



Hot Finish

Erin McCarthy

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Desire is about to reach its peak.

Suzanne Jefferson is broke, which is why she's given up charity work for wedding planning. Fortunately, she has a high-profile client-and best of all, he's paid in advance. There are just two teensy problems: the bride is a bona fide bridezilla, and Suzanne's stock racer ex- husband is the best man. At least she thought he was her ex-husband...

Hot Finish Details

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From Reader Review Hot Finish for online ebook

Laura says

3.5 stars

This is the 3rd in the Fast Track series. Suzanne and Ryder's relationship has been a staple in the first two books and in this one it comes to the fore front. They are divorced, but still have a hot relationship. Although the last two years have mostly been hot with arguments, there is still a spark between them that isn't about anger. When news arrives that their divorce was never finalized, things take a strange turn. Both start to question their relationship and wonder what really went wrong between them. As Suzanne coordinates a wedding for Ryder's race car buddy, Jonas, and his crazy fiancee, marriage and relationships are constantly on the brain.

The last two books have been leading up to this one. I've been so excited for Suzanne and Ryder's story that I could barely wait for it to be released. I started out reading this with such enthusiasm. The attraction and sexy bantering was fun and exciting. Ryder's buddies were funny and the bride-to-be was outrageous. I couldn't help but laugh and some of the craziness.

Suzanne is funny with her dark sarcasm and Ryder plays right along with it. They have great chemistry that just made me root for them to work things out.

At some point, I started to get a little annoyed. The sexy banter stopped being sexy and became a little raunchy. All they seemed to do was talk about sex--more specifically oral sex--and body parts. It seemed to overwhelm the story and ruined it a little for me--I didn't really need to read the phrase, "mossy balls". Along with that, there was too much thinking about them not communicating, but none of them actually communicating. They really were a little messed up.

The story itself was a little contrived and predictable. It was plainly obvious the way the story was going to go from early on in the book. I didn't quite mind, but it ruins the allure of the story. It made it easy for me to put the book down and go do something else.

In the end, I was happy to see a conclusion for Suzanne and Ryder, but it just failed to meet my high expectations.

Evan Monroe, the lead in the next book, The Chase, was given more face time and I am interested in watching him fall for the right woman.

Sensuality: Burning - includes lots of sex, oral sex, and sexy banter

Francesca the Fierce (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

I was soooo not looking forward to reading this book. Suzanne has gotten on my nerves since book #1 and I wasn't really sure I could handle listening to her bitchyness for a whole book!

However, I was pleasantly surprised. She's at a point in her life now where she almost has no self-esteem in a

way. Alimony is over so she has to go back to work as a wedding planner and her first client is Nikki!!! Dear God! I wanted to strangle her. Which prompt my favorite quote of this whole book (by Suzanne of course): *"That girl is so dumb, if she threw herself on the ground she'd miss"*

All we've seen before is really a hard shell that Suzanne shows but there's a very insecure girl on the inside, who's always doubted her self worth, the love given to her, and the love she's craved but never gotten.

And talk about communication problems! I haven't seen 2 people that can't communicate more than these 2!!!!

Ryder is sweet and hot, but he does not know how to express things! I wanted to smack him around a few times just because of *how* he said certain things.

But then again, they are familiar, they know each other better than anyone, and you can tell they both still love each other!

I think I actually liked this book better than book #2!!!

Melissa says

Hot Finish was a great entry to this series!

Was it the best in the series? *IMHO* no, but it damn sure earned its spot!

Suzanne and Ryder find out in this installment that they're not legally divorced. While Suzanne is making a comeback as a wedding planner. Her first job is to plan Nikki & Jonas wedding.(bridezilla) Ryder does everything in his power to help make it work for her, since she will not accept any financial help from him. This includes standing up as best man to Jonas & Nikki's wedding.

While it confused me some on why they divorced to begin with. I think it was communication error that could be resolved quite quickly, but then again there would be no story.

As usual McCarty gave me plenty of laugh out loud moments and a big ole smile when I closed the book.

My favorite quote of the book was

"Did I ever tell you the difference between a Northern fairy tail and Southern one? Northern one starts 'once upon a time', while a Southern one starts 'y'all ain't gonna believe this shit'"

There is a *sneek peek* to the Chase at the end of the book that looks awesome! Also fans of this series, I read on her site there will be a total of 6 books in this series...

