



A Short Romance

SUSAN HATLER

A Twist of Date

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A Twist of Date Susan Hatler
(Better Date than Never, Book #5)

Melanie Porter has been dumped—again. When others accuse her of “being in love with being in love,” she agrees to let her best friend, Patti, step in and direct her dating life.

The Boyfriend Bylaws

Rule #1: No giving out your phone number until approved to do so.

Rule #2: Must obtain permission to accept any date invitation.

Rule #3: No bringing up marriage, kids or the future.

Rule #4: No going to first base without authorization.

Amended Rule #4: No going to first base, or any other base, without authorization.

Rule #5: No scribbling your first name with some guy’s last name. Ever.

Rule #6: New rules may be added as Patti Hartley deems necessary.

Memorize it, live by it, and happy dating!

A Twist of Date Details

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From Reader Review A Twist of Date for online ebook

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

Originally published awhile ago as The Boyfriend Bylaws, this romantic novella has been re-titled to fit into the "better date than never" series and I'm so happy to see it there. I'm super lucky that Susan has always been so generous to gift me copies of her books for review. I just love them and I think she is amazing too.

I am going to re-post my original review of this book because although there were some adjustments made for the re-release of this novella, my review still stands. :) (3.5 stars)

I really liked this book with a slight catch which I will explain later. :)

Hello? Set in Sacramento? My growing up stomping grounds... How could I not appreciate that? The characters were fun. The story moved along quickly and ended all too soon in my opinion. I would sure like to see a longer version of this. I think the employees being caught in the janitorial closet was very funny and I loved the word of the day idea. So much fun. The conversations felt natural and easy. Loved the happily ever after ending.

My conservative reader side needs to mention (especially to all my squeaky clean reader friends) that while there was no explicit sex scenes, there was talk of having been there and going there. Buying lingerie, having the wrong kind of underwear on for pre-sex play... Characters in the book have implied sex, not detailed.

Susan Hatler has a fun way of writing that I really enjoyed. My thanks to her for letting me read her book. And my congratulations. :)

A Klue says

(This review is based on ARC e-book provided via NetGalley in exchange for an unbiased opinion.)

After reading Driven to Date by Susan Halton, I was pleased to be offered an ARC e-book of Twist of Date via NetGalley in exchange for an unbiased opinion. What can I say other than this author has done it again. This short, light-hearted, humorous romance, neatly wraps up with a HEA for the main couple, without feeling rushed. Perfect for those who want to read a clean romance but do not want to invest a lot of time. As part of her "Better Date Than Never" series, this is a stand-a-lone with likeable supporting characters from her other books. Though I wasn't a fan of Erika for lying to Melanie and being competitive towards her, while also being portrayed as a friend, Erika did redeem herself at the end. The only thing that felt unrealistic was Melanie's car being used as a wager to motivate her to follow Patti's rules. It seemed over the top to consider giving your car away for not following a made-up list of dating rules, especially since Melanie barely made enough to pay her rent.

Browsing on Amazon, I just noticed there are some great deals on boxed sets of this 10 book series. Since pricing can change daily, I won't quote specifics but recommend you check into them, as well.

Christina says

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Mel's in love with being in love and jumps into a relationship before you can even say the word of the day. Brad, Paul, Mike, Marcus, her latest victim Nick, you'd think she'd get a clue already! When Patti offers to help her by setting up the Boyfriend Bylaws, Mel hands over her car Betty and is willing to follow Patti's rules to the dot in order to find the One.

I was very excited to pick up another Better Date than Never book by Susan Hatler and to dive into another great romance. However I was disappointed with this one. The chemistry just wasn't there for me and the characters were quite annoying especially Mel - she's too dumb and shallow. I thought the idea of the Boyfriend Bylaws was great fun and couldn't wait to see the trouble Mel would get up to. I think there was some wasted potential there because they were rarely referred to, except maybe one rule. I would've liked more Matt. I don't even know who he is by the end. The conclusion with Patti's permission was predictable but cute.

Beatriz says

Un libro insulto y aburrido... lo único bueno es que es extremadamente corto por lo que el tiempo perdido no duele tanto. Unos personajes patéticos, partiendo por el personaje principal, Melanie, que ni siquiera roza un nivel de mediana simpatía, a diferencia de otros de esta serie. Realmente una pérdida de tiempo.

Por favor, de verdad, ni lo consideren. No malgasten su valioso tiempo lector.

C.P. Cabaniss says

I received this novel through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

This book fell very short of the mark for me. I've really enjoyed the other stories I've read in this series, but this one felt very different to me. The storyline itself had potential, but I never felt that it was reached.

