



Her Best Shot

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With college graduation looming, three childhood friends vow to make spring break their last blast of pure fun. But at least one of them didn't count on such incredible heat...

Layla Sharpe is definitely more math ninja than bikini babe, and her future has been calculated with razor precision. Convinced to let loose over spring break, Layla is finally ready to party—until her car breaks down halfway to her destination, leaving her stranded in Georgia with a mouthwateringly hot pool shark. She knows more than enough about angles to learn the game, but this week she wants him to appreciate her curves...

Phin Marks has never met a girl like Layla. She's more Star Wars geek than seductress, and when he offers her a place to stay while her car is in the shop, he's counting on the attraction between them to set the nights ablaze, no strings attached. But every moment he spends with Layla makes it harder to let her go. Can he persuade her to gamble in the most dangerous way possible...on forever?

35,000 Words

Her Best Shot Details

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Author : Shannyn Schroeder

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From Reader Review Her Best Shot for online ebook

Linda ♥? Sassy, Classy && a Little Bit of Nasty says

Keertana says

Rating: 2.5 Stars

Her Best Shot certainly delivers when it comes to chemistry but there were a few too many gaping holes in this story for me to become entirely invested. Perhaps, as a full-length novel, *Her Best Shot* would come to life, adding in additional scenes where we get to see these characters grow and come alive on their own without one another's presence, but as a novella *Her Best Shot* leaves much to be desired.

Vickie* says**

*netgalley

I thought this book was a cute short read.

Layla and Phin met through a pool game, Phin offered his place to stay at when her car broke down, and she has no where else to go.

Their relationship is nothing to be emotional about because it's all casual... you know for now.

This angst level isn't high which is alright, I totally have nothing against no-angst reads.

Terri says

Review also found at <http://kristineandterri.blogspot.ca/2014/09/her-best-shot.html>...

3.5 stars

I received an advanced copy of this book from the publisher eKensington via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. The expected publication date is September 29th 2014.

This was a short read with only 130 pages in which to put a steamy plot in to play. For those who are looking for a sexy bedroom read with a little bit of plot and no time commitment this would be an ideal read.

I think the focus of this story is the physical chemistry and subsequent succumbing to the attraction. With very little lead up to the bedroom scenes this story is not meant for anything deeper than pure entertainment.

Luckily this is as advertised and therefore expectations are set from the get go.

I only have two minor complaints about the story. The first is superficial. I could not associate Phin with the dream boat he was supposed to be due to the fact that he had long hair. It may just be a personal preference but I associate men with long hair with the 1990's and that era is behind us. Very few men can pull the look off and therefore I had difficulty visualizing him. The second was the ending. It seemed to come very quickly for me and I was left thinking...oh, its over.

On the positive end I like the fact that for the most part Layla was a strong female character. She went after what she wanted and she was not a pushover. It is not the typical behavior of someone who is supposed to be a "nerd". The chemistry worked between Layla and Phin and the fact that Phin was an ex gypsy added an original element.

If you are looking for a sexy read with no commitment then this is the story for you.

Alexa Nichole Demers says

Novellas are becoming more and more popular lately. It takes some serious talent to be able to write a novella and finish the story without it being a part of a serial. Granted this story is a part of a serial but each novella is from a different character's POV. This novella was Layla's story. The author was able to start the story and make it progress and end in a way that I was not looking for more from the story. That takes talent.

I was really happy with this story. Layla and Phin both had problems and flaws that they had to work through to get to the life that would make them truly happy in the end. Layla is a student that is starting to feel suffocated by the life she always envisioned for herself. When she meets Phin she thinks about throwing it all away. Phin left his gypsy family so that he can set down roots. He comes up with excuses to not set them down until he meets Layla.

This story was sweet. There wasn't a lot of drama and I liked added element Pool brought to the story. The characters were developed well. The story flowed and came to a conclusion that you could be happy with. I will definitely be reading the other character's books.

You can read more of my reviews [here....](#)

RJ says

This story is about Layla and Phin.

Layla has just landed her dream job and her friend suggests one last *hurrah* before they get sucked into jobs and responsibilities. So they decide to head over to South Padre Island, Texas for spring break.

So now I'm expecting

But instead I got

(Not that I'm complaining.) (Much.)

But life doesn't go as planned for Layla and her car breaks down before ever reaching Texas. And what's a girl in her position to do? Go to the bar and shitfaced, duh.

Phin is the local mechanic/pool shark. We meet him playing pool in a bar and he spots Layla watching him and challenges her to a game.

To add insult to injury, Layla's wallet gets stolen and her car is no where near a simple fix. And Phin, being the night in shining armor (view spoiler), offers Layla his couch to crash on.

