



The Virgin's Guide to Misbehaving

Jessica Clare

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Playing innocent is easy.

After being the quiet, shy girl her whole life, Elise Markham is ready for a mental makeover. She's done keeping to herself and staying out of trouble—it's time to break out of her shell and maybe meet someone intriguing in the process. So, on a photography trip to Bluebonnet, she has a whole lot more on her mind than snapping photos, especially when Rome walks into the picture.

Playing dirty is fun.

The newest instructor at Wilderness Survival Expeditions has a colorful past, to say the least. Having come from a family of notorious con artists that destroyed his credit and reputation, all before his eighteenth birthday, Rome just wants a decent job and a quiet life in a town where no one knows his name. He's exactly the kind of bad boy that an innocent girl like Elise should stay far away from.

But Elise is tired of doing what's right. She's ready to throw caution to the wind—and let Rome show her just how exciting being bad can be...

The Virgin's Guide to Misbehaving Details

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Author : Jessica Clare

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Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Shelly's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4.5 STARS

Review copy provided for an honest review

Elise leads a shelter life with her overprotective family, but she is ready to get out there and find a date and she knows exactly who she wants. Rome isn't who you might think he is and when he finds out Elise has sights on him the sparks will fly. But first Elise has to convince Rome that she isn't stuck up or a snob just shy and sheltered. Sneaking around behind her brother is another challenge that they will have to face is her chance to experience life and she wants Rome to show her what she has been missing out on. With love comes family and if Rome and Elise can get through that then they have a solid future ahead of them. Great characters add to the book to make it all that more enjoyable to read.

The Romance Evangelist says

A copy of this book was provided to me by the publisher for an honest review at Seductive Musings.

Although this isn't my first Jessica Clare book, it is the first one I've read in her Bluebonnet series, where different couples find love in a tiny but interesting fictional Texas town. I didn't have any problem diving into the story of a hero and heroine from vastly different worlds who found themselves more compatible than anyone could have predicted. Elise and Rome's romance is both sweet and hot, and it kept me interested even as another character in the book did her best to try to make me stop reading altogether.

Elise is quiet and shy because she spent her formative years suffering from a self-image severely damaged by a large facial birthmark and scoliosis. The birthmark was mostly removed by lasers, the scoliosis mostly fixed by years in a body brace and major surgery, but some external and internal scars remain. So when Elise finds herself irresistibly drawn to a handsome stranger covered in piercings and tattoos, she's as surprised as anyone at her decision to pursue what would be the first real romantic relationship of her life. But will he give her a chance?

Rome has learned to trust no one after the multiple betrayals of his family resulted years spent in prison for a crime he didn't commit. His checkered past and intimidating appearance have kept everyone at arm's length, until pretty little Elise sneaks past his defenses and convinces him to embark on a passionate affair. But when Elise's over-protective brother discovers the truth, what will it take to keep the lovers together when it seems like everyone else is working to keep them apart?

For me, reading THE VIRGIN'S GUIDE TO MISBEHAVING was a constant battle between the parts of the story I loved and the parts that made me want to throw my ereader against the wall in frustration. Rome and Elise really are a beautifully matched couple. Each has been taught not to trust other people, albeit for

entirely different reasons, and even as they realize they want to be together, they each still take turns bracing for what they believe will be an inevitable betrayal by the other. It was wonderful to see how Rome proved he wouldn't take advantage of Elise's naivete, and how Elise in turn showed him how he was worthy of her love and the respect of others. Their intimate scenes exquisitely raised the sexual tension and deepened their emotional attachment each time they came together, and by the end of the book, we could see that they'll continue to grow in their affection and trust as a united team against anyone who would dare threaten their happiness. But Rome and Elise weren't the problem for me.

The reason I found this book to be as annoying as it was entertaining can be summed up in one word: Brenna. Brenna is the fiancée of Elise's brother, Grant, and she is as wild and crazy as he is buttoned down and straitlaced. She may be a good person, but she is not a good friend to Elise. Brenna is the reason why Rome thought Elise didn't like him. Brenna is the reason why Grant finds out about Rome and Elise before they are ready to go public, even after Elise specifically asked her not to tell anyone. And then to top it all off, when Rome leaves town in a misguided attempt to protect Elise from her brother's wrath, Brenna is the reason why Elise uses a truly reprehensible trick to force Rome into coming back.

