



Never Better

Charlotte Stein

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What if your worst nightmare was the only thing you wanted?

Lydia worries she'll never recover from a violent assault at the hands of an intruder. Therapy isn't working and her friends aren't a comfort. All she can think about is how helpless and afraid she was.

Then she meets Isaac.

He's everything she wants to be: cool, calm and controlled. Trauma doesn't seem to affect him. Emotions don't bother him. And best of all, he's prepared to teach her. He shows her how to fight. How to defend herself. How to guard her heart.

But Isaac soon finds he can't guard his heart from her. She's starting to make him see all the things he's been missing, in his closed off and far too brutal life. The only problem is:

He has a terrible secret.

And if he lets himself give in to the desire that's building between them, her world may well be torn apart again.

Never Better Details

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Author : Charlotte Stein

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From Reader Review Never Better for online ebook

?Yasmine? says

3.5 Stars. I wanted so much more, but i still enjoyed.

Alaina says

After reading Never Sweeter, which is the best book I have read in several years, I have been waiting on pins and needles for this book to come out. I will admit that I had set the bar pretty high, being a huge Charlotte Stein fan, but I am sorry to say that this book fell just a little flat for me. The big reveal at the end was so obvious that I seriously didn't realize that it wasn't mentioned in the blurb of the book until I read a couple of reviews on Goodreads. The ending was abrupt and was so ambiguous that it left me feeling frustrated and unfulfilled.

That being said, an okay book of Charlotte Stein's is still written by Charlotte Stein, so all of the wonderful things that she brings to the table are still present: the dialogue and the banter are wonderful, the movie references are on point, and of course, her voice is hugely entertaining. She really captures the anxieties and insecurities that Lydia feels. Overall, I would say this book is definitely worth the read, but it falls short of the gold standard that was set by Never Sweeter.

Vanessa R says

Beautiful writing, too short

I love Charlotte Stein's books, they're all written wonderfully, and there's so much emotion in each one, this one included. Let's not get this twisted, I did like this book. Two things though: I'm bummed at how short this was compared to how much it costs, which colors my opinion of the book as a whole. More importantly, what really bummed me out here, is that there isn't an HEA, there's no HFN, it kind of ends with a "Happy I Guess?" It's like I got the prologue and the first few chapters of a really really awesome book. I'm familiar with her writing and I know this book follows essentially the same format as her other books, it just didn't work 100% for me this time. I'm going to reread it later, with different expectations, and see if I feel better about the book then.

Christine says

Quintessential Charlotte Stein with a big twist. I was left with big feels and also big questions. I want to say...gush...debate more but don't dare for fear of letting slip some very telling spoilers. It was a slow, slow, *slow* build to the sexy times, but the ending left me reeling.

I'm a fan of Charlotte Stein. She has an unique, bold but dreamy voice that doesn't suit everyone and often requires a lot of re-reading with raised eyebrows. Never Better felt like a meandering step in a totally new

direction for the author. Despite the connection to the last book in the Dark Obsession series (Lydia's roommate is Letty from Never Sweeter), Never Better is in a world of its own. This isn't a NA romance, this isn't a contemporary romance, this is almost a thriller as Lydia and Isaac circle each other in this private world.

Note: I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Michelle says

Love Charlotte Stein! Another really good story. A bit heavy on the witty repartee/verbal tennis (like smoked paprika, a little goes a long way), but I'm being nit picky. Clever is good, right? It's just that too much becomes a little exhausting. But again, that's just a personal thing. I'm sure it's just the right amount for others. Let me be clear...though my review might sound passive/aggressive, I did love it.

???s Xamante de los spoilersX says

3,5

"You don't have to say that out of concern for my feelings. My feelings aren't more important than your safety. If you feel unsafe, it should be my job to make sure you stop. Not your job to apologize for it."

Isaac destaca como personaje, es un tipo que entiende los abusos que sufren las mujeres y en vez de culpar a la protagonista o sentirse ofendido porque ella se asusta de él es super amable, gentil, compasivo. Ultimamente estuve leyendo libros donde los "heroes" maltratan física/verbal/psicológicamente a la protagonista así que leer un héroe como Isaac es un soplo de aire fresco.

Isaac Morales es ¡perfecto!, lo único que pudo llegar a molestarme es que aunque Lydia le insistía en tener sexo, él la rechazaba, (pero al contrario de algunos personajes masculinos que lo hacen porque se piensan que una mujer virgen vale más que una sexualmente activa), él lo hacía porque no quería aprovecharse de ella que se encontraba en una situación muy vulnerable (al menos al principio del libro). O sea igual me pareció una boludez pero por lo menos no tenía que ver con la sexualidad de ella (basada en el slut-shaming) sino en que él quería "ser un caballero".

