



## Playing Patience

*Tabatha Vargo*

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Life's been hard for Zeke. Being a punching bag for his alcoholic father has turned him into stone. Not even the dodgy trailer park he lives in can scare him. Fighting is his release and sex, drugs, and his guitar bring him peace, but deep down Zeke isn't quite as hard as he makes himself out to be. When he meets Patience, she finds all his broken pieces and puts him back together. She's a ray of light in his shadowed life and the last thing he wants to do is bring her into his dark world. Playing careless is easy, playing the bad guy can be fun, but playing Patience is impossible, especially when she can see right through him.

Zeke isn't the only one who's broken, and for the first time in a long time, Patience feels alive. Her black and white world gets a shot of color when she meets Zeke. With his tattoos, piercings, and blunt honesty, he's unlike anyone she's ever met. She wants nothing more than to let go and ride the wild side with him, but some wounds never heal and the broken pieces of Patience aren't so easy to find.

## Playing Patience Details

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Author : Tabatha Vargo

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## From Reader Review Playing Patience for online ebook

### Alba M. says

*«— Nunca conocerás lo más profundo de mi ser, así que no intentes explorar tan hondo. Te perderás y no sobrevivirás. No finjas entender mis sentimientos y emociones. La mitad del tiempo no los tengo, de todas maneras, pero cuando se trata de ti, son ilimitados, lo cual es más peligroso. No te miro como si fueras nada. Te miro como si lo fueras todo, porque lo eres, y jodidamente odio eso.»*

Estoy entre las 3,5 y 4??

La historia es... jodida, por no decir menos. Tenemos a Patience, una chica que es hija del gobernador, una chica rica y con la vida perfecta. Eso es lo que todo el mundo cree pero en realidad la vida de Patience de puertas para adentro es una verdadera pesadilla...

Una noche su amiga Megan la invita a ir a un concierto a El Foso, a ver a una banda de chicos llamada Blow Hole que poco a poco parecen ir haciéndose famosos. Es ahí donde Patience es drogada y posteriormente ayudada por Zeke.

Zeke es un chico malo en toda su gloria. Vive en un parque de casas rodantes, con un padre alcoholico que le da palizas a todas horas. La vida de Zeke es lo que ves, una pesadilla que nadie conoce pero que la mayoría imagina.

Ambos protagonistas tienen sus demonios en común y será lo que los atraiga el uno hacia el otro.

He sufrido como nunca leyendo este libro. Tanto Zeke como Patience han tenido las vidas más horribles del mundo y es que me ha dolido hasta el estómago. Iba muy bien pero entonces llegando al final la cosa se puso demasiado rápida. Las cosas se resolvieron a la velocidad de la luz y ese final y ese epílogo han sido de lo más cutres. Es por eso que en vez de 5 estrellas lleva esta nota.

Aún así, recomiendo la historia, es un amor difícil pero precioso. Me encantan tanto Zeke como Patience, juntos son perfectos ❤?

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### Brandi says

What a story! Dark, painful and beautiful. This one kept me up until about 4am.

*“You want to know what I am? I am shattered, that’s what I am. There are tiny pieces of patience scattered all over.”*

*“I’d like a piece of Patience.”*

It has been days since I have finished Patience and Zeke's, and my emotions are still all over the place. There are parts of this book that had me gasping for air, wide eyed in shock, and desperately wishing I could unread those sentences. I felt ripped apart, angry and devastated, but I could not stop reading, I had to know that Patience and Zeke were going to be okay. This is a very difficult read, at times I wanted to reach through my kindle and intervene, to comfort, to listen, to murder – believe me, you will understand. Patience and Zeke are both very tortured characters, she is the governor's daughter suffering in silence behind a fake

smile, and he is the bad boy from the wrong side of town. Once their paths cross, they find themselves constantly thrown together.