4 1/2 stars ;)

Auntee says

Not my favorite of the series (hard to top Elec and Tamara from Flat-Out Sexy or even Imogen and Ty from Hard and Fast), and at times I had issues with the sometimes bitchy, often snarky Suzanne Jefferson and the way she treated her sometimes clueless ex-husband Ryder, but all-in-all a pretty entertaining (if unspectacular) read.

Suzanne works as a wedding planner, and she really needs the money she would make from planning the wedding of air-headed bridezilla Nikki Borden to stock car racer Jonas Strickland. Suzanne has been divorced for two years from her husband (of four years) stock car racer Ryder Jefferson. Suz walked out on him (and I'm not really sure *why*, except they weren't getting along) but has never really stopped loving him (although she would die before admitting that to him). Ryder never stopped loving Suz either, but he has a hard time communicating his feelings, as does Suz. Really, these two have no idea how to talk without someone getting defensive, which leads to arguments about nothing. Anyway, due to some technical glitch, Suz and Ryder find out that they're *still* legally married. This puts all kinds of thoughts in Ryder's head, because truthfully, he never wanted to get divorced, and he thinks this may be a sign that they should stay together. But how will he convince Suz of that? They've always been *red hot* in the bedroom, so maybe they can start there?

This book basically revolves around the plot of Suz planning the wedding of crazy bride-to-be Nikki (who once dated Ty from Hard and Fast) and all that entails, her interactions with her soon-to-be ex Ryder (who happens to be the best man in the wedding) and her friends and their spouses who are also in the wedding, and deciding if she really does want to call an end to her marriage once and for all. There's plenty of hot sex with her almost ex husband, lots of reminiscing about their good times, and wondering just why their marriage fell apart. The reader finds out that this couple's problem is basically a failure to communicate their feelings--I thought Suz and Ryder's problems stemmed from them never really sitting down and talking and listening to each other--they just made assumptions about how the other was feeling. Many times in the book I was yelling out "just tell her" or "talk to him" or "ask him"...whew, this couple exhausted me!

There's plenty of humor in this one, plenty of sex--including some inventive use of strawberries, chocolate, and whipped creme (the one place where Suz and Ryder communicate is in the bedroom!), and a little plot twist that you knew was coming with Suz and Ryder spending so much time together...The only question was, were Ryder and Suz ever going to open up to each other and lay their cards on the table?

Fans of this series will probably enjoy this one, even though the H/h weren't quite as likable or the story quite as exciting as the first two in the series. But it was nice to see the gang all together again, and we see a bit more of Evan Monroe (Elec's brother) in this one, who seems to have quite an aversion to marriage. Like I said, not the best of the series, but a solid **4 star** read. Now bring on Evan's story The Chase!

jenjn79 says

By far not my favorite of the series. I didn't hate it, but I also didn't love it. I liked it enough, but was expecting a better story.

Series Note:

Third book in McCarthy's "Fast Track" series. I'd recommend reading them in order.

Summary:

Ryder and Suzanne Jefferson have been divorced for two years, but neither has gotten over the other.

Suzanne still thinks about Ryder and seems to bump into him all the time and Ryder still doesn't really understand what went wrong in his marriage. He still cares for Suz, which is why when she gets a gig planning the wedding of a fellow race car driver he'll do whatever it takes to make sure the wedding is a success so Suz will get paid well and increase her reputation. Even if the bride is a bona fide bridezilla.

Then the two learn they aren't really divorced after all. Suz is horrified and wants to fix it immediately. Ryder, though, is thinking maybe this is his chance to get his marriage back on track. He doesn't want to lose the only woman he's ever loved. But getting Suz to go along will be a tough chore.

Review:

What to say about this book? I should start off with the good things and what I really liked about it and all that. But really, the first thing that comes to mind to discuss is how much I didn't particularly like Suzanne. She annoyed the frigging hell out of me.

She was irritating in past books, but in this one you get the full brunt of her neurotic, insensitive, rather self-centered ways. The woman treated Ryder like crap. Everything was about her. Her her her. It got so damn annoying. I wanted to shake her and tell her to knock it off.

