



# The Bargain

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## **The Bargain** Christine S. Feldman

Tomboy Shannon Mahoney has always been a lot more comfortable with power tools than high heels or lipstick, and she wishes she could reinvent herself and finally tell her perfect boss, Drew Kingston, she has had a crush on him since high school. But she is just as tongue-tied and awkward around him now as she ever was, and long-familiar patterns are hard things from which to break free...

Ladies' man Michael is a former bad boy looking for redemption. He is desperate to atone for past mistakes that he made with his family, but younger brother Drew has cut him out of his life and refuses to even speak to him. Which means Michael needs help getting to Drew.

And so he approaches Shannon with a proposition: If she will get Drew to agree to hear him out, Michael will mentor Shannon in how to win his brother's heart. Suspicious of Michael's motives, Shannon initially enters into the bargain just to make sure Michael isn't actually in town to cause trouble for Drew, but the two unlikely allies are surprised to discover they enjoy each other's company far more than either expected.

Shannon starts to realize that maybe love isn't about reinventing yourself after all. It's about finding your perfect match.

## **The Bargain Details**

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Author : Christine S. Feldman

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## Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Amanda's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

Review copy provided for an honest review

5 STARS

The Bargain by Christine S. Feldman is an absolute gem of a romance story. The story she creates in such a short amount of pages is about the journey of a woman stepping into her life from the sidelines and taking chances. Shannon has been in love with Drew Kingston since high school. She's his personal assistant and he has no idea about her crush on him. Older brother Michael Kingston comes back to town to try and talk to his younger brother, but Drew won't have anything to do with him. Somehow Michael figures out Shannon's infatuation with Drew and asks her to help him in exchange he will help her win Drew. Shannon's wary at first, but eventually she finds out there is more to Michael than meets the eye.

Shannon is a very likeable character but she tends to blend and play it safe. However, she is also smart, self-reliant, can handle power tools and is loyal to a fault. She didn't get a nurturing atmosphere growing up and had to figure things out on her own. I was able to understand Shannon's past and insecurities slowly, in subtle ways, throughout the story. After she strikes a bargain with Michael, her encounters with him start to get intimate. She reveals little things to him that she's never done before with anyone else. This begins to confuse her and what she feels for both brothers.

Michael is the bad boy reformed and wants to try and repair his past by stopping his brother's actions. His heart is in the right place but is he too late? I didn't like Michael much in the beginning, but I warmed towards him over the course of the story and eventually fell in love with him. Anyone who would go out of his way like he did for Shannon has a good heart. I've met a few "Michaels" in my life and I see how their past still affects their lives in the present. It sometimes takes a special someone to show them they are worthy and in The Bargain Shannon is that someone for Michael Kingston.

I am so glad that I found this author because her stories have been delightful and heartwarming. She writes about real human emotions and feelings in real life situations. Shannon and Michael's love story may not be your typical love story, but it is the beginning for both of them and caring for another. You are also left with the feeling that with time they are making strides to continue to grow. The ending was a nice surprise because it was about her alone. Alone to stand on her own two feet and face a new venture. However, Michael is there for her, even if she doesn't think she wants him. My heart melts and warms all together and that is just the best feeling an author can do to me. I like a story that can be easily read in one sitting and give you that happily ever after ending. I am looking forward to more from Christine Feldman because she writes from the heart.

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## Alisa says

Shannon Mahoney has loved Drew Kingston since they were in high school together (even though he didn't even know who she was back then). When he became the new city councilman and she realized they would

be working together, she thought fate had handed her a gold mine. Except she gets tongue-tied around him and is always making dinner reservations for his dates.

Michael Kingston is Drew's older brother and the black sheep of the family. Since the death of their parents, Drew has had complete control of the family fortune. Michael has come to town to convince Drew that it is a mistake to turn the family home into a youth center. But Drew doesn't want to talk to Michael. Ever. Michael first meets Shannon when he's trying to get through to Drew and she does an incredible job of stopping him.

Michael quickly realizes that his best chance of getting through to Drew is to make Shannon his ally instead of his enemy. Because of his extreme good looks and charm, Michael has always been able to get what he wanted out of women. But Shannon is not like any woman he has ever met, and he finds himself in unfamiliar territory with her. And he finds himself feeling better about himself in the process.

He yanks her chain, and she puts him in his place. She is never tongue-tied around Michael; she always feels free to speak her mind! The banter between Michael and Shannon is great!

Michael and Shannon make a deal... He will teach her how to attract men so she can have a chance with his brother if she will talk to Drew about the family home. As they spend more time around each other, they start seeing things differently and start wanting different things!

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### **Englishrose says**

This was a really cute and fun romance. There were some great, toe-curling moments. Though the characters had enough flaws to make them realistic, they were perfectly wonderful. Shannon has some sass and is quirky. Michael is the repentant bad boy, sweet and kind when it counts. They have great chemistry together. All of the characters have wonderful interplay with each other, clearly creating and pulling you into their worlds. There are a few good side characters to flush out the story and create some light side plots. A very romantic story that I really enjoyed.