***“I was starting to think she was a gift from the devil himself. She was a pretty box of temptation wrapped in a forcefield of police officers waiting to arrest me, or a box of sweets with a big ass invisible mousetrap sitting on the cover.”***

Their relationship is far from easy, the odds stacked against them in more ways than one. The self hate and brokenness these two feel broke my heart.

***“I’d die before I trapped her and made her a prisoner of my world. Patience would give me one hundred percent of herself and I knew she’d run full force into hell without a thought for consequences. I knew this because I wanted to do the same when it came to her, but one of us had to be smart.***

These two characters will always hold a special place in my heart. I definitely recommend this read.

***“The broken parts of me were on the mend and his soul was the glue that would hold them all together.”***

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### **Kathryn says**

I may not give a FULL review...but I am going to go ahead and tell you my initial thoughts...

First...

HOLY FREAKING CRAP!!!! This book has ROCKED my world... (pun intended)

Needless to say, I freakin LOVED it...I was captured the minute I read the first page...

Tabatha Vargo knows how to write a story that twists my insides in to all kind of knots and keeps them like that ALL THE WAY TIL THE END!!! She is a pure GENIUS!! She mesmerizes me with how deep you fall in to her stories and that once you come to that final page...your heart sinks because it is over.

And Playing Patience is no different...in fact, I would say that it is my favorite of her works so far. And believe me, that is saying A LOT!! I love all that Tabatha Vargo has done, but she completely enraptured me with this one...

Within these pages, Tabatha broaches some tough subjects and then, Patience and Zeke, they are such dynamic, well developed, piercing, screwed up, hopeful characters...I was captivated by them. I felt their pain, their joy, their fear, and most of all you feel their hope...\*sighs\* I sit here now and I am still reeling from what I have read...

I have read some great books this year...Playing Patience is a top read...in fact..forget about just this year....It

falls in to my Top 10 reads period!!

I don't want to go any further b/c I don't want to spoil anything. It is a book that you will need to get...it is a book that you will need to experience...it is a book that you will not be able to put down...

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## Rebecca says

Reading In The Dark Blog

Okay, with this book for the first time ever I noticed stuff that usually makes me hate a book but here I just casually looked the other way.

I seriously loved it, which was weird since I had alarm bells constantly going off like "Men don't talk like this" and "Stop with the crap descriptions" and "Oh dear god, PLEASE check your sentences!!". I don't want to say any of this because I reaalllyyyyy loved it, so so so much but I just can't not say it. Anyway....will detail that a bit more later.

Zeke- beat up by his father, Patience sexually abused by hers meet and we follow their surprisingly sweet romance given the subject matter. It's so dark and dramatic but when they are together they behave more like teens albeit dirty slut bag teens BUT it's nice to see them being normal. I loved when they were together it was beautiful.

Patience was very sweet as was Zeke, although the overlap in the chapters was a bit annoying I still enjoyed reading it. I also like how they would say the same things in their heads so we saw how similar they were.

I'm always very vague with plot but believe me when I say A LOT happens.

I think one of the reasons I loved it was there was no insta-love. Thank the heavens, I can't bear insta-love. They take ages to develop into anything. Full of doubt and self-loathing the pair of them work really hard at trying to do the right thing by each other.

I read this in a day, which I just don't do but I needed to know what happened. It never lulled and I never lost interest, I regret it now! I crave a great book then when I get one I get greedy and gobble it up super quick then mourn the loss of it.

It was a good old fashioned romance, but of the dark twisted variety.

I know some of my friends will absolutely **hate** this book and others will adore and favourite shelf it.

But...I need to detail some of the bad things now. Don't want to but it kind of needs to be said.

The POV thing, I'm learning I hate 1st person POV... especially male. I nearly gave up in the beginning because I just couldn't read a man coming up with these long winded descriptions for hair and eyes. People don't talk this way! But then I got used to it and I loved Zeke's voice by the end. He's such a dude.

The editor....Dear God... If it was a payed editor should *never work again*. Some examples....

“master piece” is not what you wanted here, “masterpiece” it’s just one word.

