



Counterbalance

Kelly Moran

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She's a beauty, but he's just a geek.

The world might think billionaire Xavier Gaines has it all, but he's got a big problem. His successful software company is about to sign a government contract that'll land him smack in the glare of the public limelight, and his lifelong battle with social anxiety has marked him as a cold, uncaring bastard in the eyes of the press. To dispel the unflattering image, he needs help, and there's only one person he trusts with the job—Peyton Smoke. Gorgeous, kind, and funny, she agrees to be his media relations director and soon imbeds herself so deeply in his life, his world will crumble if anything upsets the balance. He cannot screw up their solid unit. No matter how aching he desires her. Yet, how is he supposed to resist when she tugs emotions from him he didn't think he was capable of experiencing? Especially since it appears he's not the only one fighting their undeniable attraction.

Ever-after just might be possible...if he can convince her to believe in love again.

Peyton Smoke is looking for a change, and working at Gaines Industries has given her the boost she needs to fill the empty void in her life. Xavier is the perfect boss. Under his seemingly callous, frigid demeanor lies a compassionate man who cares about causes and those precious few he lets into his inner circle. What she wasn't prepared for is the smoldering passion suddenly flaring between them, nor the hot-as-sin alpha side beneath the layer of sexy nerd. Getting involved with him puts more than her job at risk. She's been trampled one too many times, and she vowed never to leave herself vulnerable again. But the heart wants what the heart wants. If only she can figure out whether his feelings are genuine or if this is a mistaken case of gratitude wrapped in lust, then their shot at forever may not seem like such a fruitless hope.

Counterbalance Details

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Louise says

Some book simply need more than 5 stars and this is one of them. Every book I've read by Kelly Moran has me saying the same thing in the reviews but it's because it's always true. Her characters are just so real and well written. Even her 'billionaire businessman' is beautifully flawed in a way that normal every day people are. I get so connected with her characters I don't want the books to end.

This book sucks you in from page one which is another thing I love about it. Then you are hooked until the end.

Xavier is a leading man you just have to read to believe. Peyton brings out the best in him and it had me going aww more than once. Peyton is an amazing girl with a huge heart but is a bit flawed too. She is perfect for Xavier and I was cheering these guys on hoping for the ending I wanted.

This book come highly recommended as do all of the books ivey read from this author so far.

Kelly Moran says

"This stand-alone novel from Moran is a well-written story. The author keeps readers turning the pages through strong characters, an intriguing plot and subplots, and solid writing. An entertaining playbook on how to win at love and work." ~Library Journal

"Moran pulls you in and does...Not. Let. Go. Hot, heartfelt, and hard to put down."

~Molly McLain, USA Today bestselling author

Cheryl says

Ms Moran has written a fabulous story filled with something for everyone. A second chance romance filled with love, laughter, hope, learning to live for the moment and a HEA that sure to please everyone who reads it. The storyline is well developed and filled with great characters that kept me reading til I finished the book. Loved this sensational story!!

Mona says

Amazing and wonderful book. Ms. Moran grabbed me from the first page. It was sweet, hot, and touching. Xavier doesn't know what he's getting himself into after hiring Peyton. She knows him better then anyone. He needs her by his side. It's important to him, and his company.

Peyton knows Xavier to be a wonderful person, boss, and now something more. It's just scares her a bit. She's lost a lot. But she falls for Xavier. Not sure what to do about it.

Buy the book and see what happens. Truly a must read.

Kristin says

This phenomenal book by Kelly Moran takes you on one incredible journey with amazing characters. The story itself was well written and has a plot that flows flawlessly; it leaves the reader with all their questions answered and has a very happy ending. The characters were amazing; each has a wonderful amount of depth and change that you can't help but fall in love with them.

Xavier Gaines is your typical male geek, but he has difficulty in the personality department. That's where the lovely Peyton Smoke comes in. She's his PR person and his right hand lady for everything that happens in the public eye. They are both incredible on their own, but when they stop fighting their feelings and the fact that they are boss/employee, Xavier and Peyton are scorching hot. I enjoyed watching them change and evolve as the book progressed. Peyton has dealt with a lot of loss in her life, but the death of her fiancé really hit home for me; he was a military man suffering from PTSD and because I married a Marine with PTSD I know firsthand how hard it is to live with it, much less try to help deal with it. Peyton's pain is something that I felt several times in the book. Xavier has not had to deal with that kind of loss, but he's suffered in life as well; he may be a genius but he has a lot of problems with speaking in public and in large crowds. Together, Xavier and Peyton help each other overcome their grief and obstacles. Watching them evolve into two people who finally understand just what love is and accept it, was incredibly beautiful.

