



## The CEO

*Shealy James*

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## **The CEO** Shealy James

Eve Bryant finds herself moving across the country with only one goal—to rediscover herself and get her life back on track...

Leaving a disastrous marriage, she swears off men and relationships, but when she meets sexy, charismatic Grant Mitchell, her new rules fly right out the window.

Grant is a born and bred businessman, and he always gets what he wants...

The moment he lays eyes on Eve, Grant is determined she will be his. She's different from other women he knows—too stiff, too prim—but her smile pierces his heart and he longs to see what she's like when she lets her hair down. They discover a powerful and undeniable connection, leading to a fast moving relationship that leaves Eve whirling in its wake.

The odds are stacked against them, and trust is hard to come by.

A woman scorned, a troubled ex-husband, and a mother bent on orchestrating her son's future to suit her own agenda make for a very rocky road. The new couple may not last, no matter how strong their feelings for each other are. Grant is willing to fight to keep Eve in his life, but after recent events, Eve isn't sure she has any fight left to give.

Will outside forces drive Eve and Grant apart? Or will they learn there's no love greater than the one you fight the hardest to keep?

## **The CEO Details**

Date : Published August 18th 2015 by Limitless Publishing LLC (first published December 1st 2013)

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Author : Shealy James

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Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance

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## From Reader Review The CEO for online ebook

### Candace says

\*\*\*I received a complimentary ARC of this book from the publisher, through Netgalley.com, in exchange for honest feedback.\*\*\*

When Eve moves to Seattle, she isn't looking for any romantic entanglements. Leaving her past, and her drunk husband, behind, she's ready to start a new chapter in her life. Once Mark signs the divorce papers, she'll have the peace of mind that has remained just out of reach. If only he'd quit being difficult and sign the papers!

On her first solo attempt at running an event for her new job, she meets a gorgeous stranger. She's determined to resist the attraction she feels to this Adonis. After all, she hasn't even officially divorced her husband yet. Clearly, she's not eager to jump back into a relationship so soon.

Grant isn't a man that's used to being denied anything he wants, and he wants Eve. As a millionaire CEO, and the grandson of one of the university's founding families, he has virtually unlimited means to find out everything he wants to know about Eve. In no time, he insinuates himself into her daily life.

Grant's persistence eventually pays off and he gets his date with Eve. One date is all that was needed to have these two completely head over heels for one another. Within a few days, they're experiencing growing pains, fighting just to make up again, etc.

Although this book definitely has a strong case of "insta-love", it was still enjoyable and engaging. I enjoy a little angst, and this book definitely featured a heroine that was good at manufacturing drama. Every time they had an argument she wanted to call it quits, which got a little old. However, despite being overly dramatic and predictable, I have to say that I really enjoyed this story.

If it weren't for the large amount of editing oversights in this book, I would have definitely rated it 4 stars. I realize that I read an ARC, so hopefully many of these mistakes will be corrected in the final version. Until then, I docked it a star because the errors were frequent and distracting.

Otherwise, this was a fast-paced and entertaining story. It is similar to many other millionaire/billionaire romances on the market now, and better than most. It is straightforward, with no big surprises, and can be read as a stand-alone. Future books in the series promise to focus on other characters introduced in this book, but may also be read as stand-alone stories.

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### Susan (susayq ~) says

3.5 stars

Billionaire books have been big lately. However, I never really jumped on that bandwagon, so I haven't read a lot of them. But when I saw the description for this one, I knew I had to read it because our heroine, Eve, wasn't a fresh faced college graduate. Eve is in the middle of a divorce, so she has some experience in life.

My only complaint with this was Eve LOL I know, you're thinking, she's the reason you chose the book and she is what you didn't like? Let me expalin....yes, Eve was going through a divorce, but the first few chapters I found her very immature. She got totally tongue tied when Grant came around her, kept having the thoughts of a 14 year old boy, and said whatever drivel popped into her head. Maybe I just haven't met the man that can reduce my brain to not working properly. Eve just got on my nerves. Then, later on when I started liking Eve, she made me mad by wanting to do everything on her own; she had Grant, who would have moved heaven and earth for her, and she kept him in the dark about things that were going on in her life. Then, toward the end, when Eve (view spoiler)

Grant, on the other hand, was swoon worthy! Strong, alpha type with just enough softness and caring that I melted every time he opened his mouth :) I would have liked to see how he finally handled his parents after the anniversary party when Eve disappeared, but I'm content with the ending.

*ARC provided by the publisher via Netgalley*

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### **Samantha says**

4 very pleased stars for *The CEO*. The overview made me curious because we all know I like my instant lust and wealthy men stories. This was a bit predictable but that doesn't make it bad. I like the read and found myself easily hiding away to finish the book because I hate to put down reads when I'm involved and liking them.