“Of course I am” is not an appropriate response to “Feel like some company?”.

“Never talk to each any one” Doesn’t make sense. Neither does “pulled in next his” there’s quite a few more.

*The Ending* Jesus effing Christ.....all I can say is wow, that all happened so fast. Throughout the book everything we get is heavily detailed emotions and personal struggles. Then we get to the end and it’s like a runaway wrap-up train with a pretty little bow on top. Did Not Like.

Epilogue was laughable too, I need a bit more detail than (big spoilers) (view spoiler)

**BUT!!!! AGAIN!!!!**

**I DIDN'T CARE ONE EENY WEENY TINY BIT!!!!**

Honestly, couldn't care less. I loved Zeke and Patience so much I just glossed right over all of it... To get all weird on you all now. It made me realise sometimes a good story is enough, great characters can be an amazing experience. It's not necessary to deconstruct a book and seek out flaws. It entertained me, I had a great journey with these people so I'm not taking away any stars for the faults I found because I never got bored it pulled so many emotions out of me and I'm so glad I read it.

Perfect romance read for me.

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### **Mary says**

efore I start my review I want to tell you a story. Tabatha and I meet each other through Facebook. She was a fantastic person, very funny and we hit off right away. I was so excited when she asked me to beta read her first book Wicked Fate. When I finished that book I told Tabatha (and this is true you can ask her) she would be a household name. She laughed at the statement, but I totally believed it in my heart. Then she told me about On Plus Side and I flipped with excitement. I could not wait to read it. When I did get my hands on it Tabatha did not disappoint. Again, I told her she was on the verge of being a household name. Then came this book, Playing Patience. Tabatha did not tell me much about this book until she asked me to read the first 10 chapters. So I did and I was losing it. Tears, excitement and love were the emotions I felt. IT WAS ONLY THE FIRST 10 CHAPTERS. When the book was done and Tabatha sent it to me, I did nothing but focused on this book.

When I finished it, I jumped on Facebook and contacted Tabatha. These were my first words to her:

“This is the book that will set you apart from every other author. This is the book that will make you a household name.”

That is the truth!

Onto my Review:

Best part of the book: I know that you think I am going to dive in and ooh and aahh over Zeke. Well, you are half right because I love Patience so much too. I have never felt so connected to two characters ever. Zeke is

broken, truly broken. He has had a rough life but somehow he has pushed on. Then Patience fell into his life. Oh, Patience! Patience is a character that I physically wanted to grab out of my Kindle and hug and protect her. I love her. I love that she protects her sister and mother. I love that she will, literally, do anything for her family. She does this and along the way she is the one that is hurt.

When Zeke and Patience finally begin hanging together, without being in jail, they realized they needed each other. Their strong, determined and broken personalities made them perfect together. With each chapter, my love for them both grew. I could not get enough of their story.

Not so great about the book: There is not one thing that is wrong with this book. If you read it, you will understand what I mean. This is Tabatha's masterpiece.

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### **Soshi\_fan says**

Disappointing. The story was engaging and the main characters were likeable. However, there was too much story. Without giving away spoilers every trope that the NA category has was thrown in. There was just too much that my brain overloaded. I couldn't connect with any of the characters because their issues were too deep to really explore in just one book. I did finish it because it engaged me enough that I wanted to see what happened. Unfortunately the ending was rushed and predictable. With all that said I will be giving other books by this author a chance. I liked the general setup it just needed to be toned down a bit.

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### **Jenny - TotallybookedBlog says**

For a chance to win an EBook copy of Playing Patience, head on over to [Totallybooked](http://totallybookedblog.com/2013/04/):  
[http://totallybookedblog.com/2013/04/...](http://totallybookedblog.com/2013/04/)

Jointly reviewed for [totallybookedblog.com](http://totallybookedblog.com)

*4.5 stars*

**Gitte:** I actually have tears sat here thinking what to write as my emotions are all over the place thinking about this story. It's one of those that hits you immediately and you gasp out loud, put your kindle down and say out loud "I did NOT just read that sentence" the few little words that immediately release tears and get your hackles up. You know it's going to be a hard read and you continue, unable to stop because you want reassurance that everything is going to be okay for our main characters Patience and Zeke. There is so much I want to say but I fear I will ruin this story for everyone who should without doubt pick this book up. What do you think Jenny?

