



Delayed Call

Toni Aleo

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Vaughn Johansson is the Nashville Assassins' star player. He's brash, cocky, and talented. And he isn't afraid to let anyone know it. He lives his life on his own terms, never forming romantic attachments, and only allowing his very closest to see his true, caring self.

Brie Soledad has the weight of the world on her shoulders. As the staff reporter for the Assassins, she balances her high-profile job and its heavy travel schedule with being the sole provider for her adult brother with Down syndrome. Sure, she'd like to find love. But who has time for that when there are bills to pay?

Brie has been the match to Vaughn's gasoline since the day she first held out her microphone to him. They strike sparks off each other, keeping their friends, the team, and the Assassins fans in stitches. Brie's refusal to fawn over Vaughn sets his teeth on edge and his blood boiling. Especially in that body part...

Brie's been let down by love before, but she knows she deserves nothing less than real, forever love. Vaughn's past has left deep, hidden scars, and there are some secrets he cannot bear to reveal. As much as Brie wants him, Vaughn may be too big a risk for her wary heart to take. But he is at his best under pressure. When the delayed call is in effect and he has no choice but to score, Vaughn always delivers.

Delayed Call Details

Date :

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Author : Toni Aleo

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From Reader Review Delayed Call for online ebook

Lynn Lim says

OMG – NEVER, EVER, HAVE I WANTED TO SMACK A HERO SO BAD IN MY LIFE!!!!

I LOVED absolutely every emotional word in this book, and I have found a new author, to me anyway, in Toni Aleo, to love!!! I could not put Delayed Call down. I kept waiting for the train wreck between Vaughn and Brie to happen. Then when Brie finally told Vaughn that she loved him and..... Stop!!! NO SPOILERS!! Let me just say this, my heart was in my throat and the tears were flowing. Then that last interview... WOW!!! Then, the balloons.... ♥ ♥ ♥

Delayed Call is the eleventh book in the Assassins series by Toni Aleo, and I cannot wait to go back and start from the beginning.

I was gifted with the opportunity to read an ARC of this wonderful, thought provoking, EMOTIONAL book for my honest opinion.

Mindy Lou's Book Review says

What I love best about this hockey series is that you don't have to start with book 1 to understand any of the others in the series. I've only read book 8 and 11 and I've had no issues following along with the story. I know that can be a huge draw for people who don't like series. It doesn't mean I won't be going back at some point to read the earlier books, because I find that I am a fan of Toni Aleo's writing.

Overall, I really enjoyed this book. It's a love/hate trope that had positives and negatives to it. I didn't really enjoy their fighting when they were in the hate stage but once it moved to the love stage, they had really good banter. I'm a sucker for good banter between a couple.

They made a great couple but they both have huge issues to get over. This book leads you on the path of them helping each other get past these issues. It isn't always pretty, but life isn't always pretty. When we got the sweet moments, they were really sweet. There was also some really great funny moments that just made me laugh with how goofy these two were together.

ARC provided by NetGalley.

Jennifer says

ARC received for review

Okay. I haven't read the first 10 books in this series. I think I've got several on my kindle but just haven't found the time. This book is a stand alone and you don't need to read the first ones.

All that being said. I about put it down and walked away. Vaughn and Brie fought every time they were together. It was not nice sniping at each other, but down right mean and ugly at times. I didn't think they

were ever going to get over it and hook up. They finally did and started being nice and then hot and smoking up some sheets. For those who've read the rest of the books there's plenty of cameos by previous peeps plus a baby and planning a wedding.

Now here's hoping his BFF Jensen and his "sister" Wren hook up in the next book.

Lea ★ says

ARC kindly provided by Ardent Prose.

Review to come...

Rachel K says

2.75 stars.

Just okay.

Lu Bielefeld *read.laugh.love* says

ARC received via Netgalley to honest review

Review in Portuguese and English

Eu acompanho a série desde o início e fiquei intrigada sobre a história do casal. A interação entre os dois no livro anterior foi uma preliminar do que aconteceria neste livro.

Os heróis tem uma face que eles mostram para o mundo e outra bem diferente só vista pelas pessoas que eles amam e causas que eles se dedicam e que eles realmente se importam.

