



Keeping Willow

Jacinta Howard

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Devin Walker, drummer for The Prototype, has one priority: turning his alt-soul band into the superstar act it's destined to become. Singularly focused on his music, his creative passion is all-consuming—that is, until he crosses paths with his best friend's college roommate, Willow Harden.

Willow was drawn to Devin from the moment she first saw him. And when Devin does, finally look Willow's way, she's easily seduced from her protective bubble into the lure of his fast-paced ambitions, though at times, she wonders if she can handle it.

Unable to resist their potent chemistry, Devin and Willow free fall into a relationship that makes them question each other and doubt themselves. Devin knows he should probably leave her alone; Willow knows life for her might not be any good without him. Can they possibly make their love work? And if so, at what cost?

Keeping Willow Details

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From Reader Review Keeping Willow for online ebook

Delaney Diamond says

I had been waiting for this story. I don't know why these two characters resonated so much with me. Perhaps Willow's innocence and Devin's sexiness combined to make me anticipate this particular tale more than any other after I read *Happiness in Jersey*. Lucky for me, *Keeping Willow* more than met my expectations and satisfied my appetite for romance.

I liked reading about how they came to be a couple, but also the mistakes and missteps they made during the course of their relationship. Willow was sweet, but don't mess with her man! When she talked about hitting someone with a beer bottle, I had to laugh.

The author has a very intimate way of writing scenes that immerse you in the story--the love scenes, the conversations, even the tension between the main characters. All of it leaps off the page and sucks you in so that you experience every emotion. I think this is my favorite of the series so far. Looking forward Bam's story.

Nia Forrester says

No one *sounds* like Jacinta Howard. I mean it. I think if she wrote under another name, I would know it was her. Her stories have mood and music, and a cadence that is all her own. I always approach her books with two distinctly conflicting emotions: the first is excitement and eagerness; and the second is trepidation.

The excitement and eagerness is self-explanatory--she's just a damned good writer, so I want to read what she writes. The second emotion is more complicated. Reading her books is like going to a movie where you know you're probably going to cry. You both welcome and dread the depth of emotion you know you'll likely feel. She's only once made me legit-cry (okay, maybe twice), but what almost *always* happens is that I feel a quiet, wistful longing for the achy, heady, torment of "new love" with all its crazy ups and downs. I remember, and re-experience what it is like when for the first time, you love harder than you think your heart can take.

In '**Keeping Willow**', the third installment in the 'Prototype' series, we get to know the innocent, starry-eyed roommate and friend of Jersey, from the first book in the series '**Happiness in Jersey**'. Willow is as sheltered as Jersey was worldly, and she is infatuated with Jersey's equally worldly best friend Devin. It was just delicious, watching that infatuation turn into friendship, and then, finally love. In this, as in almost all Jacinta Howard's books, there's no tedious pussyfooting around between the characters about whether they will, or won't succumb to love. They do so naturally, organically and (this is the best part) ... completely. When they do it, it's with their whole hearts. Once they're in, they are *in*, and the story really begins when we watch them navigate the challenges that come with learning to love while life happens.

Among the things that make this book, and all Jacinta Howard's books unique is that while her characters are fairly young, they are in *grown-ass love* and that's where even more of my trepidation comes in. I watch them grow and change, and I'm tense, wondering whether that growth will keep them together or tear them apart, which is almost silly since this is romance, and odds are, they'll be together. But that's what makes her

work so good--you actually have doubt, just as the couple has doubt. Not about their love, but about whether because they love each other, and because they're young, and their lives are changing, maybe, just maybe that love requires that they let each other go.

That was the central conflict in **'Keeping Willow'**. Devin is a musician-on-the-rise, focused and determined and completely aware of who he is and where he wants to be. And Willow is like her name--blowing whichever way the wind dictates, unsure of who and what she wants to be. Devin's certainty extends to his love for Willow, but her uncertainty about who she is threatens to mar that. The decision to let go with love was a plausible outcome for this couple, and at times, even the better outcome. I ached for them to be together, even though I knew I would understand if they were not. [I can't say anymore about that, because I don't want to spoil it for you.]

I read this one slowly, because I didn't want it to end, waking up at 5 AM each day and allowing myself to savor a few chapters until I saw the sun begin to rise. It was me, alone with the characters in my head, and it was ... amazing. And when finally there were no chapters left to read, my feelings were just as conflicting as when I began reading--except this time, it was exuberance at how good it was, and sadness that all too soon, it was done.

--karen Green-berry says

Another great read!!!

I've been reading this author's books for awhile and she is definitely one of my must read authors. Her books are engaging and the characters reach out and touch your soul.

This is Devin and Willow's story and it drew me in from the first page. I love the growth in their lives; they weathered the storm of young love and eventually found their "happy" in each other.

This is a highly recommended read and I recommend all her books.

Mel says

This Series Is Everything!

Do I detect a fourth? Bam and Cassie perhaps? A reader can dream, can't she?