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### **Eileen says**

new author who creates stories full of rich characters with flaws and redeeming characteristics. Shannon thought she wanted one brother but ended up falling for his older sibling. Michael wants to right a wrong from his past and will bargain with Shannon to help him and he'll reciprocate with what she wants. Little do they know they end up helping each other. Great story!

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### **Kelli says**

Shannon Mahonney lives by herself and works for her high school crush, the perfect Drew Kingston. She is not at all flashy. Instead, she loves earth tones, her dog, and domestic tasks. She gets tongue tied around men, and for this reason her boss, Drew, has no idea that she has a crush on him.

Drew is very serious and work oriented. Planning a project with his childhood home, he is met with resistance by his brother, Michael, who tries to talk Drew out of using his childhood home for a project. Still, Drew is reluctant to listen to Michael, as Michael's reputation has not proven him to be trustworthy. Michael even tries to reach out to Drew through Shannon. However, Shannon remembers Michael from high school, and maintains her guard. Unsure as to his true motives, Michael persists, and with much at stake it is difficult to know who to trust. Shannon wonders if Michael's motives are genuine, and if they should listen to Michael, after all.

This was a sweet read, although quite predictable. I enjoyed it, but found myself rushing through, and never too emotional about it--my gauge as to how much I am enjoying a book. I was entertained, but not swept away. Overall a sweet read, but not too thrilling. The characters were likable, and the romance was slow and smooth. A nice read!

Reviewed by Kelli  
3 1/2 Stars

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### **Lyuda says**

Short, totally predictable, cliché ridden but never less heartwarming and comforting story of two protagonists with the past they trying to correct. They entered in to what both perceived to be a mutually beneficial bargain: he would get his brother to reconsider giving up their parents' house and she would get some help to get noticed by the said brother. They didn't bargain to fall in love.

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### **Alex Sharrock says**

Loved this! Review to come! :)

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### **Beth says**

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I love a good urban fantasy but every once in a while you need a marvelously sweet, reality based home town romance. *The Bargain* provided all that and more.

Shannon Mahoney was an awkward teen who had a major crush on one of the most popular boys in school, Drew Kingston. Most of the time that wouldn't be an issue once said teen was an adult but for Shannon, she is still holding a torch for Drew and he happens to be her boss.

When Drew's brother Michael returns home, the quintessential prodigal son, he quickly realizes Shannon's unrequited feelings towards his brother. Since Michael needs Drew's ear, he knows his only way is through Shannon. Michael offers Shannon a deal, get Drew to listen to his side of the story and he'll teach her how to attract Drew. Problem is, Michael never saw himself falling for Shannon.

*The Bargain* is an utterly endearing story that makes you come away with a smile on your face. There is something about Feldman's ability to write people and not just characters that has made her work become such a favorite of mine. Each of her stories never fails to provide a feel good, tender story that will touch your emotions and leave you wanting more.

*The Bargain* provides the perfect quick, easy, wonderfully entertaining contemporary romance.

Written by: Christine Feldman

Print Length: 186 pages

Publication Date: June 16, 2015

Rating: 5 Stars

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Genre: Contemporary Romance

Amazon | Barnes & Noble

For Reviews and More Check out: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

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### **Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says**

I love reading clean romance books. I just can't help it. It's the classic boy meets girl, the struggle, the toe curling kisses and of course, the resolution. When I want escape, diversion, and dreamy romance, this is the genre is where I go.

*The Bargain* is down to earth with real characters doing real things. Shannon is endearing. You can relate to the whole "back in the day" high school scene with her. The way she gets all tongue tied and shy around her long time crush (who she now works for!) and the way she stands up to Michael like a bull dog brings out all the sides of her personality. I love how she is so insecure but tries so hard to overcome that. The battle at the car while Shannon internally debates with herself about going into the clothing shop is classic. I loved that part. Especially from Michael's point of view. Second favorite part? The wowza first kiss, of course. :)

This book was easy, fun reading. It had an excellent flow with great dialogue. The characters were likable and easy to relate to. It was the perfect book to cozy up with on the couch as the weather turns cold outside. I love happily ever after endings. :)

Content: mild swearing, some sexual innuendo and references

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### **Kathy \* Bookworm Nation says**

I'm so behind on my reviews I had to create a Goodreads shelf to help me remember what books still need reviews. Frustrating for me because I usually have to review a book before I can start a new one.

I thought this was really cute. The characters had good chemistry and it had a fun plot. Nice read if you enjoy upbeat chicklit.