Melanie was not a character that I could relate with easily. She was very immature and often seemed more like a teenager than a 27 year old woman. There were moments where I enjoyed her, but she was too silly for me to ever really enjoy. She was bouncing from relationship to relationship in search of love, but then was bothered when she didn't think men wanted to commit. I felt she was somewhat hypocritical in her views because even though she was never with more than one man at a time, she never gave herself time to consider if she really wanted to be with them before expecting them to want to make a big commitment to her.

Matt, the main guy in this story was likable, but you never really got to see much of him. There was some flirting between the characters and you saw some of his sweet side, but you never really got to know him. Other than what he was studying in school he was a mystery. I would have liked more development with his character instead of so much focus on Melanie running from him because she thought he was a player.

Overall this was just an ok read for me. It wasn't particularly enjoyable but I didn't completely dislike it either. It was just fell short of the expectations I had based on my experience with this series and author previously.

Diane Driscoll says

I received the Audible of "A Twist of Date" by Susan Hatler and Narrated by Martha Lee. I enjoyed the narration by Martha Lee, she made it easy to follow along and used differentiated tones for each of the characters. The author Susan Hatler did an amazing job with this story, it had me laughing at the "Boyfriend Bylaws" and Melanie character struggling with both dating and the boyfriend bylaws. Melanie's story is relatable for some of us ladies as we love falling in love and sometimes miss the signs that the one we are falling in love with is not on the same page meaning...they are either just getting to know you phase or is only going out with you to have fun but nothing more. The author captures the complex actions and feeling that go with dating, especially for those of us who are in love with being in love and getting hurt over and over again.

Crazy for Books (Stephanie) says

Funny and sweet!

Katie W says

Update I just read this one again and had a few more thoughts:

Melanie is always being dumped and when her BFF, Patti, steps in to help, it's not a pretty picture. Patti comes up with some rules that's going to make dating a whole lot harder now and the price? Melanie's new car. If she doesn't follow the rules, Patti gets the car.

Melanie works at a gym and I love the easy banter the employees have with one another. They have a word of the day, joke around, and have a good time. Matt is a great guy and attractive to boot, but he's a player. Isn't he? I enjoyed watching Melanie learn to focus on what's really important, instead of coming off as completely desperate and easy.

This story has quite a bit of innuendo. I didn't find anything over-the-top inappropriate, but Melanie is a much morally loose character and as I mentioned before, willing to do whatever it takes to keep a man (desperate/easy).

(9/13)I was so confused!! I downloaded this when it was free and never bothered to read the description, since I enjoy the stories Ms. Hatler writes. I kept thinking, "I've read this before--I know I have." but when I looked on my goodreads shelf, I hadn't. I thought maybe I read it and forgot to review it, but then, on my second check, I noticed that it mentioned The Boyfriend Bylaws. Yes, it's been updated and released under a new title. That made me feel so much better!! I seriously thought I was going crazy.

That said, I really enjoyed this short little story. Melanie has bad luck with men and jumps into a

"relationship" at every chance, only to find herself burned. Her good friend and roommate comes up with some rules to help her find a healthy relationship and what she discovers surprises even her.

The characters weren't super developed, but the reader gets a feel for who they are and their personalities, knowing that it's a novella. I loved some of the funny situations Mel found herself in--very giggle-worthy.

Content: technically clean, but brief references to intimate things and situations.

MsChris1161 says

I really enjoyed reading a Twist of Date. It's a lovely balance of humor, romance, realism, friendship, family issues, and love. The main characters have worked together at a gym for awhile as good friends. Matt has deeper feelings for Melanie but can't get her to take him serious. Melanie is too busy looking for love in all the wrong places to give Matt a chance. But after too many bad choices her best friend and roommate, Patti, convinces Mel to live by a set of "boyfriend bylaws" for dating designed to force Melanie into thinking before dating. This book was funny (the closet scene is hilarious), heartwarming, and ends with more than one kind of HEA for sweet Melanie.

Dali says

2.5 stars

Mel has trust issues. As in she's completely obsessed with finding The One guy who will commit to her forever. In other words she's **"In love with being in love."**

And while trying to find this elusive Mr. Right she's lost track of what's important, which is a real and true relationship that's standing daily in front of her in the hunky and smart Matt.

Frustrated and clueless as to how to solve her problem, she commits to a wild agreement with her roommate and best friend. Enter Betty the car and the Boyfriend Bylaws.

I found for free on iBooks, but also found I could easily put the book down mostly because I prefer a bit more depth to the characters and I favor strong, independent and sharp women.