And with her being so annoying, it made the romance a bit weak. I mean, why the hell did Ryder put up with someone treating him so badly? It was kinda masochistic. He deserved much better.

Aside from the romance being weak in that sense, it was also weak in other areas. By the time the end rolled around the two had their HEA, I never felt like all their many issues were resolved. All through the book you get these allusions to what went wrong the first time - like Suz being annoyed because Ryder never followed through on chores - but at the end, most of these issues don't seem to have been dealt with. At least it seemed that way to me. So even though the ending was an HEA, I didn't really feel like these two were on all that solid footing.

As for the rest of the book, it was average to above-average. The wedding thing was okay...though I couldn't have done without so much of the nitwit bride. I have no patience for people like that. I did enjoy all the time with past characters. And there's a nice little bit of setup for the next book. I did wish there'd been a little more of the NASCAR influence - considering Ryder is a driver - but oh well.

Not a bad book, though. I just was expecting a better story for Suz and Ryder. They've been intriguing readers since book one and I was really looking forward to finding out their story. This didn't quite satisfy me, but it wasn't horrible either. I'm still looking forward to the next book in the series.

WARNING, this book contains: some explicit sex and language, a scene with a little ass play, but everything else is pretty vanilla

Katie(babs) says

Suzanne and Ryder Jefferson were first introduced as a divorced couple in Erin McCarthy's Flat-Out-Sexy. These two would snarl and verbally spar at each other, but underneath all their blustering, they still had feelings, or at least lust for one another. Now in Hot Finish, they're in the "hot seat", so to speak. Suzanne and Ryder are on friendlier terms, although Ryder wants Suzanne back as his wife and in his bed. Suzanne feels the opposite. She wants to start a new phase in her life. That's why she's going into wedding

planning and working with the Bridezilla of the century. But Suzanne has no choice, because she's out of money and Nikki, the beyond ditzy bride-to-be, who is marrying one of NASCAR's finest, Jonas Strickland, is ready to hand over a nice pay check for the wedding of her dreams (even if it entails dressing like Priscilla Presley and recreating her wedding to Elvis with high hair and baby blue tuxedos). Suzanne grins and bears it, and actually doesn't mind that Ryder is there to lend a hand because of his friendship with the groom.

Things become even more difficult when Ryder is sent a letter from their divorce lawyer. It seems they are still married and have only been separated after two years since Ryder never did his part with finalizing the paperwork for their divorce. Suzanne is now stressed out beyond belief because not only does she have to be in charge of this weeding from hell, but when they file for taxes, there's bound to be even more headaches. Ryder doesn't see what the big deal is. He's actually quite pleased and this will give him the perfect excuse to win Suzanne back.

While Suzanne navigates through bridesmaids and wedding dress fittings, including searching for the perfect wedding cake for Nikki, Ryder tries to keep her calm and help her relax through hot sex. Since Suzanne is in desperate need of stress release and Ryder is such a sweetheart in helping her out in more ways than one, she takes him up on his offer, making sure he knows that their "friend's with benefits" situation can't go any further than that. Ryder is all for it and has a plan to make Suzanne fall for him all over again where she'll want to tear up those divorce papers instead of signing them.

Hot Finish was a much anticipated book for me since Erin McCarthy is one of the best contemporary romance authors writing today. Unfortunately, Hot Finish felt flat in so many ways. Ryder and Suzanne do engage in some steamy animalistic sex together, but other than that, I can't see this couple together in an emotionally stable relationship. There is a major lack of growth on both their parts that doesn't improve by the end. Ryder is very laid back, perhaps a bit too much. Even when he has an emotional break through with Suzanne because of something heartbreaking that occurred in their marriage, it rang very false to me. Suzanne, who in the first two books of the Fast Track novels came across as a cunning and intelligent women. Here she is more of a shrew and a worrier if anything. I guess you can chalk that up to all the stress she has to deal with. But then why would she play around with Ryder knowing he wants her back and will do whatever he can to make it so? Suzanne's actions left a lot to be desired.