Nem sempre as coisas são o que parecem ser. Confesso que fiquei surpresa com a verdadeira essência do herói e o lado maternal da heroína. Ele transmitia uma imagem de frivolidade e irresponsabilidade. Ela transmitia uma imagem de mulher mal humorada e só focada no trabalho.

Eu amei os diálogos e constante enfrentamento entre os heróis geraram cenas engraçadas e cenas irritantes ao mesmo tempo.

Fiquei torcendo para que os dois ficassem juntos logo e imaginando as cenas quentes e os fogos que viriam entre o casal.

Amei ver meu casal favorito Shea e Elli marcarem presença! Fiquei curiosa sobre os amigos do herói e estou ansiosa pela história deles.

A autora não decepcionou aos fãs da série e nos presenteou com um história gostosa de ler e nos deixou querendo mais.

Recomendo!

I follow the series since the beginning and I was intrigued about the story of the couple. The interaction between the two in the earlier book was a preliminary of what would happen in this book.

The heroes have a face they show to the world and quite another to just view the people they love and causes

that they are dedicated and they really care.

Things are not always what they seem. I confess that I was surprised with the very essence of the hero and the maternal side of heroin. He transmitted a picture of frivolity and irresponsibility. She conveyed an image of woman in a bad mood and just focused on the work.

I loved the dialogues and constant confrontation between the heroes generated funny scenes and annoying at the same time.

I was hoping that the two would be together soon and imagining the hot scenes and the Fireworks to come between the couple.

I loved seeing my favorite couple Shea and Elli being present. I was curious about the friends of the hero and I'm looking forward to their story.

The author did not disappoint fans of the series and presented us with a hot story to read and left us wanting more.

Recommend!

Michelle says

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review

Enemies to lovers trope. Ummm, yes please!!!! There was no icing of the puck in this hockey romance as Toni Aleo once again reunites her readers to the cast of the Nashville Assassins. Although **Delayed Call** is the eleventh installment of the *Assassin Series*, this book can most definitely be read as a standalone as Toni Aleo does an excellent job introducing and incorporating previous characters.

Right off the opening pages, Toni Aleo stole my heart as she introduced readers to two different individuals who butted heads. Vaughn Johansson is Nashville Assassins top athlete. He is sexy, cocky, confident, and talented. And so when he meets someone who doesn't fawn over his charm and personality, it irks him in such a way.

Brie Soledad is a heroine that every reader would easily fall for. She has this personality that instantly grabs your heart especially when it comes to her strong and fierce love for her baby brother who suffers from Down Syndrome. While readers get to see this caring and nurturing side to her, we are also exposed to her vibrant and sassy persona when it comes to Vaughn.

Well needless to say when it comes to these two, Vaughn and Brie heats up the pages as their sexual chemistry are undeniable. The spark and connection were radiating off the pages. Hearts will be melted as Toni Aleo beautifully weaves steam and raw emotions in this story of life. So if you are looking for a fun, sexy, and emotional romance that incorporates family, life, love and trust then this book is for you.

P.S. Toni- If you are reading this review, I hope Wren and Jensen's story is next.

Toni Aleo

NiCoLeTa E. says

4,5 "JoHo" stars

God, i did enjoy this book very much!!!!

Especially in the beginning, i was laughing so much with Brie and Vaughn's arguments...

At the same time, the author decided to talk about a very sensitive matter and it was given in a wonderfully way...

A hot, cocky hockey player, a fiesty tiny woman, a relationship full of hate who turned out to the most lovely and funny love....

Add to the mixer, lovely secondary characters, hidden secrets and you have a lovely story!!!!

Vaughn was a little bit of an a\$\$ most of the time... Cocky, arrogant, self-absorbed...

He thinks that he is a gift from God both for woman and hockey!!!

Yep, he is a hell of a player on the ice and the women are lying on his feet, but he is so full of himself!!!! But damn, the guy was funny as hell!!!

Brie had lots of things on her plate at the moment...

She is a reporter for the Assassins, her love life sucks, and she has so much stress about her little brother...

