



Friends with Benefits: A Steamy College Romance

Hazel Kelly

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Carter's been crazy about Nina since the first time he saw her emerald eyes, but his fratastic reputation landed him in the friend zone before he even had a chance to say, "How *you* doin'?"

So when Nina suggests they become friends with benefits, he can't believe his luck.

After all, once he's gotten in her pants, winning her heart should be easy... right?

****This is a full-length, standalone romance novel with no cliffhanger, no cheating, and a heart-swelling HEA.**

Friends with Benefits: A Steamy College Romance Details

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Author : Hazel Kelly

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A says

I really liked this book :) the banter between main couple was my favourite :) when it comes to my final rating, it's somewhere between 4 and 4,5 stars, I have to think about it for a while ;) more details in my full review in december :)

edited to add my full review :)

I voluntarily reviewed a free copy of this book :) this is the second book in a series, but since it was my very first story by this author, you can believe me when I say that it works perfectly well as a standalone :) you get all the informations you need to enjoy this story :) and even though I had some small issues with this one, I will definitely check out Hazel's other books, because I loved her writing style :) so first, let me tell you a bit more about what it's all about, and then I will jump into my thoughts and feelings about it :)

This novel is set in college, and tells the story of Carter and Nina... they've been friends for a while now, but Carter always had his eyes on Nina... but since she saw him only as a womanizer and a player, she never took him and his flirting seriously... so when one night, prompted after her dry spell, she offers him to become friends with benefits he takes that as his chance to win her over for more than just short term pleasure ;) that's basically all I can tell you about the story without spoiling you certain things :) so instead, let's just get into all my thoughts and feelings where I can share a bit more ;)

My favourtie part of the whole book was the writing style :) it was entertaning and pulled me into the story immediately :) the banter between Carter and Nina especially is worth mentioning... their jokes and all that, were highlights of the book :) so even though I had some issues with the story and certain things our main couple did and gave this book a solid 4 stars, I will definitely check out Hazel's other novels :) I'm looking forward to see what she will do with other types of stories and / or characters :) but back to Carter and Nina... I had to remind myself that since they are still in college and young, they have a right to not have everything figured out and they can make mistakes... maybe it's because I'm a bit older and in a different place in my life currently, there were times when I wanted to smack them and shout "just talk honestly with each other, that would solve ALL your problems" ;) they had this amazing banter and sizzling chemistry, and yet had so much troubles admitting their true feelings... *sighs* ;) that of course resulted in some drama and misunderstanding that was resolved in a way I have some mixed feelings about... on the one hand, it happened pretty fast once they actually talked (a bit too fast for me, I would love to see more progress before the happy ending) and on the other hand it took way too long for them to actually talk again... so yeah... take that in whatever way you want ;) don't get me wrong, I really liked them both, but sometimes they frustrated me... ;) besides them we had some appearances from the couple from the first book in the series, and I am definitely gonna read it at some point :) if you are in a mood for friends with benefits trope with a very entertaining writing style and a bit of angst, I definitely recommend you guys to give this one a try :)

XOXO

A

for more book-ish stuff visit:

my blog -> <https://bookworm8619.blogspot.com/>

Jo - *.★Reading Is My Bliss★.*** says**

Nina has an itch that needs scratching and her friends think she needs to sort out a FWB arrangement, some nice casual sex with no ties. There is one guy she has in mind, Carter. Sure, he has a bit of a reputation with the ladies but he constantly hits on Nina so he may be open to an 'arrangement' with her.

Carter has had the hots for Nina since he first laid eyes on her but no matter how many times he tries, she always shoots him down. Then one night everything changes and he cannot believe his luck when Nina spends the night with him. Yes, he has been a player since he got to college but Nina is definitely different, she is not really a one night stand girl. However, she has some rules she puts in place.

Carter and Nina are officially FWB's but at times the lines get blurred because there are definitely moments of sweetness and romance between them. When jealousy comes into play too both of them have pause to doubt. Are they getting too serious and when did casual turn into something more? Nina doesn't want to set herself up for heartbreak but it may be a little too late for that. Carter thinks he finally has found the girl of his dreams but does she feel the same way as he does?

This was my lazy Saturday morning reading in bed indulgence. This is a new to me author and I'm so glad I had the opportunity to read this book. It was a fun, light hearted romance set in a college environment, with plenty of laugh out loud moments.

Meetta says

I really enjoyed Nina and Carter's story. One aspect that I definitely liked was how Carter was the first one who wanted to be more than just "friends with benefits" with Nina and it was up to Nina to realize her feelings for him and want more. The way the author wrote Carter's POV, you could feel how much he truly wanted more with Nina and it made me root for him throughout the book. Overall, it was a sweet story. There was good chemistry between Nina and Carter and the banter between them was great (i.e. Ranch and Reese's). Both characters are very likeable and it was good to see Zoey and Logan (from My Best Friend's Ex) in this book also.

I received a copy of this book to read and provide an honest review.