I couldn't root for the Jeffersons in the way I wanted to and there were still many unanswered questions in regards to trust between these two. Yes, Suzanne and Ryder have a go at it with too many sex scenes to count, but even with that, I felt there was no tenderness or understanding, just two people relieving their frustration with one another.

Hot Finish is a steamy romance with some moments of humor and outlandish behavior, mainly on the part of the character of Nikki, who became a bit too grating. Hot Finish does end in a way that should make most readers happy, but I can't help but wonder how long it takes until Suzanne begins to second guess her decision to be with Ryder, while he just acts uninvolved to the point he'll take her to bed to make her forget.

Leah says

I was really concerned about how I was going to feel about this book when I started it. I have loved Ryder ever since book one of this series, but...I've never really cared for Suzanne. At all. In fact, she annoyed me quite a bit. So I was worried about how that was going to turn out for me. However, the book was very good--I liked the plot--and I really liked it, which was due largely to Ryder's awesomeness.

I have a love-hate relationship with Suzanne--there were times I really liked her and times were I really hated her. What I hated was that she *never* actually *talked* to Ryder until close to the end because she "doesn't do emotions." Well, honey, that's most likely one of the reasons your marriage failed, eh? Instead of blaming Ryder for everything--which she does for most of the book--how about you accept that you made mistakes too and you also contributed to the end of the marriage. So, yeah, if you couldn't tell, I hate that she always seemed to blame Ryder for everything. Oh! *And*, she never took Ryder's emotions into account! What a shit thing to do. It was just...unnecessary. However, I did think she was kind of funny.

I *love* Ryder. He and Ty have been my favorite characters since Flat-Out Sexy and I continue to love the man. He is so sexy and sweet and clueless and smart and funny and adorable. I love how happy he was about the baby, even if he did proceed to mess things up with him and Suzanne right after (Although, I think it was totally unfair of her to get pissed because he didn't confess his undying love for her. Why should he when she shoots him down every other time he does?). He's a good friend and I love his silly jokes.

One thing that I really hate, in books in general, is when everyone seems to assume that, in the relationship, the woman is always so serious and at risk of getting her heart broken and the guy is just messing around with her, using her as a fuck buddy, nothing more. Why can't it be the other way around? And, so far, they have done it in every book of this series. Suzanne did it in Flat-Out Sexy with Elec, then she did it again with Ty in Hard and Fast (Do I sense a pattern here?), and then Tamara did it in this book. It's not cool. Especially since you could tell that Ryder was completely serious about Suzanne, even when she kept saying that it was just a temporary thing. I don't know. I guess I just think it's discriminatory towards men. Why can't they be serious about a woman, too?

All in all, I really enjoyed this book and I'm glad I continued with the series after the shit pile that was Flat-Out Sexy. I can't wait to read The Chase next about the one and only Evan Monroe.

Ingie says

[

#1 Flat-Out Sexy (4,5 stars) ~ Tamara Briggs & Elec Monroe
#2 Hard and Fast (4,0 stars) ~ Imogen Wilson & Ty McCordle

Mahlet says

Erin McCarthy's amazing Fast Track series is considered contemporary romance, but I think it's a little hotter than most, and that's just fine with me ;) Flat-Out Sexy (#1) gave us the story of stock car race driver Elec Monroe, one of the sweetest, hottest beta heros you'll ever meet. Hard and Fast (#2) was hilarious and the opening love scene was one of the most well-written, ever!, with Ty and his little "reversals" <--sweet torture.

The chemistry between divorced couple Suzanne and Ryder Jefferson was evident in the previous series installments and reaches the breaking point here :) In Hot Finish, Suzanne is *still* refusing additional alimony \$\$ from Ryder, and back into the wedding planning business for none other than Nikki Borden, that air-headed bimbo that was chasing Ty in Book 2-->Yes, Nikki's still just as brainless, but this leads to a lot of

laughs ;) Nikki's finally snagged a driver willing to marry her, and Suzanne will do just about anything to make the high profile, ridiculously themed (thank you Nikki) wedding a success and secure the future of her business. Of course, Nikki's an attention whore, too, so she has enlisted all the stock car race drivers you know and love, including Elec, Ty, and Ryder, to be groomsmen.