**Jenny:** I know exactly what you mean Gitte because I am the same. And yes, I totally agree with you, to give anything away would be a travesty. A reader has to experience every moment for the first time just as we did. Sitting here, reliving this book and recalling the heartache I felt reading it, once again reduces me to tears.

I just didn't realise the level to which this story would affect me. I don't think I was quite prepared for what

was to come and I can't begin to express the nervous, sick feeling I carried in my stomach pretty much the whole way through this book. I did indeed gasp...out loud, on a number of occasions. This powerfully poignant, dark romantic story was so detailed in its aching and so touching in its telling of Zeke and Patience, two damaged yet resilient souls who were able to see something so unique, something so special in each other that they didn't see in themselves, was one I found compelling and couldn't put it down until the end.

***“She belonged in the light and I was right where I was meant to be – stuck in a dark, dank gymnasium” .***  
– Zeke

***“I was a broken porcelain doll, cracked beyond repair and tossed in the back of a closet.”*** Patience

**Gitte:** Zeke and Patience are both extremely broken and haunted characters. They have both been severely scarred both on the inside and the outside by the people, who should have loved them the most; who should have protected them. Brought up in complete dysfunctional families where pain is the dish of the day, they are survivors.

Patience despite her appalling “home life” is an extremely beautiful and strong soul. She thinks of everyone else before herself. She haunted me with every word written about her real life behind closed doors and I literally wanted to pick her out of my kindle and put her in my pocket.

Patience trusts Zeke, despite how he acts and his, at times, cruel words. She sees the real Zeke underneath the façade. She trusts him though why, she doesn't know. People are easy to judge on appearance and adapted behaviour, but this guy despite the tattoos, the rock star persona and everything that comes with that, shows his real sensitive side just as his soul sees and understands hers.

Zeke was such a well written character. He is flawed in some ways, playing the crude arsehole, but mostly he was a hero in my eyes as he was in Patience's eyes.

***“I don't look at you like you're nothing. I look at you like you're everything, because you are, and I fucking hate it.”*** – Zeke

I loved that he was blunt and didn't mince his words. He was honest to a fault no matter what reaction his words caused. He was cocky yet underneath all the layers of hurt and layers of self-protection which was caused by the hand he was dealt in life lies a beautiful and honest soul surrounding a heart waiting to be pieced back together.

***“He was covered in color and art; he was a standing statue for freedom, and I was drawn to his careless stature.”*** – Patience

***“Damn, snowflake, if you get any hotter you'll melt.”*** – Zeke

The journey isn't smooth for Zeke and Patience by any means or us the readers. They have their own separate emotional baggage which has made them adapt roles in life, unable to trust and unable to believe that they can indeed be loved and love in return.

***“What is it about girls and cocky assholes? I'll never understand it.”*** – Megan (Umm we totally get it right Jenny!?!)

**Jenny:** Damn straight Megan! And yes, you're spot on Gitte. These cocky arseholes definitely do attract us, but let's face it, we were never going to be able to resist Zeke, and not because he was a drop dead gorgeous musician, with a body to match (which did help of course) but because we were able to see the beauty in the soul that lay underneath all the outward bravado from this man who had been given more than his fair share of life's hard knocks and he broke my heart. This tattooed, honest to a fault, pierced, tough, hard living man saw no future, he felt such hopelessness at the hand he'd been dealt that he played out his life accordingly, silently wishing for the day his band, Blow Hole would be discovered and take him away from the hell that was his life, yet resigned to the fact that this was his life. This was all it would ever be.. He'd built walls that he wouldn't allow to be penetrated ...that was until he met Patience. In Patience he saw something different. Something pure, something untainted and a beauty he wouldn't sully with his world.