Linda says

From the book blurb - "Carter's been crazy about Nina since the first time he saw her emerald eyes, but his frastastic reputation landed him in the friend zone before he even had a chance to say, "How you doin'?"

And that is a problem because Nina is so wary of Carter's reputation that she can't conceive of them as being anything more than friends with benefits, while Carter wants so much more.

This book completely captured me and I loved it. The story is engaging the writing is great. It's a fun, sexy romance with some really hot steamy scenes. Their first time together had me melting! I will definitely be looking to read more by this new-to-me author, Hazel Kelly.

I received a free copy of this book and am voluntarily leaving a review.

READ ME ROMANCE says

“Friends with Benefits” is about young love, the story of Nina and Carter. They appeared as secondary characters in book one of the Beta Brothers series by Hazel Kelly. I personally like books in a series where you get to revisit characters and in this case it’s her friend, Zoey and his best friend, Logan that reappear pretty regularly.

Carter is a college junior and Nina is a freshman. They immediately hit it off as friends, and eventually agree to be friends with benefits as the title suggests. I like how their friendship developed and how they truly enjoyed spending time with one another, and getting to know one another, especially playing the “Reese’s game.” They each felt more and wanted more, a committed relationship, but were afraid to speak up and go against the arrangement they both agreed upon.

Carter may have been with others in the past, but as soon as he and Nina spend their first night together, just as friends, he is totally smitten and 100% all in. They communicated well about everything else except for their feelings, and this does take up about a third of the book. I admired Nina for not wanting to get hurt and protecting her heart as Carter was older and more experienced, and didn’t seem like the type who would want to be exclusive.

It took her a long time to learn that Carter was a sweetheart and that his feelings were genuine. I loved how attentive and thoughtful he was to her... how he remembered little things like her favorite dessert, the dinner he made her on Valentine’s Day, and how he went out of his way to bring her a snack after class because he knew she’d be hungry.

This story was about the man falling in love fast and waiting for the woman to catch up! It’s usually the other way around in romance novels. They just both had a hard time admitting the truth to one another about their feelings, but when the time came, it was worth the wait. Hazel did a great job getting the reader getting invested in them as a couple and rooting for them to get their happy ending. There were lots of sexy times in this book, and there was no denying their attraction towards one another.

Carter was ever the gentleman and always witty and charming, especially when he escorts Nina to her family’s wedding. He truly put Nina’s feelings first and lets her know under no uncertain terms, that she was all he wanted and that he was sorry for hurting her. Even though she started off as insecure, his love gave her confidence and allowed her to be her true self which is key to any lasting relationship.

If you enjoy stories about young love and college romances, Hazel Kelly is a must read.

Mary says

If you have read the first book of the Beta Brothers series, My Best Friend’s Ex, you would already have had

a glimpse of Nina and Carter. Unlike Zoey and Logan who had quite a long history, Nina and Carter only met at the start of school, but Carter cannot deny his attraction for her. As Nina had failed relationships in the past and is not looking to jump into another and with Carter being such a player, she was blasé about his overtures. Carter has built quite a reputation as a ladies' man and initially, and she never thought about him other beyond a possible friend with benefits. Well, not until they started to really get to know each other and found a connection. That was the start of complications.

I love Nina's character. She speaks her mind, is straightforward and a seriously independent chick who tries to hide her vulnerability. I relished reading the exchange between her and Carter. She's one who does not easily get intimidated. She brought out the gentleman in Carter and made him care deeply for someone for the first time. These two imperfect people who were uncertain of what they truly wanted, navigated their relationship into one soul-crushing breakup. Would Carter realize his mistake, and would Nina take him back? The story is both simple and complicated. Hazel Kelly brilliantly writes it that way. I never skip pages of the character's thoughts because they offer a great insight to the characters. It's never boring even without dialogue. Her words are compelling and beautiful, and the conversations are witty and exciting. She describes the characters and situations with just the right amount of detail that creates a picture in my mind. Even if the characters are young adults, the maturity of the characters also appeals to an older reader.

I truly enjoyed this book. It was an easy read as a standalone even though it is the second in the series. I look forward to more Beta Brothers books.

Zoe says

Cute, Steamy, and romantic!

Full review to follow shortly.

Three Chicks says

Review by Lisa Kane

Carter has hidden his feelings for Nina ever since he first met her. He's a bit of a player, but if she would give him a sign that she was the least interested in him, his player ways would be a thing of the past.

Nina hasn't had much luck in her relationships. She's still hurting and doesn't want a relationship. But she does want a little fun under the covers. She's always thought Carter is hot but he's a junior with a ton of experience, she's a freshman and pretty innocent compared to him. She has no idea that he is so into her. The opportunity for the two of them to hook up comes along and they suddenly are friends with benefits. It's going to stay casual and no one's going to get hurt. Right?

I think I most liked Carter's POV in this story. He's wanted to be with Nina all along, but he knows she's content to just keep things physical. He's the one who wants more. As sweet as he is, he's a man and we all know that means he's going to screw up. And he does. Will Nina forgive him?

