



Bodywork

Marie Harte

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Their first meeting could have been better. He ran into her and her hot coffee, and raced off with a burn and a snarl.

Their second meeting should have been better. He lay naked, face down on her massage table while she stared at him in horror.

Being attracted to Mr. Tall, Dark and Rude hadn't been on her agenda. Shelby just wants him out of her massage clinic before he recognizes her or she says something obnoxious before jumping that sexy body. Not professional. Not at all.

But when Shelby Vanzant and Shane Collins meet again, the third time's the charm. Shane has found his match, a sexy, intelligent woman he can't stop thinking about. Shelby is scared, because she might grow to like this guy. The last guy she liked dumped her for his cuter, blonder secretary. She's willing to take a chance--maybe--if her flamboyant mother, Shane's macho best friend, and his Casanova of a younger brother don't screw things up. With fate on their side, they might both have a shot at a love they'd stopped looking for.

Bodywork Details

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Auntee says

Pretty hot romance between an "average looking" 27-year-old brunette massage therapist (Shelby) and 31-year-old green-eyed architect and former Marine (Shane). Both have recently been dumped (cheated on) by their significant others and have had complaints about being too "vanilla". Shelby and Shane try to change things up (forgetting about having a 'relationship', let's just have some secret, down-and-dirty, no-strings attached, non-vanilla sex) and do the opposite of what hasn't worked for them. But will that be enough? Can serial dater Shane and looking for the white picket fence Shelby suppress the feelings they obviously have for each other and keep it just about the sex, and not about a relationship?

Shane with his dark hair and moss green eyes...

Marie Harte does a pretty good job with this one, fleshing out the very likable main characters, providing quirky supporting characters (Shelby's "New Age-ish" mom and gay business partner; Shane's teenage lothario brother; Shelby's curvy blonde bombshell artist BF and Shane's muscular Marine/gym owner BF) who like to butt into the H/h's love life, and providing plenty of scorch the sheets sexual encounters (oh wow, the first time in his office) and exciting sexual role playing they indulge in made this *one hot read*. I enjoyed seeing these characters come out of their sexual shell (so to speak), and my oh my, doesn't Shane have quite the talent for 'talking dirty'!

Shane has a lean, muscular runner's body...

If you like something light, erotic, and with touches of humor, *Bodywork* should work for you. It worked enough for me that I want to see if Marie Harte wrote a story about Maggie and Mac (Shane and Shelby's best friends) 4 solid stars.

Pamela(AllHoney) says

A fun, spicy, little read. For what it was, it was fairly good. A short, contemporary romance with quite a bit of spice. Shane and Shelby's first meeting wasn't very promising but, later, they can't get enough of each other.

Stephanie says

Wildfire Xmas Freebie...3.5 stars

Lots o'naughty sex in this one. There happen to be a story in there too. I will be looking for more by this author.

Desiree says

I found this pretty boring. It was well written, more than the usual suspects (of characters), it was even an interesting idea, however it bored me. I found it so dull that when I'd have a snack break, I'd almost forget what I was in the middle of reading!

Sonotjade says

To tell you the truth, this book was really well written... You look at it and think; interesting story, hot cover - I wanna read that!

And well, I dunno about you guys, but for me the story fell kinda short for me.

Sure the sex was BEYOND hot and diverse - no other word for it; but it felt like there was something missing - a little bit of spice that would make me fall in love with the characters (Maggie and Mac - the supporting characters; were actually more interesting).

Even the plot, which at first seemed intriguing ended up being kind of boring. The story was basically about a sex crazed couple with huge communication problems and lots of people interfering in their lives. They both wanted the same thing, both were too scared to admit it and all those around them thought they knew best when it came to the couple's love life.

To be fair though, the book was very well written and well paced. The sex scenes were STEAMY and the dialogues had me cracking up - at times.

Not a favourite book of mine, never mind a read again but nonetheless a nice - there's that word again as Shane would say - read.

Patti says

Shelby and Shane's story is fun and exciting. They have a chemistry that can not be contained and they're so cautious about defining their relationship that their feelings for each other sneaks up on them.

What I don't care for is the unnecessary and disrespectfulness of Shelby and Shane's family and friends. They take their "support" to a new extreme that causes so much drama that the perfect couple may never truly get started.

Jen says

I've read a few Marie Harte offerings and this one was well done but fairly par for the course. Did I enjoy it? You bet! That's why it's getting 4 stars even though there's nothing unique to recommend it. It's still an entertaining read and there's every possibility I'll do a reread. I guess that's enough for me this lazy Monday.

Akanksha♥ Søren? says

READ IT PEOPLE :D

God, Could this book get any hotter?

My head was so singing *It's getting hot in here, so take off all your clothes* during the naughty talks and sexy scenes ;) hahaha

No idea what Shelby's mother Mimi and Ron are on, But I so want some of it.. Hahahah.. they are fucking crazy minksss!!

