



Joy Ride

Desiree Holt

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Emma, the good girl poster child, is running from a life she suddenly sees as gray and suffocating—a life where she's successfully buried all her hopes and secret dreams. Until the night she wanders into Aftershock and is immediately drawn to the hot bass player. The electricity of his performance, the powerful music he coaxes from his guitar, the heavy vibration of each note reaches out to something deep inside her and wakes an Emma she didn't even know existed.

Marc doesn't much care for the groupies who hang around the band. He needs a woman he can create a future with that's a counterpoint to the craziness of the rock music business. When he sees Emma for the first time, something inside him cracks wide open. Just one sizzling glance between them, and he's sure he's found the woman to complete his life.

But as the relationship grows, there's a huge stumbling block: Emma won't tell him her name. The sex is fabulous but he wants more....

Although Emma is finally finding her true self, her fear of everything falling apart builds a barrier she can't seem to cross. Marc is taking her on the joy ride of her life, but will her own insecurities destroy everything?

Joy Ride Details

Date : Published August 10th 2011 by Decadent Publishing Company

ISBN :

Author : Desiree Holt

Format : Kindle Edition 274 pages

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

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From Reader Review Joy Ride for online ebook

Linda says

Emma Blake Paced In Front Of Her Boyfriend Of Two Years. Every Since Her College Roommate Had Breezed Through Town And Had Stars In Her Eyes When She Talked About Her Husband And Little Girl Emma Had Taken A Look At Her Life. She Edited Textbooks In A Boring Job When She Really Wanted To Write Romance Novels. Her Two Year Relationship With Andrew Fielder Was So Predictable Boring With Vanilla Sex And She Needed To Get Away Or She'd Choke! Driving Aimlessly, She Drove Through The City Until She Ended Up At A Rock Club And The Music Beckoned To Her. A Music She Had Never Heard Before Yet Her Body Knew It.....

Marc Malone Was So Into Playing His Bass Guitar With His Eyes Closed And As The Song Ended, He Opened His Eyes To Connect With A Woman At The Edge Of The Stage. His Rock Band Called Lightin' Was Grooving At The Club Called Aftershock, And It Was As Though Lightening Zapped Though Him As He Looked At Her! Holy Smoke Talk About Smoking! But As They Talked And Made Love, She Ran In The Early Morning Hours And Refused To Tell Him Her Name.....

Vickie says

I loved the idea of the book...and that's about it. Our heroine, Emma, has lived the life everyone expected her to live. Then she has a lightbulb moment and sets out to discover who she is. In the midst, she meets a sexy rocker Marc. The end up having an encounter that connects them on a deeper level, but the piece de resistance is that they both fall in love but he doesn't know her name.

None of this was remotely believable and I feel that Emma was just stupid and annoying. I mean who doesn't tell someone their name yet they keep going back for more sex? Furthermore, what kind of guy puts up with that even if it's worth it? None of it made any sense to me and I was so annoyed with that that I found myself skipping through pages and pages where Emma would drone on and on about her insecurities with the situation. And I never skip through pages! It was frustratingly annoying. Again, it was a good premise, it was just executed poorly.

Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says

Originally posted at: <http://whippedcream2.blogspot.com/201...>

What would you do if the woman you are falling in love with would not tell you her name? Would you give her hopeful patience and the time she needs to find the trust and security she requires to overcome her fears? That is what gentle, passionate rock musician, Mark Malone does when he knows he has finally met the woman for him. This sexy, masculine artist is not one for groupies and one night stands, but is seeking a permanent, secure and lasting relationship with a special woman.

Emma Blake has always done things the safe way. The way her parents always planned for her. Now, reaching her thirtieth birthday, she realizes that she has been wasting her life and living it for other people -

not for herself. When her best friend from school comes back to town, Emma sees how happy, in love with her husband and filled with life she is, which is such a contrast to her own dead, boring life. Emma has a boring dead-end boyfriend and a boring dead-end job... a life that is all routine and no joy.

