



Her Stand-In Boyfriend

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Make a date with a hot new romance novella from Select Contemporary!

This boyfriend business is about to get a whole lot more personal...

Event planner Lexi Mannis has a busy life in Chicago - too busy to have a boyfriend. For special occasions, she has her Stand-In Boyfriend, Mac Northrop. Mac offers (almost) all the perks of a real boyfriend - furniture assembly, a date to big events, and someone to cook for. But they've never been "with benefits"...until one wickedly hot night crosses the line.

Mac's been in love with Lexi for ages. He knows he should probably end it, but dammit, he just can't. When things get deliciously down and dirty, Mac is certain that he's made the leap out of the friend zone...until Lexi decides she wants to remain friends. With benefits.

What Lexi *doesn't* know is that she's running out of time. And if she won't promote Mac to Real Boyfriend, she might just lose her Stand-In Boyfriend to someone else...

Her Stand-In Boyfriend Details

Date : Published July 28th 2015 by Entangled: Select Contemporary (first published July 5th 2015)

ISBN :

Author : Kelly Jamieson

Format : Kindle Edition 148 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance, Novella

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From Reader Review Her Stand-In Boyfriend for online ebook

Jae (Bookish Bluebird) says

4 stars

"All relationships take time and work... If you want it enough, you make it a priority."

Her Stand-In Boyfriend is a quick, sweet and easy read. I really enjoyed the dynamic between Lexi and Mac. Their friendship felt natural. I didn't find the story to be angsty, and the plot didn't drag on with drama which was nice. It'd be a great one to pick up in between series or whenever you're looking for something light.

Lexi, is an event planner and focused on making a name for her business. She has no time for men and dating. Any free time she does have, she'd much rather spend it hanging out with her girlfriends. And for all the things her girls didn't enjoy, like going to beer festivals or seeing a hockey game, Mac was her guy. Mac is such a sweetheart. He's willing to put together furniture for his 'friend' which made me think HE'S A KEEPER. Lexi often refers to Mac as her 'stand-in boyfriend' *insert grin for title reference*. We get both povs in the book, and it's quite obvious that our boy, Mac had feelings for Lexi. At first I was worried Mac was a pushover. That he was giving much more than getting in their friendship. But they worked well together, being each other's plus one, helping the other expand their professional connections while also just having a good time. That didn't stop me from feeling sorry for Mac though as his relationship with Lexi changed, but not in the way he wanted. It was during Mac's pov that I kept getting frustrated with Lexi for not realizing how amazing he was sooner!

It could be because of how short the book is (it's only 130 pages!) that I didn't feel incredibly convinced by Lexi's feelings at the end. It's clear that she cares for Mac but is she in love with him? Hmm. I did like that she took some time to think it through after seeing Mac with someone else though. Note: I didn't shelve this book as 'love triangle' because it wasn't a lasting theme in the story. Anyway, one thing I'm glad for was how she didn't instantly think that her being jealous equated to her being in love. For the most part, I liked Lexi. She's driven and won't give any guy who isn't accepting of her two gay fathers the time of day. Did I mention how adorable I find Lexi's Dad? Her Papa is sweet too and both are very supportive of her. But her Dad isn't the kind of guy you talk boys with and he'll just vamoose when the topic arises haha. There are very few secondary characters but those that do appear are great!

Overall, *Her Stand-In Boyfriend* is your classic friends-to-lovers book that I found enjoyable :)

**ARC was kindly provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review (thank you!)

CL says

ARC received from: Netgalley

Rating: 3*

Cover: Yay

Trope: Friends-to-Lovers

Chemistry Rating: Low boil

Positives: I liked that the author turned the trope on its head by having the guy admit his feelings for the girl whilst the girl remains clueless. It's usually the other way round.

Negatives: Just like Mac had a hard time believing that Lexie's sudden realisation of feelings wasn't just because she was jealous, I also had a hard time believing that her feelings were real. The whole time frame from realisation to acceptance to declaration was just far too fast for it to feel real.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Slick's review posted at Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

While not as steamy as some of her more recent books, *Her Stand-In Boyfriend* by Kelly Jamieson is no less entertaining. This is a friends to lovers story with a twist; he is Mac the geek turned multi-millionaire tech businessman and he's been halfway in love with her since college, she is Lexi a self employed event planner who hasn't had a lot of luck in the romance department and has decided she's too busy for a relationship but too much alcohol and a whole lot of lust lead to a night that changes it all for them.

