



Gambling on the Bodyguard

Sarah Ballance

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He'll guard her body all night long...

Ski instructor Ellie Montgomery hits Vegas during a romance convention to meet the man of her dreams...only, the man of her dreams isn't the cover model she's there to see. He's the hot-as-sin bodyguard who catches her sneaking in the back door of a meet-and-greet, and he seems more than ready to do what it takes to prove he's twice the man her pretty boy crush could ever be.

Jax Mathis couldn't resist snagging a date with Ellie, but he didn't count on the attraction being more than physical. They connect on a level he didn't think possible--and he can't run fast enough. She makes him want things he thought he'd never have, and maybe, just maybe, they're within reach. But to have it, he'll have to face the one mountain he swore he'd never climb...and with no guarantee she'll be waiting on the other side.

Gambling on the Bodyguard Details

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Author : Sarah Ballance

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From Reader Review Gambling on the Bodyguard for online ebook

Toni says

Sarah Ballance does an amazing job burning up the pages in this book. What I really liked was that there was more to the story than girl meets hot guy in Vegas and has amazing sex, the end. The author develops the characters and their back-story over the course of the book that kept me turning pages to see where the story would lead. Of course, the smexiness was great too! I love Vegas and it was fun to relive it as a first time visitor as seen through character Ellie's eyes. I've never had the pleasure of going outside of the main strip and downtown area, but after reading of the beautiful State park areas around, I think a trip to Vegas is in order! This book had me laughing, hot flashing, and tearing up! The perfect romance trifecta of emotions in my rating book!

Ellie Montgomery is a by the book good girl from Colorado who wins a contest to meet the romance cover model of her dreams in Las Vegas. Unfortunately, luck is not her friend upon arrival and she must try an alternate method of entry to the exclusive meet and greet. Letting Vegas throw her cautions to the wind, she tries to sneak in the backdoor and winds up getting caught by bodyguard Jax Mathis.

Jax Mathis has been asked to protect the lead romance cover model while in town for a convention. Jax has long since separated from his family and personal life, so he has nothing to lose by accepting a high profile job that includes his boss receiving death threats. Of course, he has no idea, the girl sneaking in the back door of the meet and greet isn't a threat to his boss, but Jax's heart.

After an interesting back and forth proposition, Ellie is finally face to face with the cover model of her dreams. So, why can't she get hottie bodyguard Jax's face out of her mind? Is she crazy to accept a date with a man she just met?? Ellie isn't used to gambling with her mind, heart, or her body. But, what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas...right?

Jax doesn't get involved, so why did he ask Ellie on a date? Why can't he get her out of his head? Why does he want to show her his world. He is a Vegas native, he doesn't gamble with his mind or heart. But, maybe some gambles are worth the risk?

Catherine (The Sassy Bookster) says

I'm not usually a fan of insta-love stories but have been known to enjoy one that's well done and GAMBLING ON THE BODYGUARD was. But then again, I enjoy Ms. Ballance's writing so I may be biased.

Ellie Montgomery is in Vegas at a romance convention to meet her dream man, romance novel cover model Willie Focker, but a bathroom accident results in the loss of her prized ticket - one of very few - to a private party with the model. Ellie is determined to not miss this opportunity and what's a girl to do? Sneak in through the backdoor, of course. Unfortunately for her, the hulking bodyguard at the door is quick to put the kibosh on her plan and ensnare her attention. Ellie is very sweet and reserved and her instant attraction to the bodyguard takes her by surprise but she's in Vegas and open to new experiences for the duration of her stay.

Jax Mathis can't resist the beauty trying to sneak into the ballroom and very uncharacteristic of him, he elicits a promise from her to spend time with him in exchange for entry into the ballroom.

I enjoyed Ellis and Jax's characters because together they were cute and sweet, and their connection was

intense. Even though they knew that their time together was short, it didn't stop them from enjoying each other's company, especially considering that they both came with a lot of emotional baggage. They gave each other reason to deal with their baggage and reach out for a chance at an amazing relationship, even though it took Jax a bit longer to get there.

GAMBLING ON THE BODYGUARD is different from the other books I have read from the author because it's more emotional but it was still a great read.

Disclaimer: 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.

Want more? Subscribe to my Newsletter on The Sassy Bookster.

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A Klue says

As a huge fan of Entangled Publishing, I am always thrilled to receive an ARC e-book from them via NetGalley. Unfortunately, the gamble I took in requesting Gambling on the Bodyguard did not pay off. My romance book-loving friends, the author simply tried too hard on this one. Instead of a realistic romantic tale, it came across overly sentimental with its at times stilted/overly drawn out dialog and the too frequent, overly long, sometimes even weird, racy scenes which hijacked any hope of an actual storyline. The weird comment is directed at the use of bacon and syrup, by the way. Throw in the too unlikely coincidences regarding the heroine's occupation (ski instructor) and the circumstances surrounding the hero's sister's death, which he blamed himself for, and I was ready to bail about 40% into it.

