



Turn up the Heat

Serena Bell

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This edition is out of print. Stay tuned for a new edition fall/winter 2018.

For readers of Jill Shalvis and Susan Mallery, Serena Bell teases all five senses in this poignant, tantalizing novel of fantasies long hidden . . . and finally indulged.

Aspiring chef Lily McKee noticed Kincaid Graves the first time he walked into the dingy diner where she waits tables. With his ice-blue eyes and primal tattoos, his presence puts Lily on edge—and reminds her of all the unfulfilled longings she isn't pursuing while she's stuck in this dead-end job. Without a doubt, the man is dangerous to her long-term plans of leaving town and hiring on at a real kitchen—and yet, she hungers for him, if even for just a taste.

Kincaid didn't come back to his coastal Oregon hometown looking for a good time or a good meal. The ex-con has a score to settle, old wrongs to set right. But Lily, equal parts innocence and insight, brings out an impulsive side of him he thought he'd left behind in the past. And it only takes one intense moment of weakness between them to make him consider the possibility of an entirely new future—and the promise of passion beyond either of their wildest dreams.

Praise for Serena Bell

"A timely, richly written emotional romance with complex characters readers will fall in love with."—*New York Times* bestselling author **JoAnn Ross**, on *Yours to Keep*

"I adore *Yours to Keep*. It's sexy and incredibly smart, with a unique, compelling plot and a hero and heroine I love."—*New York Times* bestselling author **Noelle Adams**

"Sweet, sexy, and real . . . In *Hold on Tight*, Serena Bell has written a beautiful story about a wounded soldier and the woman strong enough to love him."—*USA Today* bestselling author **Jessica Scott**

"The authenticity of their story is resounding. This isn't a story of instant love, but of an uphill battle and determination, of making decisions, and of living in the here and now."—*Heroes and Heartbreakers*, on *Hold on Tight*

Includes a special message from the editor, as well as an excerpt from another Loveswept title.

Turn up the Heat Details

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From Reader Review Turn up the Heat for online ebook

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Paige's review posted at Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

I really liked the unexpected nature of this book.

Our main character Kincaid Graves is trying to right a wrong that occurred years prior. His problem is, he notices Lilly and wants to be all kinds of dirty with the waitress at the diner. Kincaid had a dark dangerous, edgy side as well as a protective caring side.

Lilly is a sweet girl who is currently down on her luck. She seeks comfort with her sister and her family while she tries to get back on her feet. I liked her character but felt she was a bit young and naive in her thinking on how to be successful. She was so concerned with getting out of the town that she didn't realize what she had.

I really enjoyed the characters and the premise of the book there were some odd plot points. Lilly's father was killed in a work place accident and the settlement only covered her to go to culinary school. The other odd part was the length Kincaid prison term. I didn't think he should have been in as long as he was in.

While I found these odd it didn't deter my enjoyment of this book.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

Sarah Robinson says

Holy moly frijoles- this book is hot! Serena Bell does an amazing job creating relationships through erotic connections and making you root for the characters to find their happily ever after! I read this book in one night, and all the feels were there (although they seemed to be clustered in one specific southern region! haha!). Great book, great characters, and I hope we get to see more of the people in this world! I really loved all the secondary characters just as much as the main ones- which is really exciting!

Irene says

4 stars

Turn up the Heat is a steamy and entertaining read.

I enjoyed the storyline, the characters were honest, relatable, likable and entertaining.

Turn up the Heat was one of those books once you start reading you can't put it down, I read it in one sitting. Loved the growing relationship between Lily and Kincaid, the attraction and chemistry was smoking. They

were perfect for each other, both in the bedroom and in life.

****fans self****

I'm a fan of Serena Bell's writing and she has given us another heartfelt and entertaining read. I highly recommend *Turn up the Heat*!

Thank you Netgalley and Random House Publishing Group - Loveswept for the advance copy in exchange for my honest thoughts.

Claire Robinson says

4 - "I'd rather be afraid than half alive." Stars!

I am a big fan of Serena Bell's writing, she always seems to manage to take something that was pretty special to start with and turn it into spectacular. Lily and Kincaid's story is definitely in the latter column for me, it started out steady and then took off pretty quickly.

