



Strong Enough to Love

Victoria Dahl

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USA TODAY bestselling author Victoria Dahl delivers sassy and sexy contemporary romance in a new series set in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Get a taste with this novella, Strong Enough to Love....

Photographer Eve Hill was completely comfortable being single. Or at the very least, she was completely resigned to it. There was only one man who made every nerve in her body and brain light up when he walked into a room. But Brian Stewart had always been off limits. Hell, she'd never even kissed him!

For Brian, returning to Jackson Hole feels like coming home. But that has nothing to do with the town. It's Eve drawing him back. Eve and the chance to finally see if they have something or if it's all been in his imagination.

Eve doesn't think she can open her heart to Brian again after getting hurt so badly before, though her body still wants him. She offers Brian one night to fulfill their long-denied fantasies, and that's it. No love or promises, just a chance to get their attraction out of their systems. But can one night really be enough?

Return to Jackson Hole for more steamy romance by Victoria Dahl in Close Enough to Touch, Too Hot to Handle and So Tough to Tame.

Strong Enough to Love Details

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From Reader Review Strong Enough to Love for online ebook

Dianne says

If this as a taste of what Victoria Dahl's new series is going to be like, then I have to say to the readers "hold on to your under-britches" while you read these books. I have to believe that the new full length novels will be just as hot as this novella was.

This is a quick little story (52 pages -about an hour of reading time) of two people, Eve and Brian, who had been best friends two years ago and then realized that they wanted more. This could not be, since Brian was married at the time. He was estranged yet still felt compelled to make one more go with his wife of 20 years.

Now Brian is back in Wyoming, just as Eve was dealing with despaired over her life, her age, her lack of love and even more importantly sex and simply being held and loved. She doesn't think that she could ever deal with Brian again since he seems to have broken her heart so badly.

Anything else will be a spoiler, so suffice to say that this was a very erotic read. Since it was only 54 pages we do not have a lot of character growth, plot or any of the other things one needs to make a typically great novel. But no matter, since what Ms Dahl DID manage to put in here was very satisfying.

Grab this short while you can at this great price! *wink*

Jan says

Yep, loved it!

Eirene says

Review originally posted over at Sleepless Nights Reviews!

Victoria Dahl is on my 'auto-read' list for books such as this! She does an excellent job of making the readers feel the characters' emotions. For most of the novella, my heart was aching for Eve because of her history with Brian. It wasn't over the top nor was it too cliché that it was unbelievable. Eve is successful and knows what she wants but she's also haunted by one big regret. I might just be a really big fan of the whole second chances thing, but no matter how happy someone is, there's always something we wish we could've changed. Both Eve and Brian had to make a difficult decision and I really liked how Ms. Dahl handled it. Brian, I think was a bit too optimistic, but then again, it all made sense.

Don't be alarmed, there is a happy ending. My only one true complaint was that I wish Eve had gotten a full novel. I felt like their resolution was too quick. I understood that Eve didn't want to let this chance slip through her hands again, I did, but I don't know, it was a bit too fast for me personally.

So if you're a fan of some emotional angst, second chance at love, small towns, Victoria Dahl and free books, you should check Strong Enough to Love!

Jen says

I think this story would have rocked if it weren't so predictable. Like, what if Mitch had been the guy for Eve? The guy she'd had sex with that one time and avoided like the plague afterwards? I've never read that story before and I suspect it would be awesome. But I have read the one about the guy who was off limits but who set skin on fire with a touch and soaked panties with one word probably about a GRILLION times. Of course the sex is fantabulous from jump street because of the awe inspiring CHEMISTRY between Eve and Brian. They don't even have to work for it. But as is standard with Dahl heroines, Eve can't do a committed relationship. Just sex! Really! She suggests that they have sex once just to "get it out of their systems". Good Lord, how many times have I read THAT? And when they do Brian says "Jesus" a lot. Eve says "Please" at one point. Dahl writes some damn good sex scenes but it wasn't enough to hook me.

Carrie says

[Eve was hurt when her boss, who was married but separated, went back (at his wife's request) to try to revive his almost 20 year marriage. Eve had fallen in love with him, even though they'd never talke

rameau says

It started out so well. *Dahl* painted the picture of Eve and her life and slowly eased in the tropes. I liked that they're an older couple, closer to forty than twenty.

And then I started feeling sorry for the throwaway suitor, Mitch, who could never compete with Eve's one true love or have the Chemistry with her that Brian has. Except that Mitch was the decent, loveable guy who didn't stalk Eve, break her heart and storm back into her life expecting to replace whatever and whoever was occupying it currently. There is or there should be a difference between wearing someone down and pushing too hard.

It's safe to say I didn't care for Brian at all.

The ending? It's the "unbelievable, too fast, miraculous cock cures all" kind.

Maybe this is a good read for those who already are fans of *Dahl's* work, but for a casual reader it offers little. It certainly didn't entice me to read more from her.

Book Minx says

No. Cute couple, good background, great chemistry - but NO FUCKING WAY does it resolve like that. So far removed from reality that I can't buy the fantasy. I'm not looking for long drawn out angst or pettiness - but people who feel that broken just don't open up that quickly.