Wait, there's more. The hero's constant "I want to be with you but you deserve someone better than me" felt too sappy and redundant for this reviewer. O.K. That's enough. There are a few more things I could mention, but I think you get the point. Since I don't like writing critical reviews, it pains me to be so brutally honest, but that's my job. To give an honest, unbiased opinion in exchange for this ARC generously provided by this great publisher. Unfortunately, this one just didn't work for me.

Do yourself a favor. Consider reading Book 6 of this series, Tamed by the Outlaw by Michelle Sharp, instead. I do highly recommend that one.

Title: Gambling on the Bodyguard, Series: What Happens in Vegas (Book 8), Author: Sarah Balance, stand-alone, Very steamy, no cheating, HEA

(This review is based on NetGalley ARC e-book received in exchange for an honest, unbiased opinion.)

Book 1 – Tempting Her Best Friend by Gina Maxwell

Book 2 – The Makeover Mistake by Kathy Lyons

Book 3 – A Change of Plans by Robyn Thomas

Book 4 – Masquerading with the CEO by Dawn Charter.

Book 5 – Just One Reason by Brooklyn Skye

Book 6 - Tamed by the Outlaw by Michelle Sharp

Book 7 - Tempted by Mr. Write by Sara Hantz

Book 8 – Gambling on the Bodyguard by Sarah Ballance

Amy says

Ellie had headed to Vegas after winning a meet-and-greet with her favorite book model she is obsessed with. After an unfortunate and funny encounter with a toilet, her invitation now lies in the Las Vegas sewer system. She is desperate to meet the sexy cover model, Willie Focker (lol – that's really his name) and after seeing the crazed fans trying to get through security with their tall tales, she knows they won't believe her story of the toilet eating her invitation. She knows if she can get in the room there must be a guest list with her name on it, so she goes in search of a side door. After finding said door, she encounters another private security guard, a hotter-than-hot, sex-on-a-stick security guard named Jax. After some fun flirtations, she ends up with an offer/proposition; agree to go on a date with him to see what a real man is like and he will get her in to see Willie. Once she's in the room with Willie and interacts with him, her only desire is now for Jax.

Jax only wanted a date with Ellie; he never expected that after this one date, the life he had been living would never be the same.

Gambling on the Bodyguard is told in a multi-POV which I love. I was hooked and fell in love with these characters right from the start. Jax's story was heartbreakingly sad and I was rooting for Ellie to be the one to help him heal, but Jax has to be ready to heal. He sees her as his missing sunshine, but he feels guilty and feels he doesn't deserve someone like Ellie.

This is a quick, fun read that pulls on many emotions; you get some action/drama, a lot of steamy sexiness, heartache, survivor's guilt, healing, and above all else, romance and love. This is a definite keeper.

Danielle says

Dnf @ 40% I think the storyline has promise but it's going slow for me. I'm having a hard time giving it my full attention. It just wasn't for me.

Maryam says

Full review up on the blog: <http://gloriousbooks.blogspot.com/201...>

I don't really know what to say about this one other than that it was an okay read. It had enough to keep me interested but it wasn't something I would go back to again.

Ballance has a good writing style in my opinion. I enjoyed her writing and it really made the whole romance between the characters something special. It wasn't as simple as two characters making eye contact and then non stop gushing over how hot they both are. The romance meant something and it was believable.

Unfortunately that was where it ended for me. I just didn't understand the ending - it was so disappointing. The story takes place over a couple of days so the characters have no more than a full day and a half together - why did it end like that then? I won't say what happens, but trust me when I say if it ever happens to you...run the other way.

I get that it's a book. It's just a story. But why can't it just end in a way that makes sense with the addition of great writing that the author is capable of? It was like taking the whole book and flushing it down the toilet...not unlike Ellie's ticket in the beginning of the read.

If you enjoy cheesy romances just for a quick read with likeable, well done characters then I do recommend this one. Ballance has a lovely style of writing that makes this book better than most clichéd, fast romances.

??Trea says

This book was ok...but nothing special. There was quite a bit that was too farfetched to be believable, including the romance between Jax and Ellie. I was disappointed that the convention that Ellie was attending didn't play a larger role in the story. Even the secondary characters weren't that interesting! All in all, worth a quick read but not a keeper.

Irene says

3 stars

Gambling on the Bodyguard was a light, heartfelt, fun and read.

Thank you Entangled Lovestruck via NetGalley for the advance copy.

Tasha Driver says

Not as good as the typical Sarah Ballance book. The good writing is there. So is the snappy dialogue bf humor. It's pleasantly sexy as well. But where most books sag in the middle, this one sags at the end. It should have stopped at around 60%, but it went on for a while. So I made up my own ending and DNF'd it.

Gwyn Plummer says

Ellie Montgomery is in sin city prepared to meet her favorite writer, until her ticket is devoured by the toilet. Determined to accomplish her goal, she attempts to sneak into the conference room and is stopped by hotter-than-hell bodyguard Jax Mathis.

