



Make Me, Take Me

Amanda Usen

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A sexy category romance from Entangled's Brazen imprint...

He's every fantasy she's ever had...

Betsy Mouton knows that easy doesn't last forever. She's working her butt off to launch the Last Call Café so her family can leave the New Orleans bar business—and its heartaches—behind forever. That is, until the hottest one-night-stand of her life shows up next door, twice as uncompromising and two million times hotter, offering to buy the bar and send the Moutons to Easy Street.

Hotelier Quinton James has never forgotten the unbelievably hot night he and Betsy shared. Never forgotten how beautifully she submitted to him, or how he found the only peace he's ever known in her arms. Now that Betsy is the only thing standing in the way of his new hotel, she's the one in control. But there's more at stake than her cafe or laying their past to rest—Quin wants a future. With her. All he has to do is convince her...one sensual command at a time.

Make Me, Take Me Details

Date : Published December 15th 2014 by Entangled: Brazen

ISBN : 9781633751569

Author : Amanda Usen

Format : ebook 257 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Make Me, Take Me for online ebook

Blessie (Mischievous Reads) says

***ARC courtesy of Entangled Publishing in exchange for honest review**

This is a first time for me to read an Amanda Usen book, and I haven't read the first two books of the Hot Nights series either. The first time I started reading this book, I wasn't feeling it. I had it on my currently reading list for more than a week, when usually, I could finish a book in a day or less. I'm not exactly sure why I didn't have the urge to continue it, but the moment I felt like re-reading since I wasn't exactly far in yet, so I did... And I realized it wasn't so bad after all. But I didn't love it.

Betsy Mouton is a girl with a dream -- to end her family's hardships by turning their night bar in New Orleans into a cafe. She'd even gone to school for it, just to make that dream come true someday. She's a girl who's sworn off rich men, because she knows they're bad news and would break her heart someday, just like what they did to her mother. But when she meet's Quin James, she can't resist a night of pure debauchery.

Quin James is back in New Orleans, and has huge plans in reconstructing the French Quarter to his own liking. He's set up a five star hotel branch and has bought every available lot in the whole corner, the only one left is Betsy's bar. But Betsy's not selling and even if taking his money would do her family a lot better, so he's going to have to convince her otherwise.

I found the story line quite interesting but the characters not quite enjoyable. They came off quite annoying -- too stubborn for my taste, especially with Betsy acting as if she's such a know-it-all, and Quin being such a pushover. However, I did enjoy the chemistry between them. They were adorably sweet and awesome together, but they're terrible as individuals.

There was also too much going on that kind of confused the hell out of me, particularly Quin's past. It came off too vague and wasn't explained properly, which made me constantly raise an eyebrow as I read about him.

However, despite the above, this book still does good for a Brazen, because of the steamy scenes going on in this novel. **Every. Sexy. Scene. Is. Just. On. Point!** Definitely lives up to the "Hot Nights" series, because everything about this book is just sizzling **HOT**.

Lovers of dirty romances will love this very much.

For more reviews, check out: Mischievous Reads

Izy says

ARC generously provided by Entangled publishing in exchange for an honest review.

Rating~3 stars

Betsy Mouton is a chef and she works with her family in the Last Call Cafe. She had a difficult childhood

and finds it difficult to get close to people so she pushed them away instead. All she ever wanted was to make the life of her mother and sister easier by making the Bar into a Cafe so that she doesn't have see her mother and her sister get hit on and work every night.

Quinton James is a hotelier. He was adopted when his mother died in New Orleans, he doesn't remember much of his childhood before he got adopted and now he's back in New Orleans to get rid of the nightmares that follow him. He thinks that by building a hotel and courtyard will stop the nightmares and he can finally move on with his life. Quin feels that everyone leaves starting from his blood family to his adopted family and now Betsy.

Betsy and Quinton have a one night stand two years ago just before Betsy is leaving for culinary school. Now Betsy is back home and trying to change the bar into the cafe when she runs into Quinton again. Quinton never forgot Betsy and now that she's finally back into town, he wants her back in his bed.