George, Love the boy!! :D crazy ass fella and such a play boy :D

I reallllly liked Shelby & Shane's character and their story! A lot :D

Maggie and Mac bickering and plotting are amazing, I'm waiting to read their book :D Both seem like such loyal and loving friends!!

I LOVE how everyone of them are playing cupid for Shane and Shelby, when they are already bringing it on, all hot and dirty!! But too many cooks spoil the pot :P

He washed her mouth and throat with plenty of happy little guys wishing for nothing more than a shot at her hot pussy again.

“one smart-mouthed blonde who looks like God’s personal hooker in pink aerobic tights.”

This book had humor, sizzle.. very hot sizzle, was cute and romantic and I LOVED IT <3

Nate Brightman says

Quite honestly having read all 3 books in this series this is the only one I'd personally recommend. Shane and Shelby were highly likable as were Shelby's crazy family. Just a nice romantic romp. My problem with the other two books in the series is just my personal lack of enthusiasm for the whole BDSM Dom/Submissive scene with nipple clips and butt plugs. Don't know why a woman (or a man for that matter) would get turned on by having pain inflicted upon them or being verbally demeaned or degraded during sex? But that's just me. You might enjoy the next two?

Adriana says

Bodywork by Marie Harte

I'm stuck between 2 and 3 stars on this book but settled on a 3 in the end.

Full length novel – plus

19 Chapters

Cost – plus

For the length of the book it was great.

Steamy sex – plus

Half way through the story is when it started to get steamy and hot. Some interesting massages.

Interesting story – plus

A chance meeting connects Shane and Shelby again and again or is it fate working its magic between two people who are meant to be together.

Characters back story – plus

Lot's of details about Shane and Shelby and their past and that made them the kind of people they are today. Lot's of details about their circle of friends and family too.

Humor – plus

The characters had a couple of lines that I chuckled at.

Writing style – plus

Smooth writing, it moved from one scene to the next easily.

Repetitiveness - negative

Their past relationships and the details of the breakups were often repeated.

Slow beginning – negative

About 100 pages were dedicated to the back story and the often repeated breakups.

Too much family involvement – negative

I didn't mind a bit on both sides getting involved but they took it to another level.

Too much friends involvement – negative

Best Friends get involved but this was a bit much.

Too much angst – negative

With all the talk of honesty in Shane's and Shelby's relationship there was quite a bit of dishonesty by way of withholding when their feelings changed.

Writing style – negative

Mostly because of the repetitiveness of the past breakups.

Favorite Line:

"She barely avoided a pair of sweaty men running by like their hair was on fire. Joggers. Ech. Who the hell ran without a reason?"

MsRomanticReads says

I got this free at All Romance EBooks, as part of their Twelve Days of Christmas promotion.

This was a delightful story. If you like a cute romantic tale about two people burned by past lovers, scarred

and afraid to try again, but willing to engage in a no-strings attached relationship only to find that things have a strange way of working out, lots of sexy times and toe-curling dirty talk, then this is for you.

Shelby Vanzant is a massage therapist and recovering from a broken heart spirit. Her cheating ex-boyfriend has left her bitter about men and too scared to (try to) fall in love again. An accidental collision with a stranger, Mr. Tall, Dark and Rude just reinforces her belief that men are morons. It's a pity he's so handsome though. The universe seems to be conspiring against her when that same stranger shows up in her massage salon. Her heart may be closed off, but her libido hasn't gotten the memo. When they continue to keep running into each other in unexpected places, she thinks maybe it's time to have some fun and give in to her lust without the attachment of the heart. But how long will that arrangement work when the sex is unlike anything she's ever experienced, when he indulges her every fantasy and shows that he has a heart?

Shane Collins is a former Marine turned architect. He's successful, loyal, good-looking and burned by an ex lover. He hasn't been with a woman in eight months, ever since his cheating ex-girlfriend ran off with her fling. Her words about him being too *vanilla* and boring still ring in his ears. Then he has a run-in with a sexy Amazon. He may not be interested in women at the moment, but he can't help but notice her "assets" or that she's cute when she's angry. As a means to relieve some stress, he schedules an appointment for a massage. Besides feeling incredibly relaxed, he finds himself painfully aroused. He thinks it must be the hands of his masseuse, Denise, and he decides to ask her out on a date and see where things lead. His plans are momentarily halted when he comes face-to-face with the sexy Amazon and owner of the massage parlor and later finds out that it was her hands he had responded to so painfully. An accidental run-in, a kiss, and a meddling younger brother bring her to his office. No longer able to deny the sizzling attraction between them, they share a toe-curling tryst in his office that establishes the nature of their future encounters. Good thing the heart rarely listens to the head, but can they overcome the hurt from the past to see the potential of their future?