Seeing how happy Jacie is brings Emma to the point where she can no longer tolerate the life she has found herself living. She runs out on her boyfriend one Saturday night and ends up at a rock club in town with a beer in her hand in front of the stage dancing. All new experiences for her. Then like thunder and lightning, their eyes meet and the magnetism is electric between them. The bass musician has a profound and erotic effect on Emma and it's clear that the attraction is mutual. Then begins an affair that the inexperienced and skittish woman finds it impossible to commit to fully because of her fear and insecurity.

I loved the way Ms. Holt first brought the two of the main characters together and so deftly painted that scene, along with their personalities. When Mark and Emma come into each others arms for the first time it is the most passionate and exciting moment possible. The tentative unfolding of the evolving, new Emma also was well described with sensitivity and just the right amount of emotional tension. I was pleased with the way she used detailed scenes involving Emma's parents and boyfriend to explain in a believable fashion the insecurity and lack of self worth that the young woman suffered, which served to make sense of her irrational behavior.

I did have a issue with the editing errors in this book. I also think that it could have been somewhat shorter, as there were some problems with minor repetitiveness. I still enjoyed the story very much and found it refreshing. I almost got too impatient with Emma aka 'Music Lady', continuing so determinedly to cling to her fears, but in the end she found her way, thanks to her 'Guitar Man' and it was truly worth the wait.

Something I adored about this book was the way Mark's goodness and sensitivity as well as his determined patience and love was so key to bringing about Emma's transformation, trust and release from her pain. Ms. Holt has a way of creating some of the most sexy, strong and beautiful male lead characters that I've read. The sex scenes here are also some of the hottest she's done.. Whew!

I recommend, Joy Ride as a sweet, sexy and encouraging story of the trans-formative power of passion and love that left me with sentimental tears and a pleasing satisfaction. There I found the 'joy' in Joy Ride. For readers who love sentimental, scorching hot romance, this redemptive, positive tale is a must.

Diana says

Rating: D

Marc seemed like a really nice guy. I kept hoping he would dump Emma and her emotional baggage and get with Annie the best friend.

I'm turning pages by this point, hoping that Emma gets a clue and stops acting like an ass, but it never happened. She still whines no one sees her as mature as she still hides from her issues and disregards things she doesn't want to hear about herself or her actions.

It was hard to take their relationship serious with her continued refusal to acknowledge Marc's feelings or to

tell him her name. I think the author was attempting to keep this mystery as a running joke between them, but it just came off as all kinds of wrong to me. This book was just not for me. I'm kind of disappointed I paid almost \$4 dollars for it.

Malinda says

3.5-4 stars

This was a pretty good story. I liked Emma and Marc and their story was enjoyable.

Emma grew up a good girl who did everything her parents expected of her, right down to her boring job and the boring men she dates. Emma would love to write romance novels but since that's something that wouldn't be considered a "proper" profession, she's stuck with her current job of editing text books. She's been dating Andrew for a couple years but she's recently realized that she doesn't love him and he's actually really boring. The few times she's tried to suggest something new that interests her (like sexual positions other than missionary), Andrew looks at her like she's nuts.

Marc is a bass player for the band, Lightning. He grew up in a normal family and still spends time with his parents and brothers who all support him in his efforts to make it in the music business. The band has been working hard though and they are finally making some headway and it looks like they might get a break that'll give them the chance to make it big. Marc isn't one for the groupies and doesn't bother with them...what he really wants is someone real that he can build a future with.