Back in Tierney Bay, Lily McKee is living week to week, staying in her sisters basement, whilst waitressing and bartending until she has made enough money to enable her to move back to Chicago and pursue her dreams of opening her own restaurant. She didn't factor tall, tatted and tempting Kincaid Graves into that equation, but as soon as he starts sitting in one of her booths at the Tierney Bay Diner on a regular basis her interest is piqued.

"Don't hate yourself tomorrow"

After an unplanned encounter in an alley behind the diner, opens up possibilities that both of them were never expecting, Caid has to consider whether his life as it currently is, can include Lily. Domination and submission at the basest level, trust and the possibility of more than loneliness, even though both of them profess to not be looking for commitment or a relationship they are pulled together repeatedly like the tide to a sandy moonlit beach.

Both have secrets that they aren't looking to share, but as their time together brings about stronger feelings and the deepening of the trust between them, their pasts gradually become exposed.

He had taken something that had felt dark, shameful and dirty and made it beautiful.

This is a beautifully written book, the story takes some well-loved tropes and plays them a little different, not forgetting it is a whole lot of enjoyable too. If you haven't read anything by this author before, I would definitely recommend you add *Turn up the Heat* to your TBR.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, and it was an absolute pleasure to provide the above honest review.

Monica **can't read fast enough**** says**

One of the things that I enjoyed the most about TURN UP THE HEAT is that the heroine, Lily isn't really in need of saving. Lily has hit a few snags, had a disappointing relationship, and has been set slightly off course career wise but has not given up. Instead of floundering, feeling sorry for herself, or helplessly waiting to be rescued Lily has made a few sacrifices by moving in with her sister, taken a job as a waitress, and made a game plan as to how to get back on track. Lily also doesn't necessarily blame herself and her unconventional desires for her failed relationship. She craves what she craves and since her ex couldn't provide what she needed it just wasn't going to work.

I also enjoyed Kincaid as the counterpart to Lily. Strong with a sense of needing to right wrongs done not only to him but to his grandmother's legacy. Kincaid owns his personal faults and although he knows that they are not necessarily right they are what they are and he will control and deal with them as best that he can. He's served his time, learned a lesson that wasn't necessarily the one that the justice system intended, and has figured out a way to make things come out balanced in the end.

In the beginning the reader definitely gets the erotic before the romance, but Bell gradually and nicely gives the romance between Lily and Kincaid time to develop as well. Although this is a steamy story with plenty of spice and a bit of kink, that isn't my main take away impression at the end. TURN UP THE HEAT isn't just a second chance at real love for Lily and Kincaid, it's a second chance at a good life. TURN UP THE HEAT turned out to be a good solid romance with likable characters that I really wanted to get their HEA.

Happy Reading!
Monica

****I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.****

You can find more from me at
•(♥).•**Monlatable Book Reviews**•.(♥)•
<http://www.monlatablereviews.com/>

Eleanor (The Book Hammock) says

Rounding up 4.5 stars.

Serena is baaaaack!

Serena Bell's writing isn't known enough for my taste. I loved her from the first story of hers I've read; and I immediately liked her style; Carefree yet realistic. And this one is a first in a new Second Chances series by her. Yay!

I saw Turn up the Heat on NetGalley and had to request it. I was not disappointed.

Lily and Kincaid are two extremely complex characters. They're gentle and kind, they love fiercely and as such, get hurt easily. But they both have pasts that they need to come to terms with.

Lily is picking her life back up after a bad breakup. It's worst to get hurt emotionally as a result of revealing your true desires and that's exactly what happened. I, personally, can't imagine what it's like to recover from it. But Lily is strong, and compassionate and loves her profession so much she'll make sacrifices to get back on track.

Caid is, for lack of a better word, perfectly flawed and perfect. He's dealing with so much, and despite his past, he's so gentle, the complexity of his character is astounding to me.

The relationship budding between Lily and Caid is the different kind of sexual connection neither one of them expects, yet needs. The intensity, the emotions and the complexity of it is gradually growing until the inevitable blowup. In Bell's defense I'll say my heart was broken for only several pages. She's a good fixer ;)

I feel like if I say one more thing I'm going to ruin this book for you, so I'll just say this: there's something special about this story; it is realistic, it is erotic and sexy, it is emotionally teasing and it has a really really good, compelling plot.

Karen says

I received this ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

2 stars.