Betsy and Quin's relationship is very physically based by the that I mean that from the moment they meet they feel an intense attraction to each other and sleep with each other a couple of hours later . Then when meet years later, the same thing happens. They have great chemistry. Both Quin and Betsy don't have time for love but they can't help but need and feel for each other. They both have issues to deal with that stop them being together.

This isn't exactly contemporary romance since there are elements in the book that clearly not normal, it has the kind of that fairy tale, magic feeling at some points.

I did like author's writing, her descriptions which were vivid and Quin and Betsy were good together when Betsy wasn't finding ways to convince herself that all they have is sex.

Quibbles: Betsy with her non-believing ways towards Quin irritated me, the guy was doing so much for her yet she didn't believe him, kept pushing him away and this lasted almost just short of where the story ended. The ending also felt a bit rushed and I would have liked Betsy to grovel a bit more, View Spoiler »Betsy's family just felt rather ungrateful to what she was doing for them since Betsy spend her whole life caring for them, especially Kate I didn't understand her behavior of why was so mean to her sister, telling her lies and making her feel bad. It wasn't like Kate didn't know what Betsy planned to do about the Bar and if she had problems with it then she should have said so years ago.

Overall, this was a ok-to-goodish read.

Janey says

ARC generously provided by entangled publishing in exchange for an honest review..

Loved this..

Betsy Mouton is a New Orleans girl who is idealising enhancing the family bar by turning it into a cafe, complete with serving dinner. She's intending to go to culinary school the very next day, to ensure that dream, but until then, finds herself serving in the bar.

Quinton James is a successful hotelier who is visiting the latest of his hotels to launch imminently. He decides not to go too far, when he chooses the bar next door to sit back, relax and watch the delectable bar maid for a few hours.

Fiesty banter flows back and forth between these two, turning the chemistry level up a notch.

"If you're going to say something that cheesy, you have to follow it up with a wink. It's a rule. C'mon, pretty boy, show me your wink."

As in true flirty form, they both encounter their most memorable one night stand. But that's where it ceases until 2 years later, when Betsy returns from her culinary school stint and faces the man who had introduced her to multiple OMG's.

I definitely enjoyed the steam factor..Amanda creates very vivid scenarios. She also easily garnished the background, giving us a real taste of New Orleans.

The supporting characters were plentiful, although I couldn't quite get Betsy's sister Kate, who came across as an incredulous bully. Quin's backstory was simmering in the background nicely, whilst the main story continued with an easy pace.

Maria Rose says

This steamy contemporary romance is the story of Quinton and Betsy. Set with the backdrop of sultry New Orleans, Quin and Betsy share a sexy one night stand, one Betsy is willing to indulge in with her handsome stranger, secure in the knowledge that she's leaving town the next day. But two years later he's back (as is she after her stint at culinary school), and building a hotel next to her bar. He hasn't forgotten their night together and desires nothing more than to pick up where they left off - but when Quin wants more than just her body, will Betsy be willing to give him her heart?

I really loved this story! I thought the chemistry between Quin and Betsy was off the charts, and from the beginning of the story I was totally sold on their romance. The setting was used really well to add a touch of mystery and drama to the story, giving New Orleans its due as a jazzy, sultry and sexy city. I enjoyed Betsy's character as a responsible, driven woman trying to make things better for her family. Letting go with Quin, even if only for a few weeks makes her realize that sometimes having someone else take control is okay. Quin too is equally engaging as a determined and steadfast man, with a barrier around his wounded heart that begins to crack as Betsy unknowingly burrows into it. Neither has forgotten the chemistry of their first meeting and the ensuing love scenes between them are equally as sexually exciting as their first time together. The secondary characters in this story played an important role in the plot development and the interaction between them and Quin and Betsy added to the understanding of the underlying motives of their characters.

Overall, this story embodied all the things I love about contemporary romance stories - a well written plot and setting, engaging characters, sexual tension and steamy love scenes, and a satisfying happy ending. 5 stars!

Barb Lie says

Make Me, Take Me is the third installment in Amanda Usen's Hot Nights Series. I would have to say she correctly named this series because this is one hot read. I highly suggest you keep a glass of ice chips, or ice water within reach when you read this one.