From there we learn more about Phin and his background and watch these two people who thought they were in a simple fun fling develop emotions. They come from two different worlds, temporarily in each other lives, how will they ever sustain any kind of relationship?

My Thoughts:

- I wasn't too keen on the writing style. It felt kind of bland. Their first kiss was just so boring and felt emotionless.

- I liked that Layla wasn't a simpering virgin. Thank god for that! She went after what she wanted.

- **But I didn't like the ending.** Layla & Phin were so ridiculous! (view spoiler)

- And I would've liked an epilogue!

Overall, I enjoyed the book (besides the ending). It was low-angst and those type of books are my favorite. Will be coming back to check out what happens to her two girlfriends.

ARC provided via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Risa says

3.5 Stars....

This was the first in the Hot & Nerdy novella series and it wasn't bad. For a novella all points were covered and unrushed, and as far as romances go this was a good choice.

It was a quick read, with humor, love and lusty scenes, the drama was minimal, and the ending was slightly ambiguous but I think it's an implied HEA which works for the short story.

Spring break fantasy, girls car breaks down, girl stranded, sexy tall dark and handsome to the rescue. Curve ball, he's a run-away Gypsy! Intriguing right? And they play pool! Worth a read.

♥Rachel♥ says

3.5 Stars

I'm a big fan of the novella done right because as a romance junkie it provides me a quick fix. But novellas can be tricky because the author has a short amount of time to capture the reader's heart and mind, and do it successfully. **Her Best Shot** accomplished that in just 130 pages!

Layla is on her way to spring break to celebrate landing a job and finishing school. When her car breaks down in a small Atlanta town her plans are derailed. Passing the time while she waits to get the verdict on her car, she goes into a bar for a drink. Immediately Layla's drawn to a pool player as he wins game after game, dazzling her with his talent as well as his looks.

Phin is mesmerized by the smart, determined and super sexy, Layla. They connect so well and have an amazing time together, and instead of looking at pool as a way to earn some extra cash, he truly has fun playing the game with Layla. At the bar they dance around their attraction with flirty glances, intentional brushes, and then a searing kiss, won by a bet, ignites their fiery attraction. When all of Layla's belongings are stolen Phin offers up his place as a crash pad until she gets everything sorted. Being alone, in close quarters they have nothing holding them back and they give in to the lust that had been building.

She dug her fingers into his shoulder. "What are you doing?"
"Taking you to bed."

Yes, please!

Feeling scared at the prospect of finishing school and being pinned in by a 9 to 5 job, Layla is enticed to leave it all for this sexy pool player. His carefree life appeals to her, he seems to take jobs at wherever he chases down the next pool tournament and this suddenly sounds like an attractive option to Layla. Little does she know that Phin left his family and Gypsy way of life, drifting and conning, for everything Layla is now trying to run from. He's been saving his money to settle down somewhere permanent. Panic clouds Phin's judgment; he doesn't want Layla to regret her spur of the moment choice. Can these two get on the same page and make more of their brief time and intense physical and emotional connection?

I was definitely rooting for Layla and Phin's romance in spite of them just meeting and falling in such a short time. I felt they had a real connection that could be built on and survive for the long haul, enough for a HEA. I was a little disappointed with Phin over his reaction to Layla's plans, but I quickly got over it; especially because it forced Layla to face her future instead of throwing all her education and hard work away. Yes, he went about things a bit stupidly but I admired his determination to fix things and win Layla's heart for good.

If you're in the mood for a short, HOT, and fulfilling romance **Her Best Shot** is the book for you. I was pleasantly surprised to find out this is a series with the next book focusing on one of Layla's college friends,

Charlie in Her Perfect Game.

A copy was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Review also posted on The Readers Den.

Nancy♥The♥Bookaholic says

~~2.5-2.75 HEARTS~~

This is a sweet, no over-the-top drama read. It was short & quick and can be read in one sitting. It was just okay for me. Just meh. The character's didn't leave a big impression on me. It's the kind of book you read and then as soon as you finish you forget about it.

The story is about Layla Sharpe, a college student from Boston that has just received exciting news of a job offer. Felicity, Layla's BFF proposes to celebrate spring break in South Padre Island to celebrate Layla's job offer and to spend one last spring break together before they go off into the real world. So Layla agrees and hops into her car and drives cross-country on a road trip. When she pulls into Atlanta everything went to hell. Her car breaks down. So to drown her sorrows in some beer she decides to go to the bar down the street. It was a dive, but it wasn't her kind of crowd. She finds a few men playing pool at the back of the bar. She notices one man stood out amongst the others. While watching him take down player after player she comes to the conclusion that he's a pool hustler.