I'll admit it's possible that if I'd read Brenna's book before this one, I might have a more rounded picture of who she is and why she behaves as she does here. But as a new reader to the series, I found Brenna to be such an incredible distraction that every time she appeared to mess things up, I wished I could tell her off and make her go away for good. If Brenna is in all the other Bluebonnet books, then frankly, I'm not interested in reading them. Thanks to her, I was only just able to finish *THE VIRGIN'S GUIDE TO MISBEHAVING* so I could enjoy Rome and Elise's lovely HEA, including a satisfying epilogue that emphasized just how good they would always be for one another. But if you can stomach a relentlessly wacky secondary character like Brenna, you might like this book even better.

Ratings:

Overall: 3

Sensuality level: 3

Vashti says

Sweet story,guy is dirt poor and I mean dirt poor,has a slew of tats,piercings to ears,nose,lip,and my favorite,the penis!He is also an ex con .She is the sister of his boss,painfully shy ,self concious ,virgin ,and a rich girl.

No over the top drama,old characters make an appearance which is always a good thing in these series type books.Smexy times are hot,overall a decent read.

Heather andrews says

Sighs oh Rome I just wanted to jump on you and ride you like a horny filly, "am I?" Rome laugh at Brenna's outrageous comments. "Maybe I should volunteer to Elise's man-meat, then." The boy seriously puts himself out there for Elise, "oh. Huh." He wondered why, but she didn't seem like she was volunteering

the information. "That's a shame. If you ever need to get me shirtless again, though, you just let me know." I loved how innocent Elise was and the conversations she had with Rome about a certain something was just pi** my pants funny:

"Well," she began softly. "Um...I'd really like to have sex."

"Right now?"

She could feel her cheeks heating. "It doesn't have to be right now, no."

His mouth twitched. "Tomorrow, then?"

He says the sexiest things, "god damn, Elise," he murmured hoarsely, leaning in to press a kiss on her jaw as she cuddled closer, "You sure you're a virgin? Because you're making my d*** hard as eff." And I loved how crude he could be, "it's a good thing, I promise. Not every girl's a squirter. And it sounds crude, I know, but I assure you, it's totally natural. You didn't pee on me, Elise. You came so hard that you ejaculated." And he's always one for keeping Elise in high spirits, "are you kidding? I'm effing stoked. You came so hard, and just for me." His hands ran over her body again, and he buried his face against her neck. "You were so goddamn wet I nearly came in my pants as soon as I touched you. Knowing I turned you on that much? How can I not love that?" God I love this series and the men in them.

Stephanie says

ORIGINAL POST: <http://fangswandsandfairydust.com/201...>

June 14, 2014

VIRGIN'S GUIDE TO MISBEHAVING STRIKES A CHORD

E-Galley provided by publisher for review purposes. No remuneration was exchanged and all opinions presented herein are my own unless otherwise noted or cited.

While I gave a decent review to the 3rd book in this series, **THE EXPERT'S GUIDE TO DRIVING A MAN WILD** (<http://fangswandsandfairydust.com/201...>), I did feel the language was a little crude, but the story was interesting and quirky. It had a lot of shock value.

But, I found this story really struck a chord with me.

The tattooed and pierced Rome could be an antihero, but there's no 'anti' in him. He has just had a bum rap in life. But a better first lover, and first love, could not be written. For the young woman whose shyness is the result of scoliosis, a birthmark and a sheltered upbringing, he is absolutely perfect even though you would never put the two together at a dinner party.

And Clare strikes the right notes with the situation as well — we can all sympathize with Elise — every woman can. Almost everyone has been hurt by some guy in her past, made to feel lesser and unsexy.