I knew roughly how this was going to turn out 10% into the story. There are no surprises here. Displaced woman looking for some validation and a new start on life; mysterious man gives good smoulder in her diner and sparks fly. Both try hard to resist their feelings. A secret is reluctantly revealed... You all know what happens next.

I don't necessarily have a problem with formulaic romances. Some of my favourites have followed pretty predictable story lines (Yes, I'm talking about Kristen Ashley's Rock Chick series), so that's not really the biggest problem here. For me, the greater issue is the failure to "show, don't tell". I would rather see the emotion build between characters through their actions than have their internal dialogue repeatedly tell me how much they want to touch/lick/bite the other, over and over. This writing convention becomes especially irritating when it is inserted within a benign conversation. The guy orders a burger and her internal dialogue is to mentally undress him for several paragraphs and then her response is to ask if he also wants fries-- seriously?! (I'm paraphrasing here, but unfortunately, I'm not that far from the truth.) After a few of these exchanges, I started to skim.

It's a little disappointing, as I had really enjoyed Bell's Yours to Keep and I was hoping for more of that from her.

Ivy Deluca says

Lily flutters from the moment she sees Kincaid walk into the dingy diner where she waits tables, making her dark desires, you know...the ones you don't discuss in polite company, light up like a solar flare. Neither of them are looking for a relationship, since Lily's determined to head back to Chicago to be a chef and Kincaid has justice to exact for his grandmother. But you know how this goes...romance happens anyway.

- ***Strong storyline*** : Ms. Bell's stories, at least the ones I've read, have been interesting and not dependent on the usual tropes you see in romance. From immigration to veterans coming home from war, her stories have been a little slices of life that really stay with you after you've read them. The characters are always well developed, and there are here with Lily and Kincaid.

- ***Both leads have a good inner voice*** : Kincaid's past is compelling - he's served time in prison for assault and it was justified. He did it, he had genuine reasons but the story doesn't shy away from the fact that he was capable of that kind of violence and has been punished for taking the law into his own hands. I enjoyed the fact that it wasn't something that was blindly accepted, but in fact is an obstacle that he will have to suffer the consequences of those actions, even if his story has an HEA. His sexual dominance takes on an added layer when you take into consideration the violence of his offense and it's dealt with in a realistic manner.

Lily isn't shortchanged though, as can happen in many romances. She has her ambitions and goals and her own backstory that has lead her to this tiny Oregon town. She's been shamed by her ex because of her desires and she escaped to the comfort of her sister's home, but deep down she wants to go back and show the world she isn't going to let him dictate her life. I love that Lily's open and honest with Kincaid from the beginning and her interest in a relationship with him and his dominance delves into the conflict of wanting and desiring to be restrained, to be dominated sexually in ways that makes people uncomfortable because of the the potential of lines being crossed. When Kincaid's past comes to light, I think that conflict is also handled realistically.

- ***However, outside voices can be good too*** : If I have a quibble, it's that while the reader may know the characters well as individuals, there is such a thing as too many inner monologues. When the characters are actually spending time together, there's still internal reflection going on, which tended to distract me. Lily and Kincaid are good characters, but there's alot of time spent in their own heads, detailing their feelings to the reader. I would have liked to see more dialogue and interaction, instead of the constant inner musings.

- ***D/s aspect*** : I wouldn't have minded more sex scenes where they navigate the pitfalls of the power exchange. Again, this has to do with so much internal monologues pulling away from the overall story.

- ***Series setup isn't clear*** : Honestly, I'm curious as to how this would continue as a series. The town seems interesting, but the secondary characters don't seem to be set up for future books, so I'll be interested in seeing how that develops, if this is Ms. Bell's intention.

[3.5 stars]

It was hard to rate, but ultimately I enjoyed this story. Abundance of navel gazing aside, I think the character development is well done, and the story has some good emotional moments. I'd recommend it for those who love really character-driven stories.

Wendy Marcus says

Serena Bell writes books with hot sex and lots of emotion, and those are the types of books I love to read!!
The second half of this story is what made it a 5 star read for me.

Linda says

Lily McKee has come to Oregon to stay with her sister and her sisters family after leaving Chicago and a bad relationship that left her struggling to fulfill her career dream of being a chef and restaurant owner. Lily has managed to secure herself a waitressing job in Oregon in a local seaside restaurant , she has also found a fairly loyal following to , including the regular watcher in the back booth. Lily finds herself drawn to him , but determined to keep her distance, she plans to save enough money to move back to Chicago and continue to pursue her dreams so the extremely hot guy is not on her list , she keeps trying to sell herself .