Phin used to be a gypsy but wanted to get far away from that life so he left his family and went to live a life of no crime and crazy rules. He doesn't stay in one place more than a few months. Phin notices Layla the moment she enters the room. One look at Layla and he saw "trouble" written all over her and Phin has managed to avoid trouble for a very long time. She was different, and that alone caught his attention. He offers to give her some pool lessons in exchange for a beer. He soon finds out about her car troubles and one thing leads to another and he offers his couch until her car gets fixed.

You can guess where it leads from there. Pretty much predictable to me.

Jen says

Read the full review on Bookaholics Not-So-Anonymous.

Her Best Shot is the first novella in the Hot & Nerdy new adult (NA) romance series, which is about three best friends who are all in their final year of college and happen to be beautiful and nerdy, from Shannyn Schroeder. Book one is about Layla Sharpe and Phin Marks and while Layla has a plan for her future, being with the former gypsy that is Phin makes her crave for more spontaneity and adventure. On the other hand, Phin has a plan of his own, but while he may have wanted to get away from his gypsy life, he still is somewhat of a wanderer, unable to really plant roots in one place and have a more stable lifestyle.

This was short and interesting, but I would have wanted a bit more character development. There was also a couple of points in the story that felt rushed, especially at the end. By the time I write this review, I will have finished all three books in this first set of Hot & Nerdy books, and they all appear to carry a similar trend of having happy-for-now endings, which I can more than appreciate because the main characters are still in their early twenties and things can certainly change. For a series starter, we get teeny tiny glimpses at Layla's best friends but still enough to make one mildly curious. I'm giving Her Best Shot three stars. ♥

Crystal says

I received an arc in return for a honest review.

Wow... Her Best Shot was so not what I was expecting. From the synopsis, I thought it would just be story of a socially inept "nerdy" girl meeting the hot bad boy. Her Best Shot was that and a whole lot more packed into the perfect little novella. It definitely wasn't like most novellas that leave me wanting more. Nope, this one was just the right length. I did have a little trouble getting into the story, but I'm 99.9% sure that was because of the slump monster that has been looming in the background, waiting to pounce at a moment's notice. Enough about him, let's get back to the book. I adored this novella. We all went through a period of time right before college graduation where we had no freaking clue what was next. Layla and her friends are struggling through that same moment and they all hope that Spring Break will give them one last time to breathe. Layla has a little car trouble on her way to Texas and just happens to meet Phin, a pool shark extraordinaire. Their romance starts off hot and heavy before quickly turning into something deeper that leaves both of them wanting more. While Layla and Phin were pretty much polar opposites, they worked well together. He's the confident wanderer. She's the smart girl with her future mapped out. Together, they helped each other overcome obstacles that stood in their way. I loved that by the end of the novella, they broke free and created their own paths towards a future of happiness.

Her Best Shot was the second book I've read from Shannyn Schroeder. Shannyn's writing is fun and quirky. Her characters are lovably strong, but with a little flaw. I tend to fall in love with their imperfections. With Layla and Phin, I liked how different they were. Not from each other, but how different they were compared to other New Adult characters I've met so far. Thank you, Shannyn! Layla and her friends are people I wish I met in college. And I can't wait to see just how nerdy Layla's friends truly are.

Dali says

A light, cute, fun and sexy read.

Layla Sharpe is dreading the real world enough to give her panic attacks. But a dream job offer and a spring

break getaway with her two bestest friends is enough to cheer any girl. Especially one who is more nerdy than lively. Her excitement though is short-lived when her car leaves her stuck halfway to her friends with sexy con artist whose freedom to go as he please and do as he wants is a sharp contrast to the prospect of having a 9-5 job. Can she convince him to take her on his adventurous life?

For the past few years, Phin Marks has lead a nomad life relying on his pool knowledge to plan to settle down and begin his life. When the sassy geek accepts his offer to stay at his place while her car is repaired he only assumed they'd have a few days of fun. But the longer he spends his time with her the more natural and deeper their connection becomes. Knowing he doesn't have anything to offer her and that she has her future planned out, can he let her go or will he convince her to take a chance on them?

This was a fun and enjoyable novella with two very likeable main characters. Phin's bad boyish persona is a good compliment to Layla's nerdyness. Their back and forth flintiness and chemistry feels natural and made me want to root for them despite the short time they spend together.

Although I was disappointed in Layla for not facing her fears and future head on and especially by Phin's way of handling this, I did like that it made her confront herself and not waste away her education. And I really liked how Phin fought for them.

I think that due to its light nature and length the character development was also light with a somewhat rushed ending. But the easy flow of this first book and the peek I got from Layla's best friends made me curious to read their stories as well.