There was so much I loved about Mac but most of all was his loyalty to Lexi. Granted there were a couple of times in this book I wanted to knock him up side his head and tell him to "snap out of it" and tell her what HE wanted from her but then I remembered he might look suave and sophisticated on the outside and he may be successful in business but underneath it all he's still that shy, somewhat geeky 18 year old guy hoping to win a girl's heart. I really did feel for him at this point because as much as he wanted more he really didn't want to lose her in his life.

For a good part of this story I felt like Lexi was a wee bit self absorbed and a whole lot clueless but as incidents from her past came to light it became obvious that she's just a woman who has been hurt and had made herself believe that she didn't need love in her life.

The sex between these two was rockin' but it not only changed things between them it scared Lexi and confirmed for Mac what he already knew; he wanted more than to be in the friendzone with her. It isn't easy for these two to figure things out and it takes some interesting involvement from some secondary characters including Lexi's best friend and one of her dad's who make her look at things in a completely different way and yes, you read that right Lexi has two dad which made me love this book just a little bit more.

Sometimes love is right in front of your face and it just takes opening your eyes to see it for what it is and sometimes it just hits you over the head either way it can be messy and wonderful and all kinds of sexy especially when it's with someone who knows you better than you know yourself. *Her Stand-In Boyfriend* is sweet and sensuous with a whole lot of friendship rolled in making it that much more special.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

Dirty Dayna says

Her Stand in Boyfriend

4 stand in stars

This story had so much more potential but the ending got really rushed. I love a friends to friendzone to more story and this was sweet. The book is less than 130 pages and I think that's what kills the story for me. The author has no other choice but to just word vomit and hope for more. The short time line from friends to more to complete friendzone again just makes me secondguess her feelings and make me think that she just "thinks she is in love" or "in love with the idea of love"

Katherine says

This was more like 3.5 stars. Midway into the story, I wanted to grab Lexi's shoulders and shake some sense into her. Mac is definitely a book boyfriend ;-)

Celestine says

Kelly Jamieson always writes ghost-pepper hot love scenes, and Her Stand-In Boyfriend is no exception. This friends-to-lovers novella hits all the right spicy notes for a hot read on a sunny afternoon.

Tech-whiz Mac has been silently in love with college days gal-pal Lexi for over six years, and two of them in earnest. As in can't date another girl without thinking of Lexi. Mix in a few drinks and some lower inhibitions and Mac thinks he has hit the jackpot. Except he hasn't. Lexi won't move Mac out of friend-zone territory, but likes the sex so much that maybe friends-with-benefits is the new zip code. Mac balks, jealousy ensues, and the ending is never in doubt. Light, fun and polished read with sweet characters and total focus on the romance.

TSN says

DNF

Sorry I was bored.

It was just not something for me.

Maria Rose says

What a fun and sexy story! It's the classic trope of best friends turned lovers, in this case Lexi and her 'stand-in boyfriend' Mac. They've been best friends since college but since when they met Mac was involved with someone else, Lexi has firmly placed him in the friend category. Unbeknownst to her though, Mac has had thoughts of them becoming a couple for a long time. Getting a chance to show her the chemistry between them is his goal, and when one night of passion finally happens he's hoping it'll go a long way to showing Lexi how things could be between them. But when Lexi wants to stick to a friends with benefits arrangement, will that be the death knell to things progressing the way Mac has always wanted - and even worse, the end of their friendship?

Though this is a novella, there is a lot packed into the story as Max and Lexi's friendship turns into a steamy affair (and yes, there might have been actual steam coming off my ereader). Lexi must have blinders on not to realize that her geeky college friend is actually a hot and sexy man, though with a little alcohol she suddenly sees him the way other women do - as an available, attractive hunk. I liked both their characters, Lexi as a friendly and successful businesswoman with no time to spare for relationships and Max as a charismatic, confident entrepreneur. There is no doubt of their sexual chemistry (and their love scenes are super hot). But Max wants more, and it's going to be all or nothing for him. He had a sweet side to him that along with his cocky, devil may care attitude made him the perfect hero.