Eve was a bit **too** nice for me at certain points so I found myself rolling my eyes. She fought Grant quite a lot and made him chase after her constantly. I found myself really liking Grant because he was just so damn good. I liked Eve but she had her moments when she annoyed me.

Grant was such a darling, I swear. He was a dominant man with a heart of gold. He respected, trusted, and adored Eve. He gave her space and tried his hardest to respect her wishes. He was an all around good guy, his mother and father aside. His parents made me want to hit them with a metal baseball bat but he never once let them get away with their crap. I liked Grant for his down-to-earth nature and his fierce loyalty. He did everything in his power to be with Eve.

Overall, the read was a good one. I loved Grant and liked Eve. Nolan and Maddox were fabulous supporting characters and I found myself loving them quite a bit, as well. I found it easy to enjoy the book and didn't have too many issues with it. I would say I liked it and that is that.

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### **Coco.V says**

? FREE on Amazon today (1/12/2018)! ?

Blurb:

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### **Naomi says**

Original Review @ Naomi's Reading Palace

I read a snippet of The CEO and decided to give Shealy James – a new-to-me author – a try. The blurb caught my attention and I was eager to see what happened between Eve and the man in the three piece suit. It ended up being a good read, dealing with some difficult decisions that no woman should have to experience.

I really liked Grant, he was definitely my favourite character from this book. He was confident, sexy and rich, but he never really acted like he was better than everyone. He was willing to pursue Eve and he had that whole alpha male vibe. He found it difficult when she kept rejecting his advances but he never gave up. I liked how supportive he was, and when Eve would pull away from him he would chase her down and pull her back.

Eve was a little harder to connect to. In the beginning she was strong, by leaving her husband and the only life she knew. She then moved across the country to put some distance between her old life and her new one by starting a job with one of her closest friends. Even when she met the strange sexy man, she wasn't willing to cave to his demands immediately, and I liked her feistiness. She kind of changed after that, and she would go with him, and then pull away over and over, and wasn't the stong character she believed herself to be. Although she'd been married before, she found it hard to let Grant in, which is understandable, but she seemed to cause drama that wasn't needed, especially from someone who's thirty years old (I could probably understand it if she was an immature young adult). Even towards the end, she was quick to run instead of facing her insecurities; she wanted to deal with her past by herself instead of allowing those closest to her support her. I get it, she wants to do some things on her own and be her own woman, but part of being in a relationship also means accepting help and working as a team. And some of her issues actually involved her family but she made it all about her...

Eve and Grant had a fast and passionate connection. They were comfortable with each other, every moment

they spent together made their relationship stronger. Certain aspects of their relationship were a little strained as they were from two different worlds, and Grant's parents were not very supportive. But somehow they managed to be together and work through their hurdles.

Although I usually enjoy stories from the first person perspective, this story fell a little flat to me due to being told about a lot of experiences instead of getting to experience them. To build a connection to a character I like to feel what they are going through, so meeting new people would be one of those times, like Nolan. Eve has a strong friendship with Nolan that I would've liked to see more of. If you like a good romance, without going overboard with dialogue, you will like this one.

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## Markéta says

### 3 stars! \*\*\*

A fast-moving story about abused woman and a alfa-male. I haven't read something like this before.  
#sarcasm

Eve has endured her marriage with an abusive husband for a long time, but she's had enough. She moved out of their house, filled in for divorce and found a job on the other side of the US.

Grant is rich, confident and hot. He's little over thirty, never had a serious relationship but when he saw Eve something shifted inside of him. He completely changed. One day he was a bachelor, just enjoying his life and the other he wanted only Eve and no one else.

And she wanted him back. How could she not? He's got the looks, the brains and money.

But it was so fast. I mean even cheetah is slower.

"I mean, really, who in the world introduces someone to his parents after one week?  
Ridiculous."

Exactly my thoughts. And I-love-yous came soon after that.

"29. The number of days I have known Grant."

At this point they've already been serious. With both I-love-you and exchange of safe codes.

The ending fast rushed although it felt like forever before I finally reached it. The book was way too long for how much had happened, which is not much except for lot of sex and complaining.

Complaining. Yeah. There was a lot of it. "Oh my god, poor me. Oh, he's hot, but I can't be with him. Wham! What did I just do? Why? But it was sooo good. I'm gonna do it again. Damn he's so alfa. He's hot. He should stop trying to make my life better. Why does he want to buy me a new dress? I can afford it. Oh, look at my beautiful new dress," says Eve. #justshutup

For more reviews visit: <http://do-notdiewondering.blogspot.com>

\*ARC courtesy of publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review\*

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### **Mia Rivers says**

OMG...I loveeed this book. Grant is so damn sexy, possibly even sexier than the cover hahaha. A more detailed review to come soon.