So when Elise is filled with doubt because what she hears from him seems too good to believe, I **TOTALLY** understood it even though it has been over 33 years since I experienced it. It is the kind of experience you remember. He said he'll call but then he doesn't call. Or, he swears his undying love, or tells you he thinks

you are so beautiful/special/brilliant only and you learn it was all an act to get into your pants. And ,I love it when Elise grows a spine and gets the job done. I even like how her brother tries to “protect” her from the nasty boy.

The writing is uneven though with one moment a character is tender and the next, s/he is crude. The use of the word “squirting” to describe female ejaculation was interesting in that the term is explained as such, but I certainly sympathized with Elise’s reaction to what would, to the inexperienced, feel like urination.

We get some brief glimpses into Grant, Brenna Beth Ann and other characters from the other books in the series. But, this one won me over for its sensitive (if repetitive) treatment of Elise’s issues and the very fine man who she hooks up with.

I recommend it!

Makeba Stewart says

This love story is about Elise and Rome. Elise is the virgin that wants to experience sex and she wants Rome to be the lucky guy to teach/show her. Rome is willing to help her out. How they get to that point is unique. When they fall out, then come back together is unique in a way that I have yet to read in any book. Of course this is a HEA. I have enjoyed this series and will miss all the characters. Good job Jessica Clare. Great reads.

Nicole says

Really good, I liked that it was super sexy, but also took time to develop sexually, since Elise is a virgin. :)
B

Read full review here: <http://thebookpushers.com/2014/05/30/...>

Ellie says

The Virgin’s Guide to Misbehaving, Bluebonnet #4, by Jessica Clare
Grade: D

“God Damn. Kissing you is like falling into madness, isn’t it?”

Elise Markham has spent her life being the extremely shy girl who can hardly hold a conversation with the opposite sex. Elise is desperate to break free of the physical and emotional things in her past that have made it so hard for her to have normal relationships and there’s only one person she wants to help her: Rome Lozada. Rome is everything Elise has ever wanted: handsome, sweet and looks like a bad boy. Elise is shocked when Rome takes her up on her offer but she refuses to let her shyness rob her of this beautiful man.

Rome Lozada is determined to finally break free of his hippie-con artist family and make it on his own. When he lands a job at the Wilderness Survival Expeditions he feels like his luck is finally changing, especially when he meets his boss’s sister Elise. Elise is way too good for Rome but there’s no way that he

can walk away from what she is offering him. As the two start their adventure together Rome finds himself falling in love with the sweet, shy woman but old secrets come back to haunt him and destroy his relationship.

I was a big fan of the first two books in the Bluebonnet series but the last two have not been my cup of tea. I was very excited for Rome and Elise's book but it really missed the mark for me. I know that Elise is shy but she was painfully shy to the point that it was awkward to read and my heart broke for her. At the same time she could come off as very annoying because she had no experience with men or relationships. I felt at times that I was in the mind of a thirteen year old girl and not a young woman in her twenties and her actions towards the end of the book are also very childish.

I liked Rome at first but after awhile he too got annoying. I hate when any character of a book makes a decision that they think is best for another person without consulting them first. Rome is a good guy but he told way too many lies and sometimes treated Elise like a child. I didn't understand why he acted the way he did towards the end and the whole thing just really bothered me. Neither Elise or Rome could just be honest and that along with everything else made this book almost unreadable.

Sadly I am done with this series. After two books that were almost painful to read I have no desire to go back and revisit these characters. I really wanted to like this book but it was a giant disappointment for me.

Jess says

DNF - 20% - I can't take the ridiculously shy heroine. I can normally get behind a shy lead character (they can be so easy to root for), but it's absolutely painful to read this. Moving on.

Dotti Elrick says

I have been a fan of Jessica Clare ever since I first read her Succubus Diaries (writing as Jill Myles) years ago. I quickly fell in love with her contemporary romance series. Her Bluebonnet series is great, and A Virgins Guide to Misbehaving, is a wonderful addition.

Rome and Elise are two people from very different worlds.

Elise, the daughter of very wealthy, over protective parents, has hidden herself away from the world. Bullied and teased as a young woman, now an adult, she still only sees the scars and odd shape of her body.

Rome on the other hand, has only known the rougher side of life, a family he's on the run from, a prison record, arrest warrants from various states, bad credit, and more secrets than he cares to think about.