### **P.A. Warren says**

I thoroughly enjoyed The Bargain. It was one of those books where you can actually say, "Hey, that Shannon..She was could have been me!" The Bargain is about Shannon who does not dress up and dresses for comfort. She has had a crush on one man, Drew for 10 years, since high school, but is too shy to say anything. Michael, Drew's brother comes to town and they make a deal. She helps him and he will help her get Drew. Well we all know what happens with those kind of deals right? I adored reading about Shannon coming out of her shell. My Absolute favorite part was the scene at the Auction between her and Michael. Loved it. Go Michael.

I was literally glued to my kindle reading The Bargain. I had to find out what was going to happen next. The writing was smooth and flowed extremely well. I loved that there was an Epilogue as well. I'm totally a Epilogue kind of girl. This is a sweet romance, meaning no sexual encounters. I know what your thinking..GASP. It didn't need it. It was perfect. The chemistry between the Two (Yes I'm not saying which two!!!) Is sizzling. I loved this book and cannot wait to read more By Christine. Job Well Done Christine!

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### **Beth Carpenter says**

I won this book on Clean Romance Reviews, and I'm so glad I did. Shannon is all grown up, competent, accomplished, and yet that same insecurity she felt in high school keeps her tongue-tied and awkward around her boss. I'm sure most of us can empathize. The main characters were real, not too good to be true, not evil, just nice people. There is a reason Shannon is drawn to Drew, and to Michael. In this story, the attraction develops naturally, not as a flash of lightning, and likewise Shannon's growth happens over time and she takes her future into her own hands. It's a lovely story and I highly recommend it.

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### **Melody Cox says**

This is the first Christine S. Feldman I have read and I really enjoyed it.

This is the story of tomboy Shannon Mahoney who was a nerdy wallflower in high school ten years before. She has not gotten much better these days as she dresses to hide herself in dull and boring clothing, all in beige, and pulls her beautiful red mane back into a bun or ponytail to make it less noticeable. This is a problem that began in high school when she was mercilessly teased because of her bright red hair and braces. She has carried that with her all these years and only sees herself as the others did in high school. Her parents put her down, as well, letting her think she was unattractive and something to be ashamed of. They wouldn't let her go to college because they thought she wasn't good enough. It was a real shame.

And then we have Drew Kingston who she thinks she's in love with. They were in the same high school class but he's not even aware they went to the same school. When he won local political office he inherited Shannon as his assistant and he has not one clue that she obsesses on him every minute of every day and has for more than ten years. One day a man comes to Drew's office but is refused a brief meeting. It just so happens it is Michael, Drew's older brother (the cock of the walk man-whore and the black sheep of the Kingston family) and he wants to make amends and talk to Drew about an issue. Drew is horrible to him and

Michael confers with Shannon to help him get into speak with his brother or at least relay a message and in return he will help her learn to dress to impress men and teach her to become more comfortable so Drew will be drawn to her.

This is a fun read. One I enjoyed a great deal. I definitely recommend this book for a quick and sweet read.

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### **Dani A. says**

#### Synopsis:

Shannon Mahoney is not the kind of girl who turns heads, she has always been too shy to capture any men's attention and chooses comfortable cloth over tight dresses and high heel shoes.

She has had a crush on drew ever since high school, and now 10 years later she still hasn't done anything about it, when mysterious and dangerous Michael shows up angry and violent, Shannon puts him in his place, protecting the man she has loved for more than 10 years, but what will happen when they make a deal? Will Michael fulfill his end of the bargain?

#### My personal Opinion:

I love small romance novels, with everything this days turning into a trilogy its refreshing to read a small book like this. The bargain is a short contemporary romance which fulfilled all of my expectations, it was beautifully written and innocent. The characters were well developed and the romance between the two main characters didn't feel rushed despite the length of the book.

I would absolutely love it if Christine made a side novel about Drew's and Michael's high school years, often while reading about Michael's regrets I found myself wanting to know more about all the things he did and went through.

Overall I enjoyed this novel very much and I would recommend it to all ages because it's a very light, funny and enjoyable read! Christine has surprised me once again with amazing characters and a beautiful story.

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### **Ellen says**

Originally posted at The Canon!

I'm already a huge fan of Ms. Feldman's work and The Bargain only proved my feelings right. There's no messing around: from the first page, Feldman introduces the reader to her protagonist, Shannon, and her longtime high school crush on her boss, Drew. I loved Shannon's personality: spunk mixed in with a little insecurity and a good heart. She immediately drew me to her, especially since we watch most of the novel unfold from her point of view (the entire book is written in limited third person, which lends a little extra to the narrative itself).



Even though both Shannon and Michael fit into a basic romantic stereotype, I felt that Feldman pushed the characters until they broke the mold. Michael is the dark-haired, reformed bad boy, but the goodness of his heart slowly shines through. I enjoyed the sparks between Shannon and Michael - they consistently felt real and vibrant.

Final Thoughts: I loved everything about this book, from the moment Shannon flips through her high school yearbook to when she steps into the bar. This quick, easy read jams in my favorite things about romance novels and lets me drift away from my life into their world. Each character was vivid and memorable (especially Shannon and Michael) and I loved reading their story.

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