It's clear very early on that Ryder never stopped loving Suzanne. The way he's so supportive of her, and helps her in ways her sometimes stubborn ass can't refuse, just melted my heart. Without going into too much details, communication breakdowns, false beliefs and unmet expectations led to the breakdown of their marriage on round one. Those problems don't simply go away for Suzanne and Ryder because it's their story, and I thought McCarthy did an excellent job of handling this. It seemed very realistic and at times, I felt like I was almost eavesdropping on a real couple - in serious trouble. Suzanne and Ryder were fiery in their conflicts when they hurt each other, but in the bedroom as well! Hot Finish has all the heat I have come to love and expect with this series. Suzanne and Ryder have none of that awkwardness that a new couple might experience. Ryder seems to realize their marriage is worth saving much sooner than Suzanne, so he's almost wooing her? Damn is it hot! Especially when Ryder suggests a little change in scenery - YOWZA! But there's more than smokin' hawt sex - this is also full tender moments I love, like when Ryder wants to say more, and tell Suzanne that he loves her and wants a chance to be a better husband...but instead keeps things light for fear of scaring her off. I liked being in Ryder's head, so to speak ;) And I'd like being in his bed, too, but I'll just say ;) This was a great installment to the series, and I look forward to more, especially after the special preview to The Chase, (driver Evan Monroe's) story, at the end of Hot Finish. If you need a fix to satisfy you until August, when Hot Finish is released, you can access 2 excerpts to Hot Finish, plus a plot summary for The Chase, by becoming a member of Erin McCarthy's website (it's free). Happy reading and enjoy these hot & sweet stock car race heros! :)

alyssa says

Review to come :P

Sarah says

22/6 - I knew it couldn't go on forever, my run of good luck with romances had to end eventually (fortunately this is the last in my current pile, hopefully by the time they rise back to the top of my pile they'll be back to being 3.5 stars or higher). This ain't impressing me. The stupidness of Nikki (a cross between Paris, Jessica and a generic bridezilla) is grating on my nerves, and so is Suzanne's constant insistence on reminding us of that fact. I was irritated with the writing from page two due to a grammar/editing problem

"And that's when you first **starting** dating your fiancée."

shouldn't that be **started**?

I'm also having a logistical problem understanding how and why Ryder and Suzanne would ever get back together. They have great sex, but can't calmly discuss something for more than a few minutes before one or the other says something incendiary and things dissolve into a screaming match. On page 68 it seems to me that the most logical ending for this book is that they have a final sex-filled fling, get closure with each other

and go their separate ways - staying married just doesn't seem conducive to either's long term health or happiness. I have no idea how this is going to work out with any realism. To be continued...

23/6 - Ugh, grumble, grumble, grumble. Ms McCarthy doesn't seem to know about the existence of the past tense of start - start ed. Starting and started do not mean the same thing. "...and being run over when she **starting** driving..." makes no sense, but if you change that 'ing' to 'ed'...ahh, it'll all becomes clear.

Even when McCarthy's not mixing up her tenses, I'm finding it hard to really enjoy the dialogue. A lot of Suzanne and Ryder's internal discussions and the conversations between Ryder and the other guys feels stilted and a bit...lame. In the two main **manly** discussions with Ryder, Ty, Jonas, Elec, and Evan the discussion starts out all macho with the men refusing to do what the women want (generally, specifically they made a plan to bail on the wedding in the first instance, then agreed that they didn't need or want their significant other around for boys night in the second). In both instances the men all start out strong, sticking to their macho 'women! who needs them?' attitudes, until one dissenting opinion is heard and suddenly all the other guys, who felt so strongly about their opinions, cave in and start agreeing with the dissenter. They reminded me of a group of women, immediately rushing to back each other up, no matter what they really think. I think McCarthy took the idea of the New Age sensitive man a bit too far. In a heterosexual romance I really need my men to be men. A man can love, respect, admire, and listen to his wife without becoming a complete pushover with no opinion of his own. To be continued...

Later on page 127 - Okay, am I imagining it or did they just have unprotected sex for the second time? Did I miss the conversation where she assures him she's on the pill and they assure each other that they're both clean and healthy (although how either of them could know that is beyond me)? Unprotected sex in a book written in the last 20 years, set in the last 20 years that isn't an immediate worry to both participants is so unrealistic it always pulls me straight out of the story to go "Hey guys? Babies? STIs? Where's the condom?" Another black mark for this one. To be continued...