So if you're looking for short and cute this is a good book for you.

?????? ♥Team Magnus Damora FOREVER♥ says

Melanie Porter is unlucky in love; she's been dumped too many times for her to really believe in The One. She is looking for stability and love but maybe she's looking in the wrong places and her One True Love is right in front of her.

Melanie's story is kind of cliche. She's a girl who looked in the wrong places too much to see the right one. Or too scared to actually pursue the right guy in the right and rational way. She's quickly jumps into commitment mode with guys she dates. However, these things are only getting her dumped 'coz nothing

scarier than throwing C-word in a guy's face who just got together.

Mel and Matt who have known each other since childhood have been dancing around each other for so long that it gets harder to not get serious by the time they start looking for the same thing in relationships. He's very smart guy and very sweet and supportive of Mel. Other than that, I wish there was more about him and his family and his and Mel's childhood history. That why I think this one lacked in depth compared to other stories in the series.

Claire Taylor says

Susan Hatler
A Twist of Date
Better Date than Never #5

Originally this was marketed as The Boyfriend Bylaws, and I loved it then. Now it's where it belongs in the Better Date than Never series, and as it's been revamped it deserved a re-read, right?

I love the Boyfriend Bylaws and the line "being in love with being in love", which is something I'm sure every girl can relate to. Melanie is a lucky girl to have a friend like Patti that cares so much, or she's just had enough of Melanie moping when it all goes wrong, but either way it's a comical concept when she decides to take over Melanie's love life. The rules are simple, but a little harder to accept in real life where Melanie is used to jumping in with both feet, but leads to some interesting justification – a lunch date with your boss isn't really a date, it's a working lunch. Obviously it wouldn't be a romance without the happily ever after and a cute guy that makes her heart stop, and Matt is everything she could ever ask for (even if she isn't willing to admit it). Full of humour, romance and a gentle roller coaster ride of emotions, it's a feel good read that I will definitely be reading again.

Tifferz says

I like this version of The Boyfriend Bylaws by Susan Hatler much better than the first. She has revised it to include friends from the previous four books (Like Kristen and Ethan from book four) and it felt more complete.

I was rooting for Mel from the start. She really is obsessed with being in love and finding "The One". Mel's roommate and best friend has stepped in, after so many guys that are wrong for Mel. That is what friends do. They help you. Patti comes up with The Boyfriend By Laws. It is very entertaining to watch Mel try to find a loop hole to the rules. I loved watching Mel figure out and find her Mr. Right!

One of my favorite scenes is when Mel, Erica, Matt and Steve are in the janitors closet and Nick find them. I found that very funny and awkward for all involved.

I have to say I totally loved the ending! I was left with a huge smile on my face. Knowing Mel does find her happily ever after with "The One".

I look forward to the next book in this delightful series. If you enjoy a romance with a dose of humor and some sticky situations grab this book. I highly recommend it! I feel you can never go wrong with a book by Ms. Hatler!

Just fyi~ This does not contain any sex or swearing! But does contain sexual reference.
This book also stands alone nicely!

Kathy says

I obtained this book for free to review it. It's definitely more a young adult romance. Sweet, touching and a nice quick, easy read. I would recommend it for young adults. The heroine, Melanie's mother left her and her father when she was little so she fears a man leaving her. She also fears becoming like her mother so wants to commit to every guy she likes and hardly knows. As her friends say, she's in love with the feeling of being in love. When her roommate, Patti, makes her follow the Boyfriend Bylaws, it helps Melanie to not jump at dating any guy and leads her towards the man she really loves. Matt was cute and so was Melanie, but I would have preferred a deeper look into the characters and story but for a quick read, it was fun, gripping and entertaining.

Anna Marie says

Okay, so first, this was *SHORT*. If I'd bought it, I would've been ticked. Since I didn't, it's no big.

Second, by now the WORLD knows I hate authors using the word 'yummy'. This one? Used 'yumzi'. So many times that I was all but vomiting my way thru the book. Minus one star.

Third, what is WITH the shallow, brainless, useless heroines? I swear, if that's what's out there, we need a major pandemic to wipe them off the earth. ((With my luck, I'd be the one to die.)) I hate stupid women. This heroine was a stupid, stoOpid one, too. Minus another star.

BUT. Having said, the roommate was great. The hero was great. The pace of the book (short as it was) was great. The fitness team squeezed in a mop closet was great. It was cute. It was fun. It had a happy ending. Should've been twice as long as it was but... hey, it was free. And light-hearted, if you can get past the yumzi moronic heroine. ((I can't believe I'm saying these things...))