I've never read anything by Amanda Usen before and I can safely say I will more than likely go back at some point when I have the time to read the other books in this series. Make Me, Take Me is a quick read, but it's filled with intense emotions, hot sex, vulnerability, trust issues, learning to hope, and finally realizing it's okay to take the chance and open oneself up to the possibility of love and have your fairy tale ending. How Ms. Usen managed to fit that all into this story is beyond me, but it worked and had me glued to my seat reading this one to the very end. Even though it's a quick read, the story has a natural flow to it that allows the reader to sink into the story and really get to know and understand the hero and heroine in this one. Betsy and Quin are well written characters and have many layers to them that Amanda peels away as the story progresses. We get to see the why's and how's of who they are, what shaped the person they are today, and where they are headed if they just give themselves and their feelings for one another a chance.

At times I did get annoyed with Betsy over how she kept trying to keep Quin at arms length and keep it all about a sexual relationship. Even though things were changing between them and she could slowly see it, she kept rationalizing everything to death where Quin was concerned, but on the other hand, we can see why she's doing it. That part of her character kept driving me nuts and I just wanted to shake her and tell her to wake up and take the chance with him.

Quin, what can I say, he's a player, he's rich, sexy, strong, and intelligent, but he has this vulnerability about him that he hides, until he meets Betsy and everything about his world changes. I absolutely loved his character. I loved watching him go from the rich, sexy playboy, to the charming, lovable and vulnerable man that he is when he's with Betsy. His transformation is a slow and steady one and allows us to see how his past completely shaped him and his feelings towards love and letting people in until he meets Betsy. Both are perfect for each other and the last couple of chapters where they finally realize they've fallen for each other and allow themselves to be happy are beautiful and heart warming to read.

As for the hotness factor, yes I did tell you to keep a glass of ice water on hand and I'm not lying. Every time these two get together and get it on, it's always hotter than the last time. I think Ms. Usen must have gone through many a pencil writing this one cause they all must have gone up in flames thanks to Betsy and Quin and their sexual chemistry. It just burned up the pages.

Like I said earlier, Make Me, Take Me is a quick read, but has many underlying factors in it that immerse the reader into Betsy and Quin's world. They have an obvious chemistry from the get go that carries them through the entire story and keeps the reader involved from beginning to end. I really enjoyed this one and I think anyone who likes a good emotional, intense read filled with a hot romance will enjoy it too.

Reviewed by Marcie
<http://thereadingcafe.com>

Nikita says

Betsy Mouton has spent her life working her butt off to provide a decent living for herself, her mom, and sister slinging drinks at her Mom's tiny bar in the French Quarter of New Orleans. Burned by the string of rich men who used and left her mom, Betsy is dead-set against falling for any of the rich, business types that occasionally pass through the Quarter. Until she meets Quinton James.

Quinton is a rich, successful hotelier in town to survey new sites for another of his fancy hotels. Fighting off bad memories of New Orleans, he enters the Last Call bar and encounters Betsy. Lust flares and he is determined to take her back to the hotel with him. But after a wild, passionate night with Betsy, he wakes to find her gone.

I struggled with this book. I thought Quinton was incredibly shallow, arrogant, and a little self-centered. I didn't care for the secondary characters (particularly Betsy's sister, Kate) and found it difficult to connect with Betsy or understand her motives. The sex was ok, nothing terribly earth-shattering or remarkable. It does get much better as the characters connect on a more emotional level. But in the beginning, when it was just about lust, I thought the descriptions were lacking in sensuality – too much “this goes there and then that happens” and not enough sensory words; tell me how things sounded, tasted, felt – not a textbook description.

The book does improve as the story progresses, but getting past the initial few chapters which felt very disjointed and abrupt definitely knocked stars off for this review. That said, Ms. Usen does a good job of sprinkling in enough detail to where the reader really gets a good sense of the look and feel of New Orleans. And eventually Quinton and Betsy got to a point where it made sense why they were together. For much of the book, their relationship was purely physical – animal attraction culminating in lusty release. But as they grew closer and developed, it was easier to see why they needed each other on a more emotional level, which was very satisfying.