The story literally starts with the sentence "I can't do this any more." Emma was sitting at home with her boyfriend Andrew, watching Full Metal Jacket (which she hates but watches anyways because of Andrew) for the third time when realizes she finally can't stand her life and needs to change it. She recently had lunch with an old college roommate and saw her old friend with a husband she loved and a job she loved and Emma realized her world is boring and grey. It took her a while of ingesting this but as the story starts she runs out of Andrew's house and away from him and her dreary life seeking some color for her life. She drives aimlessly until she winds up at a bar that has a band playing. She goes in, gets herself a drink and manages to make her way to the front of the crowd. Emma hasn't had much exposure to rock (she's mostly listened to pop and such) but finds that she loves the music of Lightning, the band that's playing. During the concert, Emma makes eye contact with the bassist and they make a connection that continues through the rest of the show. At the end, Emma leaves reluctantly but is surprised when someone stops her in the parking lot. It ends up being the bassist, Marc. He kisses her and asks her to come home with him. Emma surprises both of them by saying yes. They go back to his place and spend hours having good, hot sex and Emma's surprised by just how good sex can actually be. It's not just sex though as they both feel the connection to each other and it's pretty much a love at first sight thing. Marc realized just how special Emma is right off and knows he wants something serious (realizing she's much different from the groupies and barflies he usually sees at the concerts). Emma is frightened by her feelings and the crazy step she's taken in her life and isn't completely comfortable with the changes. She attempts to leave before Marc wakes up but he catches her and wants to see her again. She won't give him her name (which Marc is unhappy about but he's willing to call her M.L. or his "music lady" for now) but she agrees to go to another of his shows so they can see each other again.

Technically, Emma cheated because when she ran out of Andrew's house, she knew it was over for good but she didn't break up with him on the way out. She's forced into a confrontation with him the next day and

Andrew doesn't do well at accepting that she's not interested in continuing with him and proceeds to call her parents to complain like she's a kid skipping school. Emma's parents aren't very helpful and act like she's lost her mind because she's having a "little spat" with Andrew. When Emma tries to convince them that she and Andrew are through, they act like it's an affront to them because they just liked Andrew so much and expected them to marry. They even try to push her in to marrying Andrew like it'll fix what's wrong between them. Emma's only real support in her move to have a more interesting life is her friend Annie (her BFF for the last 10 years). Annie is much more open and experienced than Emma and helps her explore things. She also encourages Emma to give Marc a chance because it sounds like he's really interested in her. Emma isn't so sure though and her past boringness has her convinced that Marc couldn't actually want her for long term and when he discovers who she really is, he will drop her quickly. Because of this, Emma refuses to tell Marc her name (or give him a way to contact her), thinking it'll be easier for her when he drops her if she hasn't let him know the true her. But there's also the possibility that he'll drop her because she's unwilling to give him even the smallest amount of trust... Fortunately for Emma, Marc is very patient. He realizes that she's very new to the music scene and seems very unsure of herself. He's frustrated by her unwillingness to trust him but feels deeply enough for her that he's willing to be patient and try to gain that trust. This isn't easy for Marc and Emma did keep the "mystery" up a bit too long for my liking. Of course there's some drama at the end that messes things up just when they're looking good but, thankfully, Emma puts on her big girl panties and goes to fix things with Marc. They work things out, admit their feelings for each other (and Emma admits her name) and they start planning out their HEA.

This was a good story. I liked the MCs and their story was good. I got a little frustrated with Emma's fear ruling her but it wasn't so bad that I didn't like her outside of that. Marc was great and I have no complaints about him, he was the perfect hero. To be honest, I had a hard time deciding between 3 and 4 stars. I ended up deciding on 4 but I do wish we'd have gotten more of their story after they finally get together and start to "meet the families" and all that. I'd have loved to see the meeting between Marc and Emma's parents. LMAO. Regardless, this was a pretty good story.

EroticaAfterDark (Lilith) says

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Lacie (Darkangel78) says

This book was just horrible to me. I struggled to finish it. After the 2nd WTF Emma moment, and there were many right from the start, I was ready to call it quits but I'm sort of OCD about finishing a book if I start it so I had to get through it somehow. It could have been so much more.

I did not feel the connection with the band members. The band seemed more of a business deal than a love

for music and the life. Just a job.

As a lover of metal and rock music this was just wrong to me. A huge disappointment.