This book has a happy ending and no cliffhanger for those who don't like having to wait for the next story. I truly hope you'll pre-order your copy today and when you get it, that you fall in love with X and Peyton.

Wit & Wonder Books says

*** ARC Provided By Author In Exchange for Honest Review***

Kelly Moran hits it out of the park with Counterbalance! Having a sexy, billionaire nerd as the leading man and the girl next door that everyone loves as the leading lady was brilliant. The two had the most tense chemistry I have ever read and it made for a great love story!

Xavier Gaines is a twenty nine year old billionaire who started his own tech company. He's always been the geek growing up and all of society views him as a brooding anti-social business man. He needs a PR person to help change this image and he has his sights set on one girl, Peyton Smoke. He is determined to get her to work for him, even if it means begging.

Peyton Smoke was the popular cheerleader in High School and the one girl everyone loved. She loves her job in PR but she is lacking two things in her life, love and family. She meets with Xavier because she is curious at what he wants and when he offers her an amazing position, she accepts after he begs a little.

Two people who are total opposites of each other is an amazing story to read. Peyton is so full of love and compassion that she has to teach Xavier a lot to get him to thaw, or break down his wall. Everything she does leads to her turning his life around and he suddenly finds that he cannot go a day without her in his life.

I just wanted to constantly hug Xavier because even though he grew up with amazing & loving parents, he never left his geeky frame of mind after he became sexy. He has always felt left out to people and just shy and introverted. Opening up is a huge thing to him and as a reader, Kelly makes you want to be the one who helps him.

I have to give this book 5 stars because it tugged at my heart and just had so many feels to it! Kelly did an amazing job and I cannot wait to read more from her!

5 stars!!

Reviewed by: Jodi N.

Jodi Nichols says

Absolutely loved this book! Kelly did an amazing job with the storyline and the characters. Xavier was the perfect leading man and the fact that Peyton was his total opposite and balanced him out was amazing. This is one couple, or two people before they became a couple, that kept me wanting more. There was so much between them and Xavier especially stole my heart!

Molly McLain says

Wow, I loved this book! I stayed up until 4:30 in the morning and made myself put it down with 20% to go, only to wake up 3 hours later, dying to finish!

I adored Xavier's vulnerability (I'm sucker for a broken hero), and Peyton was such a perfect match for him. A counterbalance, indeed.

This book was also incredibly well-written. Very thorough and immensely satisfying. I don't reread books, but I might reconsider for this book. It was THAT good. <3

Jenn says

I absolutely LOVED Counterbalance! Computer nerd turned billionaire falling in love with his marketing director. The story was so sweet, the characters were well developed, and I felt a deep emotional connection to them. Also another thing I really loved was all the nerd/tech speak to describes emotions etc... in scenes and some of the nerdy/nostalgic references (THE MUPPETS!!!!) ;) Also just a side note, because the main

female character is named Peyton Smoke, and Xavier is a geeky billionaire I totally envisioned Penelope Smoke and Oliver from Arrow. They are my Peyton and Xavier!

Peyton was an amazingly kind and caring character. From the way she treated Xavier when they went to school together to how she treats any person she comes into contact with. She is just a pure and genuine person. Xavier is a largely misunderstood character that keeps to himself. Because of issues he has with large crowds and being in the public eye he is viewed as cold and uncaring. When his company secures a contract with an account that will push him into the public spotlight he hires Peyton as his marketing director to be able to help his public persona. No matter how hard he tries, there is always that pull towards her. What will happen when their walls come crashing down and they finally show their true feelings for each other.

This book had so many great scenes, it's hard to pick a favorite. I loved the scene at Xavier's parents house and outside by the tree, I loved the meaning behind the key necklace and what happened on Peyton's birthday. The side characters were great and there was seriously nothing I didn't love about this book.

I will be reading lots more of Kelly Moran's books in the future!!!

Kaylee Nizza says

Loved It!!! Another fabulous read by Kelly Moran. Hot billionaire Xavier needs to hire someone for PR of his company. Once Peyton is again in his life he holds back his feelings for her. His anxiety attacks are bad. Peyton keeps him calm. Once the attraction is unleashed Holy Moly it is hot. This book did bring on the tears at different times. This book is emotional, heartfelt and heartwarming. This book is a must read.

Theresa says

Great read. Xander and Peyton have known each other since high school, she was the cheer leader he was the geek. Now he is the CEO of a company that is now a millionaire. The chemistry is smoking between them can they make it work. This book is a great read and you don't want to put it down.