Okay, two pages later we get the birth control mention, but still no discussion on the lack of condoms - I guess they trust their ex-spouses not to give them herpes.

Page 130 - The sentence is a glaring example of how distractive/disrupting a double negative can be. I've read it over and over and I'm still not sure if it makes sense.

"Thanks for making sure I wasn't the only woman around the campfire who didn't get some action."

I know what she's trying to say, but there's got to be a way to say it that doesn't leave the reader scratching their head in confusion.

One minute Suzanne is a five-year-old talking about her 'girl parts', then she's an 85-year-old granny calling it her 'hoochah'. For goodness sake, call it what it is - your vagina!

24/6 - This just didn't work for me on any level. As a race car driving/runner book? Where was the racing? I was expecting there to be at least one scene at the track watching the cars go round. As a romance? I don't believe Suzanne and Ryder will fair much better the second time around, child or no child. He will forget to communicate and she'll go back to being a man emotionally and they'll have to get divorced, for real this time.

I forgot to mention that this is my third 'read, review, re-donate' book this week. The first one's already been slotted into my library shelves, the second one was re-donated on Monday, and this will join its less fortunate

buddy back at the library tomorrow. Although things did not go well with this McCarthy book I've decided to give her another go. This decision was precipitated by the fact that as I was re-shelving my re-donations on Monday, I came across another book from her *Fast Track* series. Knowing I already had this one at home (I hadn't started reading *Hot Finish* yet, I wouldn't have bothered with another from the same series if I had, but I did get it and I'm going to start reading it immediately), picked *Hard and Fast* up too (hopefully it's better than this one).

valee says

2.5 STARS

Not sure how to start this review. First I'll start by saying that I was extremely disappointed with this installment. I adored book 1, really enjoyed book 2 and just wanted to get over book 3 fast. I just never felt the love between this two. I could not enjoy a couple fighting all the time and trying to solve it later with sex. Also anything else between them just wrong, I never saw them behaving like a couple. You could see it they loved each other and they could easily solve their problems talking about them, but they never did, just kept fighting ad then the last 10 pages decided they would be fine and will make it work. This two spent the 95% of the book fighting for the most stupid things ever while it was obvious the problem between them was lack of communication. Also the rest of the plot was extremely slow and boring. The racers were in their holidays so everything I loved about books 1 and 2 was not present in this one, nothing about the car racings in this installment, nothing at all. The rest of the characters never appealed to me neither. While I loved to see how they got their HEA in the previous books, I just didn't mind much about them in this one.

My ratings in this series are coming lower and lower with each new book. I'll try next one, but if it is as bad as this one I don't think I'll keep reading the series.

Cynthia says

By the end I felt unsatisfied and harassed. Which was sad, because I was looking forward to this book. The story revolves around 2 people who fell out of a marriage and somehow manage to get it back. Yet they are constantly miscommunicating and bickering. It was all just so exhausting. Unfortunately, they are way too much like an average couple with big problems. Although, they do have some funny bantering before the hot sex-a-thon starts.

Suzanne's a guarded, tough gal with a uncontrollable barbed tongue. She spews harsh words for fear of being rejected first. It's a great character to start with, even one I can identify with, but she doesn't undergo growth. By the end, I'm not convinced she can hold onto her HEA.

Ryder's a simple guy. Too simple. His thoughts are, "Suze is hot. She's all I want. I love her. She is so gorgeous." There's a point where those sentiments start becoming boring. I kept feeling like we were getting the dumbed down version of what a woman believes goes on in a lovable jerk's head. Although, I did like Ryder a lot more than Suze. He put himself out there with words and feelings, and once he realized what he was doing wrong, actually set about rectifying it. Plus, he was often adorable when trying to win her over.

The level of conversation throughout is shallow. Then we get bland internal monologuing that pretty much

always goes, "Why did I say that? I love him/her so much but I'm too afraid of being hurt so I'll just say mean things instead."

Suze and Ryder didn't identify things they liked about each other that felt genuine and non superficial. Although Suze did go on and on about how great Ryder is in bed.