The last thing she wants is to have to deal with this a\$\$ Vaughn Johanson all the damn time, especially since he is showing his hatred toward her in every opportunity and many times in front of the camera...

And lately, he is always in front of her and this tiny attraction deep down inside her doesn't fade away...

"I didn't realize you liked anything about me."

"You're growing on me."

"That's good."

"Yeah?"

"Yeah, 'cause you've grown on me, completely."

Vaughn is feeling this attraction too, but he has too many issues which are coming from his past...

At the same time, he has a secret identity that noone has to know about it... except his closest friends...

To be totally honest with you, Vaughn is not who he wants us to think he is.... He has more depth than he is showing and i think that what he is doing is really amazing...

But as i told you above, he has many issues and that's the reason that he keeps chasing away poor Brie, even though he wants her so damn much!!!!

"I just don't know, okay? It's scary."

"Well, no shit, Sherlock. It's love. Not hockey."

Will Vaughn and Brie be able to forget their hate and work around it???

Will their attraction can lead them in a new beginning??? Or there are many things that are standing between them???

"They were fire and gasoline, and if he knew better, he'd stay away to prevent the explosion. He just wasn't sure if he could."

I loved both Vaughn and Brie... They were amazing persons!!!
And God, I loved their interactions.... They were so entertaining!!!

But don't full yourselves!!! Yes, there were many funny moments inside this book, but there were also emotional ones...

"You said you want someone to fight for you. Well, here I am. Let's do this. You know I love a challenge."

I also adored all the secondary characters, especially Jensen and Wren...
God, I can't wait to see how this one will play out!!!! I'm so eager for this certain story!!!

This was my second book of the Assassins series and God, I enjoyed both books so much!!!
You probably wondering, how the hell i managed to do so since this was the eleventh book of the series, but i have to tell you that you won't have any problem if you want to give it a chance...

It can be read as a standalone, as well!!!

******ARC kindly provided via NetGalley for the exchange of an honest review******

~Mandi~ says

Delayed Call (Assassins #11)

This one started off real funny. Vaughn is a hockey player for the Assassins and Brie is the Assassins reporter. They have a total hate relationship for each other. The banter between them is so funny. They both have the wrong impression of each other and both thinks the other is an entitled asshole. Even though you know Brie and Vaughn are gonna hook up. It takes them forever of fighting their attraction to finally do something about it. But when they do, it's hot and sexy and it's too much emotion for Vaughn so he pushes her away. Their back and forth relationship is so frustrating. But it's part of what makes you keep reading. And the asshole stuff that Vaughn pulls really makes you hate him at times. But the fights between them are pretty honest and I love Brie's fiery attitude and how she stands up for herself.

" You don't want to be in a relationship?"

"No."

"But you yearn for me? Need me? Want me? All that other jazz?"

" I do."

"Are you fucking kidding me?"

" No I meant everything I said."

"But you don't want more than to fucking fuck me? Is that all that I am, a fucking fuck? You like me enough to fuck me, and spit some good game, but I'm not good enough to have a relationship with."

I absolutely love how Brie takes care of her younger brother with Down Syndrome. And how that bring Brie and Vaughn closer together.

Vaughn has a couple of different sides to him. He can be a cocky jackass, super sexy and sweet, and the fun loving friend. You just never know what your gonna get.

This was such a crazy cute romance. I loved it from beginning to end. And throughout the story the author teased us with hopefully her next story. And I can't wait for that one to come out.

Thanks NetGalley for the arc in exchange for my honest review.

Cocktails and Books says

It pains me to rate this book a three. I like it, but I didn't love the book. I had a hard to understanding the characters, especially when their banter was more high schoolish than any banter I would see as foreplay in thirty-year-old adults.

Full review to come.

***kawehi.reviews says**

It was pretty interesting and comical to see for once, two character's of Toni Aleo's not being gaga over each other first and irking the other like none other. Haha. *While it's hardly a revelation for me*, as I'm seen this is in many sports romances I've come across, there was still something fresh and compelling about these characters individually, their dual rapport, and the nostalgia I always get when I come back to my Assassins family. There's nothing that can beat them for me.