From the first moment Elise laid eyes on Rome, she only saw the incredibly sexy, Harley riding, pierced, tattooed man of her dreams. Now if she could just break free of her terminal shyness to actually speak to him, rather than running away anytime he enters a room, maybe, just maybe he might like her too.

Rome enjoys spending time with Elise, slowly drawing her out of her shell. He only sees how beautiful she is. But Elise's brother happens to be Rome's boss. And Grant has made it perfectly clear, if Rome wants to keep his desperately needed job, stay away from his sister.

I loved this story. A nice lesson on not judging a book by its cover. No matter what people see on the outside, you never know what truly lays beneath the surface, until you take the time and make the effort to get to know that person. That's Rome and Elise. Two very different books on the outside.

Gina says

As I said in my review for the prior book of this series, I love the secondary set up for the next couple but have found myself not so interested when it comes to their turn as the main couple. You think after 4 books I would learn as the same thing happened here. Elise, incredibly shy sister to Grant, and Rome, new hire at the outdoor adventure business (see all prior books) share some incredibly cute, little misunderstandings in the prior book. Now that it's their turn, I found Elise's extreme shyness extremely annoying at first, but not so annoying as her miraculous cure after some time with Rome. I liked Rome better, but am tired of the "leaving for your own good" trope. I liked this one better than the last 2 books of the series, but Clare's Hit Man and Billionaire Boy's Club series are both better overall.

Beth P says

Shy, scarred virgin and tatted-up, pierced biker with a heart of gold fall in love ever-so-sweetly in The Virgin's Guide to Misbehaving (book 4 in the Bluebonnet series). This was a 4.5 star read for me. I am a fan of this series and have read the previous three novels and two novellas.

Though The Virgin's Guide to Misbehaving can work as a stand-alone, I firmly believe that my rating would have been lower (a 3 or 3.5) had I read it that way. My advice is to at least read The Expert's Guide to Driving a Man Wild first. Elise and Rome, the leads in Virgin's Guide, are introduced as characters and have several interactions in Expert's Guide. While this history is summarized in Virgin's Guide, I feel that witnessing those events in "real-time" provides significantly more character depth. Additionally, the behaviors and personalities of secondary characters Grant and Brenna make way more sense if you are familiar with their story. (If this book had been my first encounter with Brenna, I'm fairly certain I would have been wishing her dead. By knowing her background, this was more like a fun reunion with a wacky friend.)

Elise is an adorable, vulnerable heroine. There were several instances in the book when I just wanted to scoop her up and put her in my pocket. Rome is an incredibly sweet and sexy hero. He looks like a bad boy, but is the nicest guy in the universe. The chemistry between Elise and Rome is delicious. My need for them to be together was so great that my heart hurt any time they were separated. I repeatedly teared-up just for Rome and his situation in life. This emotional response was so strong that it overrode my rational brain's two issues with the book: (1) Rome is simply too good to be true and (2) when Elise finally overcomes her shyness, her personality change in that respect is quick and complete. But the feels! The feels were so strong I just didn't care.

Jessica Clare has stated that this is the final book in the series. Goodbye, Bluebonnet, TX. It's been fun. I'll be back to visit (reread) some day. You can count on it.

Adria (Musings and Reviews) says

Originally posted on Adria's Romance Reviews.

I'm going to be upfront, I was apprehensive about this story. I dislike virgins in contemporary romances because while the sexual naivety that usually accompanies a virgin may work well with a historical romance, I find that it's out of place in a more modern setting where presumably women have come a long way since the time of corsets and demure behavior.

Wow, that was a mouthful but I had to say it. Now, on with the rest of my thoughts on *The Virgin's Guide to Misbehaving*.

I loved it. I loved how wrong I was with my assumptions about almost everything in this book!

I didn't think this series could get any hotter, especially not with a character like Elise! At first Elise's extreme shyness got to me at first, she was worse than the women in historical romances with all the blushing, stammering and looking at her feet. She would even go so far as to pull her hair towards the front of her face in an effort to further conceal herself. However, when the reason why she was so damn shy came to light, my attitude towards her softened immediately. I only wish the author hadn't waited so long to reveal Elise's secret.