**

Sinceramente lo empecé por los *sexy times* y me encontré con una historia mucho más compleja de lo que esperaba y el sexo queda en segundo lugar.

Es corto (mi edición solo tiene 140 páginas) pero a pesar de eso la autora profundiza bastante en la psiquis de los personajes.

Mi única queja es que se zarpó con el pasado oscuro de Isaac (view spoiler)

Eve Dangerfield says

I will never read this story and not think about Oscar Isaacs' perfect mug.
A gorgeous, super hot story with awesome banter.

Eri says

High-quality smut honestly Charlotte Stein writes so well and her books are so emotionally intense I need a moment.

Also the hero looks like Oscar Isaac which is always a good sign.

Molly says

Wait, is this a cliffhanger? Or was that really the end?

This is confusing for me! The previous book, Never Sweeter, was one of my favorite books from last year, and possibly ever! This one had a slow start for me, and then got so action packed I kind of feel like I have whiplash. It needed more exposition, I think.

I adore everything Charlotte Stein writes, but I guess I still need a HEA for me to be happy.

Sierra says

I LOVED this book. You can pretty much guess some of the salient plot points from the beginning, but Charlotte Stein is just such a talented author. The story sucks you in from the beginning, and you get so invested in the romance between the two characters but also in Lydia's healing process. Also, Isaac reads romance novels, so he's basically the perfect hero. Anyways, everyone should read this book. If you're reading this review, quit reading reviews, buy this book, and start reading IT instead.

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

Originally reviewed at SmexyBooks-<http://smexybooks.com/2017/02/februar...>

Grade: C+

Stein once again builds an intriguing, heavily characterized story that is far more complicated than originally suspected. Lydia finds herself the victim of assault though she is saved from rape by one of the men who

broke into her home. When her roommate pressures her to go to group therapy, she meets Isaac whose ability to erect barriers gives him what she wants-emotional & physical immunity from the world. She asks him for help and soon they are spending time together. When the attraction between them becomes too much to bear, Lydia and Isaac begin a relationship but there are things Isaac hasn't told Lydia...things that may very well destroy her.

I am a huge fan of Stein's work. Her writing skills and intuitive voice are instantly appealing. This particular series has been a roller coaster ride for me. I wasn't a fan of book one but book two blew me away. I find this one landed right in the middle. I enjoyed the setup and hint of suspense that intertwines through the story. Wonderfully paced narrative and dialogue gives our couple the dynamics in which to meet and develop a realistic relationship. My main issue was the lack of connection I felt between them. Of course, the elephant in the room is responsible for that but I found even after Lydia learns the truth, I still didn't feel they belonged together. An abrupt ending that leaves their fate up in the air only solidified my feelings.

Camille Adams says

Yes, Stein is the queen of training a lens on the interior. She specialises in illuminating those nearly minuscule spaces between heavy action where attraction blossoms. Her dialogue flows like intimacy achieved, minds opened, and stream of consciousness coursing forth. These are all lovely elements of her writing.

But these facets must be balanced with an actual plot and actual characters.

This book's dearth of plot, people, perspective, and purpose renders it perplexing. As in, aside from this pop culture banter - from which I am totally estranged - what exactly is the point here? This brow-scratching is only increased when some of the conversation wanders over into the improbable. Like really, no one would say that. In particular, no man would say that. Women need to stop projecting these highly executed self conscious navel gazing diatribes on men. You will never find this in reality. And if you did it's highly unlikely you'd find it attractive since it sounds insane on the page much less off it.

Additionally, this book strikes me as a rush job given the numerous amount of typos and grammatical errors the likes of which I've never seen from this author prior. I think the editor (not just copy editor) rushed her duties, too. Seems like she got Stein to attempt to actually implement a plot in the first chapter. Then, thinking Stein had it under control, the editor begged off and left Stein to return to her overly loquacious sex scenes.

Tracie Payne says

Well that was kind of a crappy ending. Obviously I wanted more, especially after reading *Never Sweeter*, which was fucking awesome. This was good, but not great.

Christine says

I always enjoy Charlotte Stein books, because they're perfect if you're looking for a steamy book that gets to the point but still has a hint of a plot. I understand how others could be left wanting more, but having read other books by this author, it's just the way it is. Normally I'd be in the same boat in that I hate it and need a HEA but honestly? I like with Stein's books I can use my imagination and fill in the blanks. For me, it makes a story memorable because I'm always thinking back, "What if this had happened, and how would that play out?!" Not many books can do that for me. In fact, as I was reading this I had the sudden craving to re-read another one of her books that always seems to come back to me every few months.

As far as the ending, I see many reviewers complaining that it ended abruptly. I don't think so. I think it ended just the way it should for reasons I already mentioned.

Brittany says

Wow. So darkly emotional, incredible banter and that ending.... :o