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### **Pamela says**

It's your typical story of girl meets guy who's super gorgeous and so bloody wealthy that every woman wants him, and he's had them all. Now with just one look he wants the regular girl who's so beautiful and smart and sexy, a woman that of course his parents don't approve of. But he doesn't care. He wants her and gets her and won't let anything get in his way. She doesn't feel she belongs in his rich world, and every time she feels like running away, he goes after her reminding her how much he wants her, and then have wonderful, multi-orgasmic sex. He wants to buy her everything and she doesn't want his money as she wants to be independent. He's demanding, arrogant, and pushy, everything this woman loves about him. Of course, in the end they live happily ever after (view spoiler)

If you haven't guessed it, I'm being sarcastic. Sorry folks, but I am so tired of these predictable stories. I totally get that it's about falling in love. I mean I did read the synopsis. I just wish all the bullshit that went on in between meeting and living HEA was different from so many thousands that follow this formula. To each her own.

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### **Alex ? says**

2 things I liked about this book: the heroine with a backbone and communication.

The heroine, 30, was a bit meh and weak at the beginning, but gained strength and self-confidence with rapid speed. She didn't let the hero intimidate her, always fought back and had a sassy repartee each single time – she definitely had guts!

She was married for 8 years and was 10 months separated. Her husband refused to sign divorce papers – main drama in the story.

My first book where **each single** problem/doubt/issue was clearly explained and nothing left unsaid. Damn, I enjoyed it so much!!!

The hero, 32, manwhore in the past, was surrounded by his previous hook-ups; you name it you have it: PA –

yup, flight attendant – yeah, almost all high society acquaintances – yes, and and and. It was so annoying! But... there was clear communication and every one of this OWs, who came in the picture, was scrutinized and reported \*LOL\* – the hero, even if he was ashamed, was crystal honest about his past, answered every single question and always told the heroine the truth.

It helped of course that he was celibate for 8 months before he met the heroine. It was almost one year of dry spell for her.

What I absolutely loved about this book:

- the hero was 1000 % over the moon for the heroine
- he was 1000% in love with her
- he was 1000% obsessed with her
- he pursued and wooed her
- he was 1000% devoted to her

After a couple of chapters I had no doubt that he will be faithful to her till the grave... \*LOL\*

As I mentioned above **the heroine didn't give in easy**. Amen!

I've been chasing you this whole time. Slow down and let me catch you, Eve. I will. I promise.

Did I like everything? No.

Did I like how his family treated her? No.

Did I like how the heroine fought back? Yes!

Did I want to read about his manwhore past? No.

Did I totally understand/support her divorce closure? No.

Was every single issue explained to my satisfaction? Yes. Yes. Yes.

Did I believe in love between hero and the heroine? YES! YES! YES!

Did I like the epilogue? Yes ;-)

(And I hope to have this couple as side-characters in the next book.)

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**Lillian ? Cloud 9 Books ? says**

\*\*\*\* 4 Insta Love Stars \*\*\*\*

I don't really like reading stories where the characters fall instantly in love, but I enjoyed this story.

Eve is simply trying to start over in life. Her marriage was dragging her down and physically draining. All she wanted was for her divorce to be finalized and to have a fresh start. So she left Georgia and moved to Seattle.

Grant sees Eve. Grant must have Eve.

He's kind of a sexy rich cave man. The divorce bothers him a bit because it isn't finalized, but he is patient and understanding. He is dominating, sweet, and perfect. Too bad his family is the total opposite.

He is everything Eve wants, but can she move on? She meets Grant just days after leaving Georgia. The single life is apparently difficult for her.

***"I finally gave my heart away to someone who I trusted to take good care of it."***

This wasn't erotic. Most of the sex parts were implied, but there were still some steamy moments. I know the next book is about Kitty, a girl that Grant's parents were trying to set him up with, but I'm not sure if I want to read about her since she was a mean girl. Maybe I just need to read it because she's simply misunderstood. I guess we'll see.

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### **Ann Lou says**

A shout out to Alex for bringing this gem to my attention. Despite the mama drama and exes drama, I really dig this book.

Eve our h has been married for 8 years. Has filed for divorce and was emotionally abused by her husband, decided to move across the country for a change. She wasn't looking for a man or a relationship BUT fate has other plans. I didn't like Eve much the first couple of chapters but she grew on me. And I was not happy with her keeping secrets from Grant but I understood. Eve's family? I totally ADORE them!