Rachelle Ayala says

Quickie introduction to Victoria Dahl. This novella packed enough punch in character development and emotional conflict to be a full fledged novel. Eve is a thirty-six year old photographer who was unfortunate enough to fall in love with a married man--with a twist. Brian wanted to go back to his wife to make it work, leaving Eve feeling guilty and abandoned.

Two years later, he's back on her doorstep with a clean bill of divorcement. The only problem? Eve has spent the last two years healing from her wound.

This is an excellent setup. But unfortunately, for whatever reason, the author wanted to make this short. So mountains of emotional conflict are resolved under a quick one night stand and a conversation at her place of work.

The sex scenes were hot and emotional, and I did totally get the layers of guilt, anxiety, regret, and jealousy that Eve experienced. However Brian did not strike me as being truly put into his place. Yes, at the end, he glimpsed some of the hurt he caused her, and yes, he did the right thing to try and reconcile with his wife, because adultery is always wrong. But... did he really have to talk to her about all the details? Even at the end, he seemed arrogant, like he knew she'd crumble and everything would be okay. Well, fine, it just felt like he got his cake and to eat it too. A tad more suffering for Brian would have made this story much better, and of course more roller coaster ride than the sure thing.

Suzie Quint says

Victoria Dahl's contemporaries are an auto-buy for me. This one was short but satisfying and I will of course be reading the series.

Jen says

Free on the Amazon March 1, 2013.

Jenny says

I really wanted to like this. I didn't blame either Eve or Brian for falling for each other. It wasn't planned, they were best friends and there was no physical cheating. Most importantly, Brian was separated.

This is where it all falls apart for me. He was on his third separation and had fallen in love with Eve. How then did he possibly think he could fix the marriage?

He sends Eve a letter explaining he has feelings for her but believes it necessary to try yet again to fix the marriage. (Try number 4)

Eve, rightly so, doesn't answer the letter, which angers Brian when they meet again. What in the world did he want her to say?

I don't blame Eve for her anger when Brian comes waltzing back finally divorced. I didn't understand why she would go back to him.

She met him while he was on the *third* separation. He admits he has feelings for Eve in the letter. Why send a letter like that? Go on with your life and let her pick up the pieces of hers without putting the burden of what could have been on her. It would be far more honorable to leave it unsaid then come back if and when you can actually *do* something about it.

Brian even admits he hoped she'd wait for him. I was so sorry that she did. I wish she and Mitch got together instead.

MaggieReadsRom says

3,75 stars

I read this novella for Wendy the Superlibrarian's TBR Challenge first theme: 'We Love Short Shorts' and because I started catching up with this series at the end of last year so it was a two birds, one stone situation.

I met Eve in the first full-length story of this series and admittedly I wasn't as eagerly looking forward to her story as I was Jenny's (TOO FAST TO FALL). Can't explain exactly why but she just didn't stand out to me in the cast of secondary characters that were in that first book.

But Eve's story surprised me and I ended up liking it way more than I thought I would. Hero Brian was completely new to me as he wasn't mentioned anywhere prior to this story.

The novella-length of the story didn't leave much room for in-depth character development, especially considering how little we knew about especially Brian and in the end it left me wanting to know more about them, their past and their back-stories but this being said I still really enjoyed this novella as Victoria Dahl's writing never disappoints in its sexiness and its ease of reading. Also the way the romance was set up it worked as a novella as the couple already had an emotional history together.

In conclusion: I flew through the story as it was a fast-paced, hot, enjoyable and quick read that satisfied my need for a Victoria Dahl fix.

Jill Sorenson says

Dahl's stories are always compelling but I preferred "Too Fast to Fall." This one features a hero who finally gets a divorce after trying to work things out w/ his wife and a heroine who just happens to still be available. I didn't love that setup. I kind of wish the heroine had tried again with Mitch! I'd rather read about a woman who has awkward sex in an attempt to move on and ends up falling for the new guy.

axola says

Before getting into the story itself... Was I the only one that once Brian and Eve were described on the book went back to have a look at the cover?

I have 2 main problems with this story:

1. The heartache they were dealing with was too hurtful to get their happy ending in 50 pages.
2. Why are female characters the one always waiting and ready to forgive? It doesn't make a difference to me that she had sex during the 2 years they were apart when she makes it clear she was loyal to him by avoiding emotional entanglement.

Meanwhile he was going on with his life (sexually and emotionally) for 18 months until he decided to end his (view spoiler). He was selfish to the point of messing up with her life by writing a letter telling her he was leaving because he was failing in love with her. He comes back 2 years later and gets her to sleep with him in less than 1 hour and back together in less than 24 just paints the female character as a moron.

Darcy says

I have some issues with this one, mostly the same ones that Eve had, but unlike Eve I can't bring myself to like Brian. I sort of hate him for the choices he made. I sort of understand him wanting to try to save his marriage. I did seem a little odd to me though as it was the third separation and they had been apart for 2 years. Was there anything to save at that point? I get that Brian and Eve grew closer working together, was even glad that they didn't act on their developing feelings. But what I had issue with was Brian confessing all to Eve, then leaving her to go back to his wife. She really didn't need to know that and then be told/shown that she still wasn't enough. I hated him even more that he would come back and expect to pick up like nothing happened. I wish that Eve could have found someone in the mean time, that she could have been happy during that time, instead of knowing where he was and what he was doing. It was because of those issues that I am ambivalent about the ending.