Ugh, plus there was so much negative crap flying around, especially from the not so funny wedding plot.

Maybe I'll have more luck with another one of Erin's books, but this one just fell flat for me. :(

Riverina Romantics says

I was eagerly anticipating reading this book since the first in the series. I am a big fan of sarcastic humour so Suzanne is definitely a girl i would want on my team and loved every minute of reading this book.

Every chapter was filled with witty humour that had my giggling in my head as well as laughing out loud.

I don't want to drag on, so stating it simply.....THIS IS A MUST READ SERIES.

So many favourite quotes so I will only name a few:

"I cant hold it against the guy that he's marrying a woman whose voice is like a cheese grater on my nuts"

"That girl is so dumb, if she threw herself on the ground she'd miss"

"He wanted to kiss her. Badly

But he knew the reaction that would get, and despite the optimism his dick was displaying at the moment, he knew it would be less than happy when Suzanne's knee made contact with it"

Shawna says

4 ½ stars – Contemporary Romance

Fast Track is one of my favorite contemporary romance series and not just because of the smokin' hot, studtastic cover hunks...really, I swear! Flat-Out Sexy, with sweet, doting Elec Monroe falling hard for older widow Tamara and her kids, is one of my favorite romances and much more to him than meets the eye, Ty, and quirky, brainiac Imogen were loads of fun together and burned up the pages in Hard and Fast.

The sexual tension between Suzanne and her ex-husband Ryder has always been electric, and I've looked forward to their story, **Hot Finish**. Although I really enjoyed this, especially the humor and scorching hot, erotic sex scenes, I didn't like it quite as much as the previous two books, mainly because I didn't feel as strong of a connection with the characters.

The plot's pretty basic...Suzanne and Ryder thought they were divorced two years before but find out that because of a paperwork glitch and no-show in court technicality, they're still married. Ryder, who never wanted the divorce anyway and still lusts for his not so ex-wife is secretly thrilled and thinks it might just be their much needed second chance, but Suzanne...yeah, not so much.

Suzanne's got a wacky wedding for airhead, bridezilla Nikki to pull off or she's in the poorhouse, and the last thing she wants or needs is her infuriatingly charming, gorgeous ex-husband, who's not really her ex, driving her crazy like he always does. But when Ryder turns up the sexual heat and promises Suzanne all the pleasure she can stand, how can she possibly resist?

Suzanne's the b*tchy girlfriend with a big heart who always entertains friends Tammy and Imogen, while also giving out advice, with her snarky, biting wit. I've liked Suzanne's clever humor in the previous books, but she was a bit much to take at times in this, even though she was definitely still funny. She's the kind of person that a little bit of them goes a long, long way. But I did understand her insecurities and defensiveness better after learning more about her past.

I liked Ryder's easygoing attitude and playfulness and was really cheering for him. His adoration for Suzanne was obvious, and he tried so hard to earn even the smallest hint of her affection. But he could also be pretty damn dense at times, too, so some of Suzanne's frustration was understandable.

Their lack of communication and stubborn refusal to express their feelings was exasperating, but it's also pretty typical, and realistic, of a lot of marriages. I'm sure we all know couples that we've wondered about why the heck they're married, but then realized it's probably because nobody else could put up with their sh*t or that they deserve each other. That's how I feel about Suzanne and Ryder. And even though they got their Romancelandia HEA, I definitely see some much needed couples counseling in their future.

I really enjoyed the male bantering between Elec, Ty, Evan, and Ryder, but I would have liked a bit more of Ryder and Suzanne together and a little less wedding planning distraction. **Hot Finish** isn't my favorite of the supersexy *Fast Track* series, but I still found myself thoroughly entertained, laughing out loud, fanning myself, and even tearing up a couple of times, like with the quote below.

"And everyone is always saying that marriage is really hard and takes a lot of work. But the thing is, Suzanne, when you know that you love someone, those things don't matter. You have to push all the everyday things and the outside world away, and just enjoy knowing that this is the man who has the chest your head is meant to lie on."

And one last random observation...Erin McCarthy seems to be fond of using the phrases *girl bits* and *hooahah*, LOL!

So, 4 1/2 stars for this steamy, fun read. Now I can't wait for Evan's story, next!