Kincaid Graves comes into the diner everyday , to have a meal, feel like he has some company and to look at the new waitress, but as much as Caid likes to fantasize about Lily , he has an agenda to take care of , never mind the fact that he is an x- con and can offer no future to anyone. Kincaid has to make right what has happened , his grandmother who raised him passed away and her wishes for her land have been ignored , her second husband , who beat her and the reason Kincaid went to jail has managed to steal everything by burying her will ; Kincaid is trying to make it right.

Lily wants to cook desperately but the owner of the diner refuses to let her until he comes up short a cook one evening ; Lily gets the opportunity to cook for Caid and tweaks his hamburger order adding done extra seasoning to the burger, watching him eat was like a sexual experience . These two are like oohs to a flame , they know they may get burned but they just can not resist . That evening these two find themselves in the alley up against a wall , with Caid dominating and being rough and Lily loving every minute of it, however Caid pulls back when she moans believing he may be hurting her after all no one has ever liked that dominating side.

Kincaid tries to stay away but can't , he has not told her about his past, he knows he should but the more time they spend together , the more he wants she makes him feel whole, Caid fears Lily will turn away from him if she knows the truth and he just does not want to give her up till he has to, when she returns to Chicago. I know I do not have to tell you that his secret comes out before he can tell her and causes the distrust and heartbreak he feared.

Can they work this out? Will Lily head back to Chicago ? Will Kincaid see through with locating his grandma's will and see it executed? Will they get an HEA?

I loved this book , characters with depth beyond just incredible sex scenes and wrongs to be made. right!

Arc copy provided by Loveswept via Netgalley for an honest review!

Rose says

I'll write a review of this closer to the release date, but in sum: it was okay. I thought that Lily and Kincaid's chemistry was palpable as well as their insecurities, but somehow there were things about this read that still

didn't fully connect with me on the whole.

I'd probably rate it around 2.5 stars.

Samantha says

A you know I suck with words 4 stars. Caid and Lily worked for each other and understood a deeper and darker need in the bedroom that most wouldn't. They gave each other what they needed without asking for anything in return which is the best kind of love. The story was plotted pretty well and I'm curious about Serena Bell's other books now.

This book kept me actively engaged and I laughed several times at the things Caid would say because he's such a freaking character. I did like Lily, she was a nurturing soul. I feel like this is the kind of novel you can read easily and like but don't totally fall in love with. This isn't a Pepper Winters novel where you get so lost in it and so in love that you can't recognize the real world but it is is engaging, witty, and sweet. The writing is good, the characters are pretty solid, and there's the very much needed happy ending.

RachelW (BamaGal) says

I liked this. I liked Lily and Caide, the story, and the side characters. I liked the sex that pushed the envelope just a bit while still feeling like real sex between real people. I'd love to see Sierra get a book, as well as Grant.

This was fun. I discovered this author after reading Hold on Tight which I also enjoyed. Bell is an author I'm going to be keeping my eye on.

Mandy says

After 7 years in prison, Kincaid is out and looking to make things right for his grandma. He couldn't protect her when she was alive but he's not going to let the man who abused her take everything she owned. Kincaid doesn't see himself as a good guy, knows that he's not relationship material but when he meets an innocent looking waitress, he can't help himself. Lily is living in Oregon, staying with her sister and working in a diner as a waitress. Her life in Chicago didn't turn out exactly as she had planned, especially when her ex dumped her because she liked things a little rough in the bedroom, taking away her job and her apartment with him. When she meets Kincaid, she sees a big, strong man who she thinks can give her what she wants and needs in the bedroom. She's not looking for a relationship since she only plans on being in town long enough to save some money but she can't fight the connection she feels when she meets Kincaid.

I'm a big fan of ex-con type stories and I did enjoy this one. Kincaid is a good guy who made a bad decision. After spending 7 years in jail, he's bound to have some built-up sexual tension and Lily is the perfect girl for him. I liked these two characters together and this was a pretty steamy book. I'm looking forward to reading more in this series.

****ARC provided in exchange for an honest review****

♥? Dorsey aka Wrath Lover Reviews ♥? says

Review to come.....