I loved these two characters. Despite the cliched plot of *friends with benefits*, it was fun to see their carefully crafted plans unravel with each steamy encounter. I found Shelby to be more stubborn and distrustful than necessary, but then again, this isn't my story. I can't believe I'm saying this, but I liked Shane's dirty talk more than the sex scenes. Don't get me wrong, he was beyond delicious, but that man had a mouth on him ... *whew!*

The supporting cast of characters provided the comedic relief. They were loving and had meddlesome but good intentions of helping those two stubborn mules get together. Mac and Maddie (the H/H's best friends) had some chemistry going on of their own. It'd be fun to see them get their own story.

What I really appreciated about this story was the culmination of all the kept secrets and misunderstandings. The hero didn't end up being the one needing a slap up the back of his head, but the heroine! I'm so used to seeing the male being the thick-headed, non-committal jerk that it was surprising to see the heroine in that position. Just because I'm a woman doesn't mean I'll take the heroine's side. I was happy with the ending, and it ended in a way that suited them well. It came full circle.

I'll definitely read more from this author.

Megan says

This book was just awful movie garbage. I just could not finish it.

Here's a few reasons;

1. Nicknaming people by what they do.

"Mr.Rude", "The watch watcher", "Wonder Woman", "Miss Annoyed", etc...

(I bet there's more I just didn't continue reading to find out)

2. The Best friends nonsense.

As soon as the main characters have a particular interest in each other everyone's talking about it. Her friends AND his friends. Then there is some kind ultimate scheme to get them together. (Typical romance movie nonsense)

3. They.are.not.normal

Less than 3 encounters, with little to no talking to each other I might add, the first half of the book was about them thinking about each other. I can understand if you have a fantasy or two but really? (don't quote me on this I had to skip some pages because it was starting to annoy me)

4. I didn't know a persons eyes were so damn important in a non-paranormal romance novel because I keep seeing it pass the first couple encounters...

5. "I might as well apologize again... for doing what I've been thinking about since you first touched me" (kiss) <-- that was from the guy (ew....ew this line)

This upsets me. That line is from the third time they met and the only time they had a longer conversation. Do you do this to strangers? I hope not! I could understand if some hot tension was passing through them in previous encounters but NONE of that ever happened.

5. Their world revolves around coffee

I KNOW its fiction but if I, the reader, can't relate or if it doesn't make sense in logical way it is not worth my time.

Iza says

Rate : 4

Heat : 3

Shelby has been cheated on by her ex-boyfriend and that left her in doubts regarding her own sexual abilities. On a hike with a friend, she bumps into Shane who, oh surprise, has been cheated on by his ex-girlfriend who found him too lame and vanilla for her taste. Of course, that hurt his manhood a lot and left him in doubt about his sexual prowess. She spills her coffee on him and, since it's a bad day and he's in a bad mood, he acts accordingly. She nicknames him Mr Rude.

But when they meet again, they feel a sizzling physical attraction between them.

They both are wary of love (so surprising, huh ?) but are willing to try a fuck buddies relationship to boost their self esteem and relieve their tension. We all know how this kind of story ends in romance novels !

In this particular novel, though, there are close friends and family, but those are of a particularly invasive kind and decide they'll do anything they can to make these two stick together for good. The eccentric mother, the gay almost father, the friends, the cunning little brother all join forces and create devious plans to achieve their end.

Let's be honest : it's totally something that would not happen in real life. But let's keep being honest, it's really entertaining to read about ! And these two are terrific in (and out) of bed, they fill each other's fantasies and are certainly not vanilla. They both are good dirty talkers.

To make a long story short : if you have already read Mary Harte's prose, you won't find anything unusual here. There's steamy goodness, dirty talking, friends and family, a good dose of humor and drama is kept to a minimum. But I've also got what I came reading for : all of the above, well rounded up, reading with a smile pasted on my face, a novel that decidedly brightened my mood and made me feel good.

Quotes :

Girls talk :

"The last book of yours I read had this really hunky cowboy in it that treated the woman like dirt, a real macho type."

"Really ? And you liked that ?"

"No. I liked the part where the heroin shot at him and roped him. Then she tied him to the bed and screwed him six ways from Sunday. Now that, I liked."

Guys talk :

"They say people who have sex regularly live longer. I'll live to a hundred and ten. At the rate you're going, I give you maybe two more years."

Kat Desi says

I absolutely enjoyed this book! I didn't expect to in fact.

After disastrous relationships, Shane and Shelby are swearing off relationships and they decided they are better off with no strings attached sex--with each other. But they are old fashioned people, domesticated too! During and in between sex, they find themselves wanting to get to know each other more.

Loved loved loved it. The characters are a bit quirky and their banters had me giggling and smiling like a loon! I also adored the main characters' meddling friends and family!

Looking forward to reading Mac and Maggie's story next!

Yinx says

A bit puerile. It seemed a bit like high school romance meets sex. So i have to say i wasnt really convinced. But in the month of romance, it ticked the box. Yay