Nette Fields says

D♥Low Low

I was like hold up they not gonna get it together...95%

Man be so hurt not like he wasn't supposed to be but they be so extra.

And many of us do loss our selves like Willow...u just want ur other half to shoot for the stars and u put ur all in to their potential. But in doin so it wasn't like he wasn't supporting her it happens and she came back

better. So they could be better.
I really enjoyed their love
I could definitely relate to Willow she is me I am her

Teresa Mcmillian says

Love This Series!

This book draws you in and keeps you there for Willow and Devin's story. It was an emotional journey that ends beautifully.

B. Love says

I honestly don't know where to start. Jacinta has a way of telling stories that hit you deep, yet make you feel light. Empty yet full. This one was no different. I ached for Devin and Willow. The journey of their love was so rich. It wasn't just a frilly romance with swoon worthy moments and no substance. It was real.

Lily Java says

There was a wait for this, the third book in the series, and I for one, could never be mad or impatient about the wait when the books read the way this one did. This book is so lovely it left me content and satisfied like I'd just been tucked in with a warm blanket on a brutally, cold night.

It struck me as I read the last few pages of 'Keeping Willow' that one of the things I like best about Jacinta Howard's writing, especially here in the Prototype series, is you know as she tells us the story she loves her characters so unequivocally that somehow in that head space she practically wills you to love them too. It's definitely no challenge at all to invest in the outcome of this couple, Devin and Willow, almost immediately, because of the simple yet deeply sensual way they describe the things they see and fall for in each other.

In some ways, this arguably seems like the least drama filled of all the Prototype stories, which is interesting since this is the only couple thus far that has to deal with both vastly disparate career paths as well as the natural anxiety and loneliness of being a long-distance couple. But it is the inherent sweetness of the relationship, that is a feast for the reader's eyes and emotions, and not sweet in a cloying or timid way, but sweet, like only love and passion can be when it's fresh, radiant, and unsullied.

Yeah, I seriously dug Willow and Devin. I even dug their problems and how they forged through them to get to what's really on the other side of love... peace.

Keandra Redman says

Mannnn

Man I vibed with these two from beginning to end. I felt this book in my soul. Awesome Jacinta! In ready for Bam and Cassie now....

Tina Young says

Finally...

I've been intrigued by this couple in more ways than one since the initial book of this series. I had many questions about Devin and Willow. Jacinta Howard answers them all in "Keeping Willow", which provides answers to all of the questions that I had for this Dynamic Couple. Being able to read their back story in complete detail provided understanding to how and where their relationship all began.

Now I'm fiending to read more on Bam and Cassie, ?.

If for some strange reason you have not been privy to Jacinta Howard's work, stop ? denying yourself of some amazing writing from a very Gifted and Talented writer...

Vernell Howard says

Awesome Emotional Rollercoaster Ride!

This was a great, exciting and emotional rollercoaster ride. This story is very informative for all people young or old especially women. Sometimes we forget to complete our growth as a single person before becoming a WE with someone and we lose ourselves. I'm glad Willow took a mental break because she was losing herself in the relationship. I wish she could've expressed herself a little more to Devin, but she felt it was necessary to distant herself to mature mentally to become better for herself and their union. I think Devin matured as well. He became a little more aware of people feelings and learned a little more patience. I have to say though I was a little worried that they were not going to reunite. My favorite story out of the three. Great Read. Thanx

D. Rose says

It took me some time to gather my thoughts on this book...and the entire series. Keeping Willow was *soooooo* good. Willow and Devin's story really delved into the importance of knowing yourself, how easy it is to lose yourself in love, and being able to forgive. Things that people deal with at ANY age. Jacinta has a way of writing that pulls you and has you completely enamored. I kept telling myself to take my time reading, but I couldn't put my phone down.

How does she write these heroines that remind me so much of myself and my college experience? How does she write these heroes that make me fall in love with them by the time the book ends?

AND on top of that the musical references! The ATLien in me was thoroughly satisfied with the soundtrack. Every Outkast and Dungeon Family reference made me 1. Nostalgic and 2. Love the story/series even more.

Robin Stark says

Wow!

I had some reservations about Devin and Willows story. I felt because they were featured in all of the previous books, their story was already told.. Boy was I wrong. Jacinta is truly a genius, she went back into their history, and showed us how they got together ,and fell in love. I found myself seeing them in a whole different light. I loved how connected and committed they were to each other, even when they were struggling. Devin just got Willow, and she just loved him almost to a fault. I got why she left the way she did, but I also understand his reservations when she came back. It was just so realistic to me. Even though Kennedy and Travis will always be my favorite couple , Devin and Willow are giving them a serious run for their money. I can't wait for Bam and Cassie's story, but I'm not worried it won't be good, because Jacinta hasn't written a bad book yet. Keep doing your thing girl, you are truly gifted.

Shay says

4.5 stars

Deloris says

APB Perspective Review :

I thought Zay was my man , but now I know Devin
I loved this book, and Devin turned me out , I'm a groupie too!!
