third book in the series, the characters are completely new. This can be read on its own without reading the first two books. While I didn't like this as much as *Blurred Lines*, I thought it was a good read and I enjoyed it.

The two main new characters are Tonya, a psychiatrist, and Haley a rookie cop. There is a bit of an age gap, but I liked it and thought it worked. Haley is young, but after she mentioned watching *Buffy*, *Firefly*, and *Game of Thrones*, she won me over. This book is a bit like opposites attract, and it worked really well. The chemistry and connection the characters have is obvious. And the sex scenes are good and steamy like Williamson always writes.

This is a very slow burn romance, which I like. I'm not big on insta-love. My one complaint is I think the book was too long. Maybe 50 less pages and it would have been perfect, just a bit too much time with not much going on. Luckily the book would pick up again and I would be back into the story.

I thought the background characters were well done. From friends who are funny and likeable, to Tonya's father who was pretty horrible, they all added to the story and we not throwaways.

I like the way Williamson writes. She writes likeable characters, with good stories. And she really knows how to show readers the romantic connection the main characters have. I think romance fans will enjoy this book.

*An ARC was given to me by YLVA, for a honest review.*

## **CLo says**

### **It had 5 stars just cause of chapter 2**

Ok so I've read all the books in the series and i think i like this one the best all because of Chapter 2. And for the record that was my same reaction to the ending of Mass Effect 3...all those freaking hours just to see my femShep...urgh...anyway. I also really liked it cause Haley was a geek with the tshirts and the video games and the tv shows and all. I felt Tonya and her fit well together and their chemistry was great. Their friends added to their dynamic and the little sour spot at toward the end was pretty decent too. Regardless, I enjoyed it and it made me smile. Fans of the series will like it even if it based on two new characters.

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## **Netty says**

This was just what I needed to get me out my reading funk, a nice slow burn relationship between a psychiatrist and a cop, the chemistry between the pair was off the chart and the sex was just HOT, all the surrounding characters were all great and frustrating in their own way but I absolutely hated Tonya's father. My only negative was I feel this story could have been told with less pages but this is my personal preference anyway.

From now on I think I can safely say when I pick up a book that's written by this author then i'm guaranteed a good read. So If your gonna read this book then I recommend you have the time to read it in one sitting because it's bloody addictive!

ARC provided by Ylva Publishing in exchange for an honest review

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## **lov2laf says**

I really liked this read which surprised me.

I was NOT a fan of the second book in this series, "Crossing Lines". However, "Between the Lines" is a complete stand alone and veered into a different style than the previous book and I'm glad for it. You definitely don't need to read books one or two in the series before getting to this one.

The story focuses on Haley, a young and new cop previously known to be a player, and Tonya, a psychiatrist in her thirties that keeps others at a distance. The author did a good job of establishing their characters and the whole book centers on their romance and evolution both personally and with each other. Developments were believable all around and we get a veeeery slow burn when it came to the romance.

A big theme in the book is family and Williamson did a fantastic job with all of the secondary characters and conflicts, too. It was not a predictable read to me.

For those that may be interested, the story takes place in New Orleans and the city is a character, too.

This book had a lot of elements I pine for: a couple that communicates, a couple that doesn't have conflicts with each other but work together to overcome obstacles outside of their relationship, time with the couple AFTER they get together, slow burn, good flirting, steamy scenes, age gap romance, and ethnic diversity.

My only quibble is that the story did start to feel long.

Well worth a read.

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