Catherine Coffman says

This is my first book by Kelly Moren and I have to say she sucked me in from the beginning. Xavier has a successful software company and he does well on his own but he needs someone to help him with public relations. He is known as cold hearted. He decides to hire Peyton Storm. She became his friend in school even though she was the popular one and he was the geek. But all grown up he's no longer the geek. He's built and strong but Payton counterbalances him. She calms and teaches him how to present himself in public. For two long years they are just employee and employer but Xavier wants more. You can't help but hope the Xavier finally gets the right girl which is Payton. But Payton not so sure she's right for him, she's never had anyone care for her like he does besides her brother. Payton's had so many people die that she deserves to have someone to take care of her. This is a very emotional, funny and hot story you'll be hooked from the beginning. Reviewed on behalf of Once Upon An Alpha.

Jennifer says

Definitely a 5 star read! Xavier appears to have everything...billionaire, handsome, great family. But he is seen as cold and unfeeling. Peyton has lost everything...her parents and brother, her fiance. But she has an amazing outlook on life that naturally draws people to her. When Xavier hires her to help him with his image, their chemistry is off the charts but neither want to ruin their professional relationship so they become friends instead, until suddenly its more.

I loved this book. Xavier is a sexy nerd and his feelings for Peyton are breathtaking. Both characters were so much more than the outside world saw, it was fantastic to see them lower their walls and expose their true feelings. Just an overall wonderful read! Highly recommended.

Maree Repa says

Equilibrium

Five Star Winner

I was so utterly excited to read this extraordinary amazing new romance from from one of my most favourite authors around, Kelly Moran. With her brilliant and extraordinary writing that bring yet another desirable relationship that exceeds so much of both these wonderful characters. Such a winner to me!!

As Xavier Gaines had just noticed at the end of his day, the last person he would see had finally arrived. He had wait so long for meeting this lady at a party. He had worked successfully at his own wealthy company. Although this man was geeky, he adored his life, his work and all the money he was making. This is why he now wanted to meet up with Payton Square. He knew with her help and guidance to help him with his work.

Now Peyton Smoke was just a gorgeous lady, she was beautiful. She had seen Xavier for many years. After he had helped her out in school work. And he always had fond memories of her too. She was always fair and nice to him especially. Xavier was always a complete wiz about everything. He knew so much about computers and so young to do all this too.

Now he knew it was the best way to propose his invitation to work with her now. Maybe a meal out with her will work. When she immediately says yes. And now Xavier knew it she was perfect.

I thoroughly enjoyed this most amazing novel. I loved the connection between this two fabulous characters. I adored their instant connection. Such another amazing well written book by Kelly Moran. Well done sweetie. I loved it!!

* i recommend this book to everyone!!

DJ Sakata says

Favorite Quotes:

She had a date with Thor and her couch via Netflix. Maybe she'd make it a threesome by adding Ghirardelli.

She cupped Archie's cheeks as his driver held the limousine door for them. 'Drive it like it's stolen. We're running late.'

I could not have picked a better woman for you if I climbed an X chromosome tree and plucked her off a branch myself.

I love the way you say my name. It's like you're marking your territory and begging at the same time.

They've been together quite some time. After you, other pastures were bound to be greener. I'd say she's emerald by comparison.

'Let's practice your surprise face.' She mimed an exaggerated shock expression and waved her hands. His golden gaze gave her a once-over. 'I'm not doing that. I'll look constipated.'

My Review:

I have thoroughly enjoyed every delectably written Kelly Moran book I have picked up. She has never failed to provide an amusing and engaging read and Counterbalance continues in that vein – it was full of feels, humor, and delightful visuals. Her writing is insightful, witty, and cleverly observant. She so deftly sets the emotional tone and flavor of each detailed scene and uniquely appealing character with mastery. Her books contain such vibrant detail that I feel I am right there watching, lurking in a corner, or peering in a window. Ms. Moran's word voodoo pulls me in while her endearing characters hold me captive.

I adored Peyton and Xavier. Xavier had always been socially awkward and as a smart geek had been bullied in school. As an adult, he could appear "as arctic as a glacier in Greenland," when he was actually suffering from social anxiety and in fact, had a huge, tender, and altruistic heart. Peyton had already experienced far too many significant losses and had lost her entire family and fiancé over a short period and during a young age. I relished their sweet and thoughtful consideration of each other as well as the underlying heat to their attraction, which later bloomed into steamy sensuality. Once the geek turned on the charm he evolved into a romantic alpha and pure seduction, and sigh, I was goo.