Then there's Rome. Wow. Can you say sex on a stick? I hope so because that's the best way I can describe him. He first appeared in *The Expert's Guide to Driving a Man Wild* and gave off the impression of being a silent bad boy. I was so curious about him simply because he is the complete opposite of Elise. He was also the complete opposite of a silent bad boy. Rome may look the part of a rough and tough hoodlum but the way he looks is totally opposite to how he is as a man. He's guarded but caring, considerate and oddly enough, he's vulnerable. I loved that about him.

On the surface, Rome and Elise don't sound like they'd be a good couple. He's had a very hard life and she's been sheltered and protected from everything. He's had life experience, and she's still a virgin. I thought *The Virgin's Guide to Misbehaving* was going to be a dull bore with Rome chasing after an overly shy Elise but again, I was wrong! Just because Elise was a virgin didn't mean that the heat factor took a dive, in fact, I would say that this is the hottest book in the series. Rome is the very essence of sex on a stick but add the verbal foreplay that he dishes out and it's enough to melt any girl's... Bones. It's more than just how sexy Rome is, to me it was all about how he treated Elise from the very beginning. He didn't understand her in the beginning yet he never treated her with anything less than respect and kindness.

Along with Rome and Elise, long time fans like myself got to revisit with previous couples including Elise's brother Grant and his quirky fiancé Brenna. The relationship between Grant and Elise is given a little more page time in *The Virgin's Guide to Misbehaving* which explains more of Elise's ingrained behavior of hiding herself away. Grant is a loving brother, he just doesn't know when to back off and still sees Elise as needing his protection. Then there's Rome's family, including a brother named Jericho who sounds, in a word, delicious.

I thoroughly enjoyed Rome and Elise's romance and am once again impressed by how hooked I am on this series. Author Jessica Clare has managed to take a small town and make it all kinds of interesting and sexy.

Final Verdict: *The Virgin's Guide to Misbehaving* is a great addition to an already enjoyable series. In my opinion this book is the hottest in the series. I do hope the series doesn't end here though.

Angela Carr (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

The Virgin's Guide to Misbehaving is not my fave installment of the series though I enjoyed it just the same. Jessica Clare executed yet another fun and sexy read.

Rome is in his late 20's, Rome is trying to straighten up his life. He's had a rough life growing up and his experience has lead him to seek a quiet and hidden life. Let me tell you, his mysterious streak made him so desirable. Not to mention his rough tatted persona which will melt your undies away just by looking at him. This man is hot.

Elise, on the other hand, is Rome's polar opposite. She has been sheltered all her young life. Certainly sweet but also naive and innocent. Due to her physical attributes as a child, she has always been timid and shy until she meets Rome, who makes her want to break out of her shell. I can't blame her, Rome is just a sight for sore eyes.

Rome and Elise's sexual tension was off the charts from the beginning to end. I really liked their chemistry. There's a hint of New Adult in this small town romance. Not only that the protagonists are in their twenties, there was also a bit more angst to the story. Don't get me wrong, this book is full of love and just like the previous books, it is very steamy. This is Jessica Clare's novel after all...sexy is a must!

My only complaint is how Elise acted in some of the scenes. She acted as a teenager and it was a bit annoying to see her act that way. Granted she wanted to break out of her shell, but the lack of experience left her in the playing field and a bit desperate. Literally. She played games to get what she wanted and once she even cried wolf to get Rome's attention. By the end of the book, Elise's personality does make a turn and acted accordingly. It is why she never made to the TSTL list.

I'm not sure if this is the last of the Blue Bonnet series, but I'm hoping for more. Small town romance is definitely one of Ms. Clare's forte.

*ARC provided by publisher

Fanniny Moreno Zavaleta says

DNF

It's not you, it's me. I'm not into tattooed guys but I can take them from time to time... Unless we're talking about piercings and here we're talking about way too many of them.

Poor h went through a lot physically so I can understand her insecurities in her looks. But still she rubbed me the wrong way.

And I got bored too easily.