Then there's Emma. Wow...just wow. I don't even know what to say here. She is just ridiculous. In as many books as I've read I have never run into a character more ridiculous to me and I have run across some crazy ones. It just made absolutely no sense to me why the guy would even continue to bother with her. I mean I understand that she was sheltered and she's innocent and nieve and she has trust issues and blah blah blah...I can go with that really I can but geez this was just way way out there. Even her friend in the book didn't understand what her problem was!

Sorry if this seemed a little harsh but I was just so frustrated with this book.

M.A. Stacie says

A hot story.

I can't resist one with a tattooed rock God. I like the transformation aspect of the plot. How Emma became her true self, and it wasn't just because of the man she was having sex with. She realized her life was stagnant and not her own before she met Marc.

However, I was a bit disappointed at times with this one. There was a little too much repetition for me, orgasms being described as 'velvet', and Marc seemed to ask "Where did you go?" to Emma a lot. I was also irked by the way Emma originally treated Marc. For someone who was so sheltered, she certainly played the 'love 'em and leave 'em' aspect very well. And not giving him her name? Seemed rather odd even though it was explained why she didn't want to do that.

Overall it was a good read.

Got Romance! Reviews says

Title: Joy Ride

Author: Desiree Holt

Publisher: Decadent Publishers

Publication Date: August 12, 2011

ISBN: 978-1-61333-037-1

Genre: Romance

Length: 85 K

Rating: 4 Diamonds

Heat : 4

Other: Oral

Reviewer: Katherine

Date:10/03/2011

When the books opens you meet Emma Blake who has had enough of her humdum boring life. After suddenly breaking up with her boyfriend she decides to head to the last place on earth she would ever go.

Aftershock is a bar where great bands preform and people drink beer. As Emma pulls up outside she knows that this is a place she has to check out. Once inside she orders her first beer ever and heads to the stage to watch the band. Mark is the bass guitarist of the band and Emma is drawn to him like lighting. Which is the name of the band Marc is in. They make eye contact and that evening they make sweet music together. Emma gives herself a fake name Music Lady which is what she wants to become.

The rest of the story is Emma coming to terms with the new person she is becoming and her learning to trust Marc. She feels that all he is, is the bass guitarist that she met at the club however Marc has a much deeper side. He spends much of the book trying to learn more about the real Emma and not that girl he met at the bar. He knows if he is patient enough she'll come around!

I highly recommend this book. It was fun to read and it made me think a little about myself. I would love to shed my quite personality and go meet a guy in a band and Emma shows me that he can be everything I'm looking for! Wonderful job, Desiree!

Sherry Vitanemi says

Ride of a lifetime

Emma had no idea that her but would set her on a ride. But she found the best gift for herself. Her own guitar man. And the best forever gift.

BBMoreB ~ says

Ms. Holt delivered another great story about a sexy-bass player...now I bet your wondering how this story could not exceed 3-stars. Well the truth is I was disappointed with Emma and her character, although well-written, she was weak and difficult to identify with – and personally I felt that Marc deserved better. This author is known for her creation of miraculous characters – so maybe it not fair to hold Emma to such high standards, but the bar has been set – and I've been spoiled.

I hope to see future stories featuring the other members of Lighting; maybe even a spin-off of the Deep Blue River members. Because I'm greedy when it comes to books by Desiree Holt.

Disclosure: This ebook was provided to me free of charge by Decadent Publishing for the sole purpose of an honest review. All thoughts, comments, and ratings are my own.

Kristy says

I'm rating this book 3 stars because I loved the idea behind the story. But it could have been a 4 star book for me if Emma had some personality.

Marc is on the verge of stardom, his dreams of becoming a rock star are about to come true. He sees Emma in the club, looking a little out of place and unsure of herself, but he feels a connection with her while he is on stage. Emma is bored with her life and decides to make a change. The first thing she does is go to a rock club, something she never would have done before. Emma watches Marc play his bass guitar and feels his strumming throughout her whole body. She loosens up and starts to have fun, feeling a pull to the bass guitar

player. He approaches her after the concert and convinces her to go home with him. Emma, still playing the wild child, refuses to give Marc her name but can't seem to stay away from him.