Grant our H \*swoon\* I love him. Yeah, he was a manwhore in the past but once he saw Eve? Everything is about her. I was in the Grant train all through the end. "To me, it is all ours, because it's all new to me. You're the first girl I have ever wanted around for more. I want you all the time for everything. You're the first girl I have ever fallen in love with. We both have to face the choices the other has made before we met. If I had known, I was waiting on you, then would I have done a better job of actually waiting". \*swoon\* (about to melt here)

I wouldn't have minded reading a conversation about his parents asking forgiveness from Eve for a being snob, horrid people. We did get an epilogue though.

And I will not be reading the next book in this series. Thank you very much (sarcasm) Kitty as the h, really? She was a horrible person in this book.

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### **Bibi says**

**3.5 stars**

**To: Grant Mitchell@Shealy James's Imagination**

**From: Soon to be Ex-Mrs. J@I'm yours**  
**Subject: Leave Eve Alone, Catch Me instead \*running in place\***

"I've been chasing you this whole time. Slow down and let me catch you, Eve. I will. I promise."

Dear Grant,

You don't know me but I was there when you met Eve at that lecture. It was so cute how you promptly sat next to her. How you didn't even notice me. No matter, I forgive you. You, with your fine-ass, 3-pc-suit wearing self. And those eyes of yours? Color me swooned.

I must say that I'm not impressed by your continued pursuit of this woman. Eve, right? She seems kinda flaky. Cold one second, the next, she's all over your ~~ee~~ b-ness. Plus she's got more baggage than Delta Airlines at Thanksgiving. That soon-to-be-ex-hubby of hers sure did a number on her. You sure you're ready for this woman?

I say this because I'm pretty certain I can kick Mr. J to the curb \*pushes Mr. J onto the floor\*. My lawyer is on speed-dial, ready with them "boy, bye" papers. I'm confident it won't take 10 months to divorce his arse (unlike some people we know \*cough\*---->Eve). Sigh.

I like how tenacious you are. Following her around, loving up on her, making her feel like she's the only puss woman on earth. \*Giggle\*. **I'll make sure to thank her for training you so well. For what, you ask? For when we're together, silly. At least now I know I'll never have to wonder (much). And what's up with you sleeping your way through the entire female population in Seattle? You know what, it doesn't matter anymore. I FORGIVE YOU.**

**How cute is your mother (and father)? I love how they hate on Eve- they obviously can see she's no good for you-, not when I'm right here. They'll love me. Sure I'm 10 years a wee bit older than you \*cough\*, but tell Mom n Pop not to worry about them grandkids. I got this.** Janet Jackson just had her first baby at age 50. I got this and I can totally do triplets. 2 boys and a girl. And no, Eve, my ovaries are not as shriveled as a Florida Sunkist Raisin! How rude!

Anyhoos, I see she's done a runner and gone back to Georgia. I don't mean to cause no trouble but are you certain things are def over between her and the hubby? Seems mighty convenient that she's gone back to where HE lives. I'm jus' saying. \*hugs Grant to bosoms\*

**What do mean you're going after her? SHE LEFT, Grant, and my bosoms are right here. And what if her family is frigging adorable?**

**Sorry? I didn't quite get the last bit. Right. You're marrying her. Right. She's the love of your life. Right. Right.**

**Right. \*Grabs Mr. J and storms off\***

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### **Heather andrews says**

I knew Grant and Eve were going to keep me entertained just the way they act toward each other, "his grip tightened on my hip. "You told her about me." I wanted to slap that smug grin off that handsome face of his..." Grant is a sexy man, his words do things to ladies panties, "you think my suit is sexy?"The deep voice came from behind me before his chest pressed against my back. My eyes closed, wishing away the embarrassment. For the record, it didn't work. He chose then to lean closer to my ear and whisper. "Your dress is pretty effing sexy if you ask me. It would look great on the floor of my penthouse." The hand that snaked its way to my waist..." I liked this book, I even enjoyed Grant's overbearing attitude at times.

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### **Melyssa Winchester says**

Reading this story the way I did, I can see why the author mentions at the end that Eve wouldn't leave her alone. She was such a strong character right from the very beginning. More then just her strength though, she was incredibly real in how she came across which made this story very easy for me to jump into and identify with. The issues she has faced, the ones she had to overcome and even her reactions to what is taking place around her were written so phenomenally that you can't help but feel for her or even see a bit of yourself in her.

Enter Grant. Yeah, he can be described as the typical rich guy character but his heart, god it's just so perfect you can't help but fall in love with him right along with Eve. He is definitely exactly what she needed. I don't want to say any more and risk giving away important parts of the story but I even found myself invested with the secondary characters that are present throughout and wanting to see endings for them as well, so I can't wait for more stories featuring this set.

This was a phenomenal read and one I will definitely recommend again and again!

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### **Maya says**

[No. (hide spoiler)]

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