Her Best Show is book #1 in the Hot and Nerdy trilogy by Shannyn Shroeder. It is told from the heroine's point of view and has a happy ending. So if you're looking for a short and hot new adult romance this a novella for you.

3.5 nerdy stars

Amazon -> <http://amzn.to/1Oxog2s>

Author's pinterest board -> <https://www.pinterest.com/seschroeder...>

* I was given an ARC of this book courtesy of the author via Tasty Book Tours PR. The excerpts are from that copy. *

More reviews * Stalk us on FaceBook * As well as Twitter * Pinterest Board for Book Teasers

Kristin says

I totally read this! I totally loved it! I never marked that I read it so I'll just have to read it again before I write my full review - aw shucks ;)

I will say that Ms. Schroeder's stories are awesome b/c they are about very unique, individual girls with a

strong sense of who they are (geeky?) and guys who manage to see past that. Plus they are short reads - I love and needs those quite often!!

Full Review soon!

Claire Robinson says

3 - Maths Geeks Know All the Angles. Stars.

Her Best Shot was a quick, low drama easy to read novella, and first in Shannyn Shroeder's *Hot & Nerdy* series.

Layla breaks down on her way to Texas for spring break with her friends, and ends up stuck in Atlanta, waiting for her car to be repaired. Phin, who she bumps into in a bar, and who then turns out to be working at the garage her car is being fixed at, offers her his sofa for a few nights, after her purse is stolen, she accepts and things move on from there at a pretty quick pace.

"I've never kissed a guy with hair longer than mine."

What then follows is a few days of playing pool, sex and mulling over their respective futures.

I thought this novella was ok... it didn't blow me away but it was perfect for a couple of hours of escapism. I think there were too many little things added to this couples story that then made everything together feel a little under developed, and if some of the extra stuff had been pared down, it would have allowed a little more space for expansion to them as a couple and for more depth to them as individuals...

The award for best first Blow Job, goes to this book though, probably the most original newbie excuse I have ever heard!

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

AerinLuvs says

2.5 stars.

This is a short novella about a college math major at MIT. Layla is at MIT on a scholarship, so she doesn't have much money, and her part time job at the bookstore doesn't help much other than help pay for beer. It is the last Spring Break before graduation, and she has already applied for post-college jobs. She applied for an internship at the NSA as a cryptographer and not only was she accepted, but she was encouraged to apply for a job!

So this last spring break, she wants to celebrate with Felicity, a good (and well-off) friend in Texas, so she

starts her long drive there. In Georgia, her car breaks down. She takes it to a mechanic, then she brings her backpack inside with her to a sketchy dive bar to wait to hear the prognosis about her VW bug. While she's there she notices a handsome, tall exotic looking pool player who is a super good pool player. She can't help noticing his great butt as he bends over, and he wins and wins and wins a lot of cash. Soon, there's no one else to play against, so he asks her if she's going to do more than stare or play against him. She replies that she doesn't have any money to lose to him. So he offers to teach her for a beer. Deal made. One night stand in progress.

Phin is a gypsy and a semi- grifter. He never lives anywhere longer than two or three months and he's never had a serious relationship, never a home much less a lease on an apartment. He lives in a room behind the Auto shop where he works. He goes from pool hall to pool hall winning money and doing odd jobs here and there for a while. Right now, he's working as a mechanic at the shop where Layla brought her car...should he fix it to get into her pants? Nah, he just wants to have fun and play and play until a big tournament coming up in Vegas in June.

However, her car needs a rebuilt transmission, not a quick or cheap fix. and then, while she isn't watching (because she's getting a kiss from Phin) her backpack is stolen! So she is stuck...

I didn't like the way the story was told. It had dual, second-person POV's, but the way the story was told was too much telling and not enough showing. It was a little too blah and felt like a first draft or an outline; I actually had a hard time staying interested in the story. The sex scenes and kissing were described kind of ridiculously hot for a situation that should have made a young single college girl be afraid and a little panicky! Why didn't she call more people instead of trusting a handsome stranger? It just seemed sketchy and made me uncomfortable, the suspension of disbelief for a very successful Ivy Leaguer was too much. There is little insight into each character. The story kind of didn't capitalize on her math whiz-ness, other than her Tee shirt logos. Does being a math whiz help one become an expert pool player in a couple months? I doubt it, I think pool skill is at least 50% hand-eye coordination and physical training.

Then her actions after just a few days with him were just ridiculous, I had no insight into why she would behave this way or want this and be so utterly impulsive. However, she does redeem herself and the ending, although abrupt is satisfying!

This book was a courtesy ARC that I read and reviewed!