Originally posted at Plot Twist Reviews [dot] Com

I received this book for free from the Publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Claire Robinson says

3 Stars.

3 - **“I’ve seen enough of the back of your head to last me a lifetime.”** Stars.

I do have a bit of a love/hate relationship with Amanda Usen books; for the most part I enjoy them, and the same can definitely be said for the third installment in the *Hot Nights* series, but there always seems to be something that niggles at me as the story progresses which then lowers my enjoyment level.

This is definitely the case with *Make Me, Take Me*. I liked this book, but I didn't love it, for a couple of reasons. The first half started well, but as the story between Betsy and Quin progressed, I found myself struggling to really find anything likeable about Betsy and a lot of her reasoning behind her actions and behavior moved from the realms of stubborn and independent, with her cut and run behavior towards Quin to

bordering on selfish and bitchy. Add to that the lies and omission of the facts about a few important things between her, her mother and her sister Kate it was all a bit too much, overly dramatized and went on for far too long.

"I've been sitting here all night thinking of things I'd like to do to you, and I want to make you say yes."

Unfortunately, because of the aforementioned I also really, really disliked Betsy's sister Kate as well. Again I could see both sides of the arguments between them, but the execution of the story just didn't give me enough emotion to make me feel any sympathy for their issues, and some of Betsy's internal monologue just sounded like a spoiled girl struggling with bouts of jealousy for her little sister.

Quin's back story (view spoiler) was all a bit one step too far for me in relation to everything else that was going on.

"I hope you've got a magic wand in that big bag. You're going to need it."

I know the above all seems a lot of negative, but those are the main things that are in my mind while I write the review about the book. There are positives, Amanda writes some imaginative and dirty sex, the vivid descriptions of New Orleans and its characters were very easy to pull to mind, and I liked seeing a little of Lila and Jackson as well as Jenna and Roman. I have a feeling that Kate may get a book next, will I read it...

ARC generously provided by Entangled for the above honest review.

Megan says

ARC provided by the Publisher in exchange for honest review

Make Me, Take Me by Amanda Usen is my second book by her, and I must say I enjoyed it. I did like it, as I said. But there were a few things that made it less enjoyable.

I did think Becky was just a tad bit aggravating/overdramatic about a few things.

First being that she kept saying that it was just an arrangement of sorts and nothing else.

The second is where she wants to renovate the bar into a Café. I can say that I sort of agree with the sister. Yes, I do think that she kind of wanted to change it because that's what Betsy wanted. She seemed kind of selfish.

Quinton and Betsy were good together after they got their act together.

Overall I liked the book. It wasn't my favorite but it also wasn't the worst book.

Michelle says

[image error]

Carlee says

In ***Make Me, Take Me*** we were down in New Orleans and finally meeting Betsy. She is part of the trio that started off with **Lila** in *Into the Fire* and **Jenna** from *Seducing the Playboy* of the **Hot Nights** series. Betsy has grown up helping her mother run the bar that was handed down from Betsy's deadbeat father. In Betsy's eyes she sees a business that is sucking her mother and sister down a path of endless nights of rowdy drunken men and if she can turn it into a respectable cafe, she can make their lives better. Quin meets Betsy the night before she leaves for culinary school and against Betsy's better judgement gives this rich playboy ONE night to rock her world. Quin is a lost soul who was born in New Orleans, after losing his mother, his sister and he are adopted by a loving couple, but his sister runs away, while he is given the world at his fingertips. With his power and money he builds hotels, and New Orleans draws him back with the need to build over his history there a few years after his encounter with Betsy. Fates align like only they do in the magical city and Quin is moving into Betsy's neighborhood.

As much as Betsy fights their potent chemistry, it's undeniable. With the help of her friends and the fates all of Betsy's dreams will come true, but first she has to learn to accept help from others and the expectations of those that she loves most. This story definitely drew me in as did the others, but I enjoyed this one the most. I have quite the soft spot for the Dirty South ;)

*ARC generously provided by Entangled *Brazen* Publishing in exchange of an honest review*

Amira says

full review coming

Amanda Sheila says

****An Advance Reader Copy of ***Make Me, Take Me*** by Amanda Usen was generously provided by Entangled Publishing in exchange for honest review.