Looovved this!

Jemy Leo says

I am half way through the book, I am so frustrated I just want to rant.

OMG the heroine is SOOOO annoying.

The book has a promising start. We know the hero and heroine from the previous book. The heroine, Brie is the sport reporter of the team, while the hero, Vaughn is the douche hockey player who always gives her a hard time. At first, everything seems fine. Vaughn is his usual jerky charming self with an unexpected soft side. We learn from the previous book that Brie is working hard to provide for her adult younger brother with Down Syndrome. She sounds endearing and I really want to like her.

Now I am not sure I ever will.

Spoiler Alert!

Spoiler Alert!

Spoiler Alert!

Brie started to get to my nerves when she and her brother, Rod were meeting the doctor to discuss his heart issue. He was staying in an old folk facility that also took in people with Down Syndrome, but he didn't like it. The old folks disliked him, and he felt out of place and dying in that facility. He told Brie that someone who approached him about a community that houses people with Down Syndrome. The program was great, it helped them to work and integrate and everything. Of course Brie was suspicious because it sounded too good to be true. Rod urged her to call the person to find out more.

That is where my problem with the heroine begins. She flat out refused to do so. She claimed to love her brother so much, but when Rod said he is not happy in his old facility and there is a new opportunity somewhere else, she simply refused to call! I know she has a lot in her hands, but her reasons were she was not very trusting, and she felt anxious about her brother's safety and well-being. But would it hurt to CALL???? To simply find out more??? Instead, she just kept putting it off.

Things just get worse. Rod kept begging her for a long time, finally she caved. She called the person in charge, "Nate" and she was awful and rude in that phone call. I meant, the person didn't owe her money! He offered them a chance, to get Rod a better living, but she sounded like SHE was doing them a favor! What a brat. Even if she was suspicious, couldn't she be polite in a phone call? You are 31 yo for goodness's sake!

The heroine turned out to be a different person. She is bratty, ungrateful and simply awful. I don't know what other people see in her. They kept excusing her rudeness and awful behaviors. She was NOT smart, she got EQ like 3 yo.

It turned out, the person in charge of the new facility was actually Vaughn, the hero who Brie was attracted to but claiming to hate. He already knew Rod was her brother from their previous phone call, but he didn't tell her his identity because he was afraid that she won't let Rod go to his facility. Well, dude, you are right. She is petty and immature like that. When she learned that "Nate" was actually Vaughn, she was so mad she punched him. Punched him! Aren't you something?

The author kept finding excuses for her behaviors, but I am not sold. The bottom line is, if you truly care for your family's well-being, you will put aside your personal feeling and grudges. You will not deny him a better future just because you feel safer that way and let him rot in a "cell" (her word, not mine). The least you can do is to find out more whether it is a better option. Not giving excuses like she doesn't trust it, she doesn't think she can afford it (even though they assure her it is free because her brother will be working in the facility to pay for it) she hate the hero blah blah blah. The author even made me hate the hero a little because he said he admired the heroine for PUNCHING him! Pls, dear author, stop finding excuses for her!

And....when the heroine finally relented to go for a tour in the new facility, you won't guess what happened. She wore a shirt that said: I know how I look. I don't care. I don't want to be here.

HAHAHAHA. You think it was cute? What are you, five? Woman, grow the fuck up. You are 31, can't you be gracious for once?

10 words to describe the heroine: bratty, bitchy, ungrateful, immature, self-centered, judgmental, rude, unprofessional, stupid, awful.

I am not sure I can continue after the shirt scene.

Chelle says

For me this series has lost some its sparkle in recent books, the decline probably began with Jordy's book. I was hoping this would pick it up, not really.

I particularly liked him. And the extended story around her brother was interesting and well done. I liked that a lot.

However, I thought her focus on someone agreeing that they loved her within such a short time just didn't fit with the rest of her persona and tbh it was idiotic. Let the guy fall for you, give him a chance FFS! Fine if you've been together a year or so, but a few weeks?! Odd.

Every other word was ass or asshole. Seriously expand the vocab please!

