



Departure from the Script

Jae

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Aspiring actress Amanda Clark and photographer Michelle Osinski are two women burned by love and not looking to test the fire again. And even if they were, it certainly wouldn't be with each other.

Amanda has never been attracted to a butch woman before, and Michelle personifies the term butch. Having just landed a role on a hot new TV show, she's determined to focus on her career and doesn't need any complications in her life.

After a turbulent breakup with her starlet ex, Michelle swore she would never get involved with an actress again. Another high-maintenance woman is the last thing she wants, and her first encounter with Amanda certainly makes her appear the type.

But after a date that is not a date and some meddling from Amanda's grandmother, they both begin to wonder if it's not time for a departure from their usual dating scripts.

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From Reader Review Departure from the Script for online ebook

Wendy says

Another wonderful book from Jae. She's easily one of my favourite writers. This time, we are brought into Hollywood with an actress and a photographer who met at an anti-Valentine's Day party. The pace and dialogue is spot-on. The romance is sweet and gentle. As usual, reading this book makes me want to go out and get the next book in the series.

Natsu says

A nice mix of tender and sappy romance, comedy and lovable characters. There's nothing like "Non-Date" dates, rude animals, and a sweet meddling grandma to liven up the story.

Amanda and Michelle are both lovely people in their own way and even more when they're together.

I think I'll be making banana pancakes later... :D

Ty says

3.5 stars. This is very cute. It's definitely got the feel of an expanded short story, both because of its length and because it's lacking any serious conflict. But gosh, it's sweet.

P. Industry says

Simple, sweet, and angst-free.

Amanda Clark is a struggling actress; unlucky in love, she heads to an Anti-Valentine's Day Party to drown her sorrows. Waking up the next morning in an unfamiliar bed and with a wicked serious hangover, she is introduced to Michelle Osinski, a sweetly attractive butch with a talent for pancakes and smooth flirtatious banter. Although the two would normally never choose the other when looking for romance, in this instance they put their fears aside and decide to take a punt; what follows is the story of two people falling in love, against the backdrop of Amanda's big break and subsequent hectic lifestyle.

We've all seen this type of thing before; indeed, some of us might have seen this *exact* thing before, as the first two chapters form the previously published short-story "The Morning After". Stepping off from that point, "Departure" wends into a standard love story, albeit a well-written and gentle one. Some elements are overused - referring to their dates as "rehearsals", for instance rapidly grew tiresome - but nothing was offensive enough to alienate.

Perhaps people remark that it seemed "predictable" because it was angst-free; there was some token worry at the end of the novel about outing herself in the public eye, but it never really threatened to break the mood.

Books that don't use conflict to drive forward their plots hold a special place in my heart; English-language-writers often find it harder to sustain momentum, but in this case it is pulled off with aplomb (although it might well be the reason for the short length of the book).

Overall, this is a well-written conventional romance featuring kind and gentle protagonists. And it was really rather nice.

Bethany says

Keeping with my theme, I decided to start 2019 off with a book from my to-read list. A book that's just for me, because I wanted to read it, not because it was an ARC novel.

Departure from the Script was a perfect choice, and I loved every word of it! I've read a few of Jae's novels before this one, but not nearly enough. This just solidified my decision to read all of her back library this year. Hold me to it please!

Solid 4 stars. And I've decided that I need someone like MC Michelle in my life... I mean, I may look like the character on the cover of Jove Belle's *Cake*, with my short, short haircut, but I'm a semi-femme at heart! No one mention this review to my wife now, ok? HA!

Oh! And I also decided that I'm going to try adding tags / bookshelves to my reads this year. Don't judge me if it doesn't end up going well. I'm thinking it'll be a failure when I try to review from my phone or when I'm tired...

Hue says

I did a roundabout way of reading this series. I started with book 2, 3, then this. That was due to my aversion with characters that are photographers (sue me but previous reading experiences of lesbian romances with that setup did not appeal to me). My trust with Jae's writing brought a pleasant surprise. This is definitely on my reread list.