This was a cute read, and it's not necessary to read book #1 to understand and catch on to the other character's histories.

Elle's Book Blog says

Release Date: August 8, 2018

Genre: Contemporary Romance

Actual Rating: 4 stars

Friends with Benefits is a fun novel about two people who want to just casually sleep together without the messiness of feelings being involved. The author really built up these characters in a way that you could easily connect with them and understand what their hearts wanted (or didn't want) and I really appreciated it. In some romances where people are having secret sexy times you want to slap them for not realizing that their feelings will eventually run deeper but that wasn't the case here. I feel like everything happened in perfect momentum.

All in all, I really enjoyed this fun romance and found the book to be quite steamy. If you enjoy romances where two friends come together for mutual pleasure then this is your book! I always find this "friends with benefits" trope to be fun especially because we all KNOW that it will lead to much more. It's the journey we take with them to get there that makes it that much more exciting!

Rowena says

This book was just as good as I hoped it would be after meeting both Carter and Nina in the first Beta Brothers book. I adored both of them and loved seeing them grow together in love. They both frustrated me with different things but in the end, I completely adored them and was happy with the ending. I need to read more Hazel Kelly. She's great.

Melanie (mells_view) says

I'm not going to make all my decisions in this life based on a promise that sounds too good to be true.

This was a pretty good read. Two people hooking up and hiding it from their friends. Both of them catching feelings, but neither one of them wants to admit it. Basically my favorite trope and everything I live for in new adult.

The two mains have a deep connection and the naughty bits really reflect that. Super steamy.

All in all an enjoyable new adult read with the secret screw buddies trope. ?

Amanda Adams Steward says

This author personally reached out to me by email and asked if I would read her book. I took a chance. It was a good read. Two friends hiding their relationship behind their friends. My only issue was I wish there had been more of a story line.

Jolie says

I am guilty of judging this book before I even read it. I thought this book was going to be all sex and minimal plot. The blurb and the cover didn't add much to the opinion I formed. Then I read the book. I gotta tell y'all, I was surprised and pleased!! I love it when a book turns out to be the exact opposite of what I thought it was going to be.

I enjoy it when I read a romance where the main characters have some sort of friendship of sorts. Nina and Carter know each other through their best friends, who are dating. Their relationship was friendly for months before they hooked up. Their friendship made their transition into FB's pretty easy.

Nina and Carter's sexual relationship was hot. I did laugh when she was amazed by the size of Carter's package. I would have had the same thoughts. I also liked that the sexual tension and attraction didn't fade as I read the book. The author did a fantastic job of keeping it hot until the end of the book. 95% of the romances I read have the sex scene fizzle out after the first time.

I liked Nina and I agreed with Sadie after reading the first couple of chapters. She needed a FB. I understood why she didn't want a relationship. If I had been treated that way by my exes, I would have the same feelings. I also understood why she had rules when she instigated to FB arrangement with Carter. She did kind of annoy me at points in the book. She got jealous way to easy. She was willing to believe that Carter was seeing other people besides her. She was too stubborn to see that Carter cared about her. Why else would he have brought her dinner (with cheesecake!!) on Valentines Day?

I loved Carter. He was perfect for Nina. I liked how he took things slow with her. He had feelings for before she approached him to be her FB. It was like Christmas and his birthday rolled into one when that happened. When they broke up, even though he instigated it, he was as hurt as she was. I loved seeing a guy who was in touch enough with his feelings to admit that.

The book ended on a positive note. I liked that everything was resolved. I liked that future plans were made. I can't wait to see Nina and Carter in other books. I can't wait to see how their relationship progressed.

Meeka says

Friends With Benefits!!!

What a great book!! This book will have you hook from the beginning to thee end!!! I was reading this book on an emotional roller coaster ride!!! So good!! Can't wait to see what this author comes up with next!!!!

Romance Novel Giveaways Lauren Seiberling says

HOLY SMOKES!

Okay, this book is HOT. First of all.

While the premise of this book is not a new one (the whole "let's just be friends and fool around and we will both promise not to get emotionally attached, but then we end up getting emotionally attached" scenario), what I loved the most about THIS version of the trope is the amount of emotion Hazel made me feel, especially the latter part of the book.

I also loved the dialogue. The snarky back-and-forth Carter and Nina had was my kind of humor, my kind of tone, and I thoroughly enjoyed how they would joke with each other. They had the feeling of truly liking each other, not just wanting to get into each others' pants.

I read A LOT of books, but Carter is definitely one of my favorite book-boyfriends. If you like college romances, he will be one of your favorites, too!

Though I haven't read any books by Hazel before, I will ABSOLUTELY be reading more by her. For me, she may be one of those authors whose synopses I don't even read, I just know that if they wrote it, the book will be phenomenal, regardless of the story line.

(I was given a copy of this book in consideration of my honest thoughts)