The extra characters all felt quite new and the dialogue was just a bit odd. All a bit weirdly cliquey. It was hard to get into.

However as most of the characters are new it's easily a stand alone book.

Thank you netgalley for an arc and I'm happy to share my own honest review.

Tpagirl says

Delayed Call was the eleventh book in the Assassins series by Toni Aleo revolving around the Nashville NHL team.

Vaughn Johansson was the star forward with the killer wrister. He was gorgeous, the jokester and never took anything seriously. Yet, we found that he also had a heart of gold but he came with a ton of baggage.

Brie Soledad was the beautiful Assassins reporter that got under Vaughn's skin. Or was it that Vaughn got under Brie's skin...yea that too and they fought like cats and dogs.

True to Aleo's style, she sent us on a journey of discovery and healing before Vaughn and Brie could truly

move forward. And for extra enjoyment, several of our favorite characters from the previous books made appearances.

The storyline was well written with well developed characters. The only major drawback was the editing errors. There were more than I felt was acceptable; focusing primarily on missing, extra or incorrect words.

Additionally, I liked the premise of the story but Vaughn and Brie were a little immature for me. Although they were NA so it was somewhat refreshing to see the lighthearted humor from an innocent age. Not my typical humor but it worked ok for me most of the time.

Within the storyline, Aleo tackled the tough subject of Down's syndrome including the challenges, affects upon the family, the ongoing decisions and the associated costs. It brought depth and complexity to the storyline. I'm not intimately familiar with Down's syndrome but it appeared realistic from a possible perspective. I would imagine in today's society that it could be a hot bed for abuse and fraud if the right options aren't thoroughly explored. Through Aleo's writing, I could feel Brie's anxiety over making the best long term decisions for her brother; yet to also stay within her budget and not send them into bankruptcy.

Lastly, I loved how Aleo intertwined plots from different series. You don't have to read them all in order to follow along, but it's a bonus to her loyal readers. It's like an inside joke. In *Delayed Call*, it took me awhile to realize that one of the subplots, Wells, Vaughn and Jensen's best friend, was one of those bonus treats. Wells was gay and his ex was Matty, Audrey's asshole brother in *Hooked by Love* (book three, *Bellevue Bullies*). I'm expecting a book for Wells now, but I'm not sure which series we'll see it in or exactly how it will play out.

What was obvious was that *Delayed Call* was a total set up for Jensen and Wren, which I'm assuming will be the next book in the series. I'm not a huge fan of either one yet so I'm hoping they will get grit and strength once their own story is revealed.

All in all, *Delayed Call* was entertaining. I continued to enjoy Aleo's writing style and character development. Kudos to Aleo for adding another good story to the series.

Christy says

4 stars!!!

There's a thin line between love and hate...

Delayed Call is the 11th book in the Assassin's series and it deals with one of my favorite troupes- those enemies to lovers couples! Yes, Vaughn and Brie despise each other. Vaughn is the cocky star of the Assassins, and Brie is their team reporter. They are constantly at each others throats, but it's apparent they want each other. When they start to get to know each other and realize how much they have in common, their hate turns to tolerance. And their tolerance of one another turns into something more.

“I didn’t realize you liked anything about me.”

“You’re growing on me.”

“That’s good.” Her eyes sparkled.

“Yeah?”

“Yeah, ’cause you’ve grown on me, completely.”

Vaughn could be an ass to Brie, but he is truly a stand up guy. Once you see into his heart, you know it’s made of gold. I loved Brie as well. She was a take no crap heroine. Toni does a great job with writing those. I loved the bond the two of them shared, especially with Nate Way. It was so beautiful it brought me to tears more than once.

The banter between this couple was exceptional. It was so fun to see them go back and forth. Even when they got romantic and became a couple, they still had that fun and back and forth banter that left a smile on my face. And their chemistry... it was super hot!

Delayed Call is a fun, sexy, emotional read. This is one of my favorite sports romance series and I enjoyed it lots. I can’t wait for the next book in the series- I really hope it’s about Jensen and Wren! I also hope Wells gets a book in the future! I would love to see Toni write some m/m!

“I think I always knew you were the one.”