So like I said I loved the idea behind this story, but it got a little monotonous. Marc and Emma get together, Emma refuses to give him her name and guards any personal details about her life from him. Then she runs out on him leaving him dumbfounded. How many times did I have to read the same scene? It was too repetitive. It made the story drag a bit. I kept thinking, something was gonna happen this time, and then it didn't she ran out on him. grrrr It was frustrating.

Then the more I thought about the story afterwards, I kept wondering why Marc liked Emma. It's one thing to feel drawn to a person and feel a connection, but that person needs to reciprocate a little. She barley talked to him the first couple of times they got together, and he knew after the first night that she was the one? How? She barley said 3 full sentences. I just thought she was lacking in the personality department.

Oh yeah, and I kind of wanted something bigger for when he finally found out what her name was. Like a dramatic sigh, or something. He wanted to know her name throughout the whole book, I wanted him to react a little more. Like she tells him her name. And he says it, then kisses her and says it again and smiles, kisses her again and keeps repeating her name. Something to show how much it mattered to him.

(view spoiler)

Ugh Marc, so sweet. Come on Emma, claim him!!

A couple pages later...

"How about breakfast?" he asked as she pulled her clothes on.

She actually laughed. "You're really hung up on this breakfast thing."

His face was sober when he answered her. "The breakfast thing, as you call it, makes the difference between meaningless sex and something more. And while I have the feeling you might not believe this, right from the beginning I could tell we had something special going here and I want to see where we could take it."

Again, awe Marc. Such a good guy.

A couple pages later, talking to her friend about going to his concert and finally telling him her name she says.

"Don't even think of chickening out." Annie snapped the case of eye shadow closed and studied Emma's face. "Time to put your big girl pants on, girlfriend."

"And if I'm misreading the whole situation?"

AHHHH *hits head against brick wall* What the heck? He just told you TWICE that he wanted a relationship with you... what is there to misread about that?

(hide spoiler)]

Lea says

I liked the shy, sheltered woman meets up and coming rock star who 'rocks' her world (no pun intended) trope. And, I loved hero Marc an atypical professional musician who is very down-to-earth with a solid family background.

After a major falling out with her boring and controlling boyfriend Andrew, Emily takes a ride on the wild side and pays an unexpected visit to a rock club. She and Marc lock eyes while he is performing onstage, it's instant attraction and later they hit the sheets. I have to say that some readers will be annoyed by the fact that Emily hadn't officially broken it off with her boyfriend when takes her ride on the wild side, ergo - cheating issue. Marc falls hard, but Emily's multiple insecurities surface, to the point where she won't even share her name with her smitten, hunky rock star lover.

Emily is a "good girl" who has always toed the line, meeting the restrictive exceptions of her parents and remaining in an unhappy relationship. I appreciated Emily's fears of stepping into the world of professional musicians given her background but she nearly drove me nuts at times. I actually found her quite immature for a 30 yr old and her preference for running rather than trusting Marc. It was a constant "should I or shouldn't I" anxiety that was mostly unwarranted. Marc deserved a medal of valour for putting up with her nonsense, but in the end he got his well deserved HEA.

There are a number of typos and grammatical errors which improved editing would have helped.

Dee says

[He licked her cream (I hope she didn't have an STD)! He put his shaft in her, in.out.in.out. She put her lips over his wide stalk, wtf, did he have a

Shadow says

The heroine has issues. Being the good girl, doing the same thing everyday, just isn't what Emma wants. She needs to experience how to be bad. Going to a bar, lusting for the bass player, Marc, going home with him,

keeping secrets, running from a boring life...Whew! Desiree keeps you interested! The sex is hot, hot, hot! But the attraction between the characters..seeing them work out there issues and making their lives fit; I loved every second of this book! Once again, Desiree has wrote an awesome story! Its a must read!