There was another aspect to this story that I really liked and that was the unconventional family that Lexi comes from. She has two dads, calling them Dad and Papa who are a gay couple that adopted her as a child. They play a key role in the story too, as their acceptance of Mac (and he of them) is important to Lexi, having experienced discrimination towards them from previous boyfriends and their families. She has a close though different relationship with each of them. As well, Lexi's circle of girlfriends added some fun times to the story.

Overall, it was a really enjoyable and sexy read. 5 stars!

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

Casey says

Realistically this was a 2.5 but I love the friends to lovers trope and this really wasn't bad, it just felt underdeveloped, likely because of its shorter length. I found the Lexi character to be a little annoying but there was some cute stuff here on the friendship side of their relationship.

Kim says

Truly enjoyed this friends to lovers book! It was my first Jamieson novel and I'm looking forward to seeing what other characters she gets me to fall in love with.

Maree Repa says

This short book is right to the point. A bit to fast tracked for me, although the two characters Lexi Mannis and Mac Northrop are two loving people for each other. Lexi who as a event planner finds her close friend much more than a helper. Such a fun story of the two working together.

Joan says

That was a fun, sweet, and sexy book. If your looking for a quick read with friends to lovers this is a good one. Mac and Lexi are adorable together as friends and when they cross the line Mac really wants it to become serious. A little angst and heartache with a satisfying HEA.

TinaNicole ? Le Book Nikita ? says

Boring and beyond predictable. Nothing new, not even a semi-interesting spin on the old. There are 3 sex scenes, actually one sex scene c&p'd 3 times.

But, hey, at least it was short.

Love2ReadRomance says

I loved Mac and Lexi in Her Stand-In Boyfriend! It a great fun quick read that left me wanting more. I can't wait to read more from Kelly Jamieson!

Amber ::★Wild Heart Reviews★:: says

Her Stand-In Boyfriend is a great read for when don't have much time. It's short, sweet and simple; a very straight forward romance. I really enjoyed it and was sad it had to end! The best part, I believe, about this book is that the synopsis for it, nails it. Mac and Lexi have been friends since college, he's been in love with her and she's more-or-less clueless. The writing in this book was well done, as was the prose.

Mac was the college super smart geek who ended up owning his own business and pulling a Cinderella. What would you call that for a guy? I'm not sure, but regardless, he pulls one. Six years after college and meeting Lexi he has things going for him. He's intelligent, he dresses better and according to Lexi he definitely isn't the geeky guy he was back then.

Lexi also owns her own company, an event company that constantly has her busy. She has no room for a guy in her life! She wants to have time for herself, her friends, her work and besides, men are constantly saying she doesn't pay enough attention to her. So what better than to have Mac as her stand-in? She's not using

him, or at least, not intentionally, right?

Lexi and Mac have a pretty great friendship. They call, talk and hang out with each other, they use each other as “Stand-in’s” when they don’t have dates for events and everything on the surface seems perfect. Mac is Lexi’s best bud, he’s always there and willing to drop everything if she needs help. When Mac needs something, she’s always makes time for him too.

Until one night things explode between them and it makes Lexi look at everything differently. After a completely awkward morning after, Lexie decides to act like nothing really happened between them. They are still friends, right? Well, if you can really be friends with a guy you constantly want to pull the clothes off of. Mac on the other hand, is thinking this is going somewhere else, until Lexi drops the bombshell on him that she wants to be friends, with benefits. That’s not what Mac wants though, he wants all of Lexi, not just the benefits.

It takes some hashing out, some jealousy and some angst but these two finally get their act together. The ending to this one seemed a bit rushed but it’s not something that’s detrimental to the book. The co-stars in this one are pretty fun too, or well, if you consider a blunt best friend who knocks sense into people, fun. I know I do! I’m also hoping that best friend gets her own book. ;)

ARC provided by Entangled Publishing in exchange for an honest review.