Jax only wanted a date when he made the agreement with Ellie. He'd agree to let her backstage, as long as she agreed to spend some time with him to see if he can make her forget about the arrogant man-whore she was infatuated with. What he didn't expect was for her to make him forget that he only wanted a date. One date. Which soon doesn't seem like enough.

Full of sexy flirtations, searing sex scenes, and neon lights, this memorable contemporary features spirited characters, a bit of action, and some heart-pleasing ahhhh!

Kudos to Ballance for the unique premise. From the first sentence, the story is inviting. Although Ellie's free-spirited behavior seemed to come too easily for someone described to be more of a wallflower than a social butterfly, being in Vegas is enough to justify her actions. Afterall, it's not called sin city for the sake of alliteration. For a moment, I felt the fact that she was a ski instructor – his sister having died in a ski accident – was rather convenient and a little too coincidental, especially since they met in Vegas, not Colorado, however, as the story continued I quickly lost sight of my cynical view, and concentrated on the romance itself.

I briefly touched my temple while saying hmm on an exhale when reading the way the two came back together, but once again my disparaging view was short-lived. Without delay, I shifted back to the positive side and just let myself enjoy.

Ballance has a way with words and a keen eye for surroundings.

Overall, this is an entertaining read.

Brittany says

I received this from Netgalley/ Entangled publishing in exchange for an honest review. Now, this book kind of makes you need to suspend reality in order to enjoy it. The couple falls in love in less than a week and in Vegas. It was a sweet story and idea but kind of hard to believe at times. enjoyable though!

Elaine says

This is the eighth 'What Happen in Vegas' story but works well as a standalone. A chance win to meet the hot romance cover model who appears on so many of the books she loves is just too good to resist for ski instructor, Ellie Montgomery but when she literally flushes her winning ticket she's in a real quandary. Deciding to sneak in, her first rebellious action, she bumps into the man who really will be the man of her dreams in future, bodyguard Jax Mathis! Now he's a real man, much hotter than the pretty boy model and their attraction is mutual. Major problems ahead though as he's a desert man whilst she's a mountains girl . . . his last ski session is one he'll never forget for tragic reasons and ski slopes are somewhere he doesn't want to go. Can this Colorado lass and the Vegas bodyguard ever have anything together after all?

This story has a great plot, well formed characters, attempted murder, brilliant settings and lots of action to keep the reader enthralled. It is a dramatic tale where what happens in Vegas is full of indecision, turmoil and trauma. It is an adult contemporary romance, with instant-love and, for me, a few too many detailed steamy sex scenes - it read more Brazen than Lovestruck to me. The author is brilliant at describing settings

and characters, bringing them to life in the reader's imagination - oh, and just wait till you read the cover model's name!!!

Thanks to the author, publishers and NetGalley, too for provided an ARC for me to read in exchange for this, my honest review.

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Entangled Publishing, LLC and NetGalley.)

"I'll take you back to my room or you can take me back to yours."

This was an adult contemporary romance with some steamy sex scenes!

I liked Ellie and Jax, although I thought they maybe needed to communicate a little bit more. At times things could have been solved if they'd just talked to each other instead of leaving cryptic notes for one another.

The storyline in this was about Ellie and Jax meeting in Las Vegas where Jax worked as a bodyguard, and the chemistry and heat that developed between them, giving us some steamy sex scenes! I thought that Ellie and Jax made a cute couple, and was pleased that things worked out for them at the end, even if the romance was a little quick.

6.5 out of 10

Bette Hansen says

Ready to meet the "man of her dreams" Ellie Montgomery can't believe her bad luck when her invitation to the invite only get together falls in the toilet. She's lusted after the man gracing the cover of her romance novels forever and now it seems her only chance might have literally just gone down the drain. So what else is a girl to do than sneak her way in!! Unfortunately, the super hot bodyguard guarding the door doesn't see it that way!

Loved this one from the very first page. Their hilarious first meeting is only the beginning between Ellie and Jax (the bodyguard). Their chemistry is sizzling, and their connection seems soul deep. This is a quick light read but the author packed a fabulous story on to the pages. This is one I highly recommend.

Alyse says

I received an ARC through Netgalley in exchange for a honest review.

Ellie Montgomery is in Vegas for a romance convention to meet the cover model for some of her favorite books. There she loses her ticket to get backstage and has to "sneak" through the back door where she is caught by Jax Mathis, hired bodyguard. Jax will let her in on one condition: she go out with him. And I instantly thought, "This would NOT be the guy I would want to be PAYING to keep potential stalkers and crazies away from me... just saying".

They spend the remainder of the weekend together and feelings develop between these two at warp speed, only to have Ellie leave on Sunday after Jax pushes her away.

***Spoiler Alert**

The thing that lost me was when after FIVE weeks of no communication, Ellie texts him when her dog is hit by a car and he comes running and proposes after knowing each other less than 72 hours.

Plus there were some spelling errors and grammatical errors throughout the book that annoyed me.

Rating: 2.5 out of 5