Blink51n says

I do love how well Jae builds her characters. Even though we are in Amanda's head, Michelle is also fully realised and they are a very sweet couple.

I put off reading this because I'm not a fan of fame/Hollywood, but Jae did an excellent job making the scenes on set interesting and skipping all the glitz and glamour that I find boring.

I especially loved the start of the book as Amanda realised her preconceived notions about the way Michelle looks are wrong and I adore reading about "butch" women who aren't hard nosed, domineering womanisers but *gasp* actual people.

The drama is minimal (plus) and the relationship is well developed.

3.5 stars rounded to 4

~ * K E L L I E * ~ says

What's not to love about this book? Amanda is the sweetest up-and-coming Hollywood starlet and Michelle is the sweetest butch in LA... Together they make such a sweet couple and sweetness oozes off the pages! Yes, I'm a sucker for a sweet and sappy romance! :-)

My only gripe, it ended far too soon. I wanted more! The pages seemed to vanish in the blink of an eye.

Nevertheless, Departure from the Script was a sweet, sappy and enjoyable read with some entertaining secondary characters - especially Amanda's meddling grandmother, Josephine.

4.5 stars

angie says

I enjoyed Departure From The Script a lot; even if it's on the predictable side, it's the good kind of dependable, where you know you're going to get a solid romantic read. The characters (both main and secondary) are extremely likable and fully fleshed out and Jae, as always, writes well.

I'd strongly recommend this for a cozy afternoon, especially if you need to escape from real life for a few hours. Cute, sweet and full of refreshing sincerity, Departure is a stand-out in its genre.

Marilyn says

A very sweet pure romance.

Penny says

Good book to read in one sitting. The plot is fairly simple with no major complications for the leading ladies: they meet (in the most unconventional, funny and cute way, obviously), they date, they fall in love. A romance in its essence.

Serena says

I was interested in this book because I have read some good work by Jae in the past. I love her western themed books, like backwards to Oregon.

Having this said, I must say i wasn't the biggest fan of this one.
It's not a bad read, at all.....just too plain.

I know that sounds kind of general, like not really detailed.

The only explanation I can give is, that the first few chapters, i caught myself laughing out loud while reading.

I loved how the characters met, and how the book started.

But with every chapter after that strong opening, it started to loose it's charm, it's magic so to speak.

I think one of the reasons is the overkill in putting things off between the main characters. I love when a writer takes time, developing the love story and making it into a slow paced story. But where in some cases a writer rushes it and takes away the magic, my opinion is that Jae did the opposite with this one. She waited too long, so for me the attraction and real craving between the two ladies, didn't hold any realness in the end.

Having said this, i do want to acknowledge the laughs I had while reading it, the magic i felt (although shortlived). I will keep trying different books by Jae, because I do see her as a very accomplished writer.

Lex Kent says

3 1/2 Stars. I was reading this story and having such a sense of deja-vu. I know this story. Then I realized Jae had taken one of her shorts and turned it into a novella. So for me the whole second half of the book was new. And I enjoyed it. This is a cute, feel good romance.

I'm just starting to really read Jae's books for the first time, and I've enjoyed everything I have read so far. I can feel a little obsession coming on, like I want to read all her books. It's always nice to find an author that you can connect to her books, and look forward to reading more.

Lady Avalon says

I really enjoyed it despite the rushed ending and I'd recommend it to anyone who enjoys a sweet love story where opposites attract.

MJS says

I enjoyed this well enough. I first read it as a short story and was glad to see Jae go back to flesh it out further. As it's only a novella, it still doesn't have enough time to tell the full details, but what's here is plenty. I enjoyed both characters and their interactions, and liked the different family scenes as well, Amanda's grandmother was a great addition. The end seemed a bit rushed, but given the size of the story it was to be expected. A nice quick read.