I always love Brazen books.

This book is surprisingly deep, even way deeper than any other Brazen books I have read. It made me think carefully about what Betsy wants in life, Kate wants and of course, Quin wants. There are so many relatable things in this book that made me think about my own dreams, what I want and eventually, what I have to do

to get what I want.

Betsy don't want a life like her mother; waiting for a rich man to sweep her off her feet. That's why when she meet Quinton, rich hotelier, she locked her heart from falling. One night full of passion, Betsy leave a mark in Quinton's life. Now 2 years later, they meet again and sparks fly. Again. But what will happen when Quin wants more from Betsy but Betsy refuse to bend?

I loved how real Betsy is. I was kind of hurt for her when Kate said those awful things, because I know how that feels. She's a strong heroine and I admire her for that. She's willing to do anything to help her family and I really think she's awesome. Quinton, he's one scarred man. But meeting Betsy made him reevaluate everything in his life and eventually realize that he's in love with him. He's a strong Hero, even though there's no scenes about his 'muscles' or 'body', I still think he's a strong male.

Overall I liked this book. I enjoyed reading it and I'd love to read another book from this author.

Flavs is Mrs David Gandy♥~♥' says

All I can say is HOT! HOT!! HOT!!

Nicola says

Amanda Usen has brought the spiciest instalment yet to her *Hot Nights* series and once again she's come up with the fabulous romantic recipe of delectable food mixed with delectable man.

Man walks into a bar, makes eyes with the girl behind the bar and, after a night of off the charts sexy action, wakes up to an empty bed. Fast forward two years and when Betsy Mouton returns home from culinary school, the last person she expects to bump into is Quinton James; the very same wealthy and über sexy hotelier who she left sleeping soundly. She's determined to turn her bar into a successful restaurant, he has plans for a new hotel next door that includes buying her bar and she can resist selling him her business, but resisting *him* is a different matter...

I loved Quin. I think I've mentioned he's sexy (he is), he's a gent, but he's also a little dirty with it. With vulnerabilities and his own secrets he's a sweetheart. Betsy is frustratingly stubborn I wanted to shake her at times, but I liked her and Quin brings out an unexpected side to her. They had a great chemistry and the heat between them could give a vindaloo a runs for its money.

With characters from the previous books making an appearance, *Make Me, Take Me* was a great read. And, whilst Betsy is the final of the three friends to have her story, a part of me is hoping this isn't the end of the series...her sister must have a story that needs to be told?

Reviewed for Read Your Writes Book Reviews.

Copy received courtesy of Entangled Publishing for an honest and unbiased opinion.

WTF Are You Reading? says

Make Me, Take Me is a clear case of what happens when an author transforms the labor of crafting a story into a true labor of love.

Betsy and Quin's story may be filled with fierce and unchecked passion, but it is a passion that is laced with deep heartfelt pain.

It is this pain that both serves to draw the two hearts together, while threatening to destroy both their lives and their love.

Throw in the complications of money and distrust, and set it all against the ghosts, glory, beauty, and tragedy that is New Orleans, and you have 'une bonne fois'...for sure!

This tale is one built and brought to life through the wonders of escalation. Each interaction, each word, each scenario a carefully placed accentuation of the one before. This is an element that is a delightful constant from beginning to end and scene to scene.

Both this story's leading man and leading lady are very well matched. This story is not so much one of someone saving someone, as it is of two souls walking out of the shadows of doubt, loneliness, and fear...together.

Annnnnnn...

LET'S NOT FORGET THE SEX!

This book is filled to the brim with earth shattering, bone melting, ohhhh no he didn't...ohh la la!

This is NOT the book that you want to read in public.

The sensuality increases in time with the emotionality, making each time these two come together hotter than the last.

The drama of a man blessed with everything but family, and a woman too afraid to trust her heart, is one that will stoke the fires of your body, provide thought provoking food for your mind, and feed the truth seeking belief that love conquers all...in your soul.