***“Her kisses were tiny miracles”*** - Zeke

***“Don’t ever be scared with me. I’d never do anything to hurt you and I’d destroy anyone who tried.”***  
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Patience.....Oh Patience. This girl took my heart and shredded it. My aching for her was felt deep down. I just wanted to pick her up and take her away from everything. I wanted to make it all okay for her. Sad, lonely, perfectly imperfect Patience suffering and living her own tragic and sorry existence whilst feeling apathy at a life which has let her down, yet showing a loyalty and selflessness that will tear at your heartstrings.

The opening chapters were extremely hard to read and this strong, determined yet vulnerable and damaged girl had me completely transfixed. Zeke and Patience....together they make sense. They will captivate you.

***“Do you like playing that song?” I asked casually as I handed him the guitar***  
***“Not really”***  
***“Then why were you?”***  
***“It reminds me of you”***

**Gitte:** I thought this story was brilliantly written and I inhaled every single word. Patience and Zeke are from complete different walks of life but tragedy and pain does not discriminate for anything or anyone. This beauty of two emotionally broken souls finding each other, unable to resist the pull despite every obstacle; paired with the heart wrenching pain makes for one powerful story that will stay with me for a long while.

***“Years of shadows and darkness were erased in that very moment. I held my source of freedom in my arms and I could already feel the heat from her light against my skin.”*** – Zeke

**Jenny:** I agree Gitte. This story was so beautifully written. A powerful and engrossing story, it wasn't always pretty, in fact it was extremely difficult at times. Zeke and Patience, “two broken parts of a whole person” will intoxicate you, they will break you, you will feel their hurt and you will experience their pain, you will rally for them in a way you never thought possible and you will love with them completely.

***“There’s a place you land, right before you hit rock bottom, a sort of cushion before the blow.....Zeke was that place for me. He was like a rainbow in my black and white movie, a soothing touch against jagged scars”.*** – Patience

The moments of beauty and tenderness interspersed throughout a story of such cruelty, emotional turmoil and heartache will remain with you for a long time to come.

***"Everything bad went away in that moment. She soothed every scar, took away every bad memory. She made me feel better"*** – Zeke

*Arc provided by Author Tabatha Vargo for an honest review*

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Jointly Reviewed on: <http://totallybookedblog.com/2013/04/...>

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*Gitte: 4.5 Heart-breaking Beautiful Stars*

*Jenny: 4.5 Gut wrenching stars*

*Arc provided by Author Tabatha Vargo for an honest review*

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### **Jamie ~ Bad Boy Inspector says**

Rating - 4.5

Cover - 4.5 - sexy and I love the red contrast with the B&W photo

Character Development - 4.5

Steam Factor - 3.5 - HOT sexual buildup, sexy scenes toward end

Favorite Character - Zeke of course

Audience - It skirts the line of YA/NA so 17+

Ending - HEA & no cliffhangers YAY!!

This book was a really great read. It was full of sadness, heartache, tension, passion, & growth. On the surface you have the stereotypical rich good girl and sexy bad boy from the wrong side of the tracks. But underneath you have two people more alike than they realize through secrets they keep buried within.

Zeke is a cocky, asshatish, partyboy rocker. He goes to school enough to slide by, practices with his band and then parties until he can't stand up. He doesn't plan to change because he thinks that is all he is made of. Patience is sweet, strong, and fiercely loyal but broken soccer star. She goes to school and then wears her

self out with sports to keep her mind off her problems.

As soon as the two meet you start seeing the subtle changes in both of them. I loved seeing both of them grow and change during the book. Even though they didn't know it they helped each other overcome their past so they could move on to the future and start healing.

I don't want to say much more and give anything away. Just trust me when I say it was a great book and that you need to read it..lol And the best part about it is it had an HEA!! The only thing I could complain about is I would have liked a longer epilogue but that is it.

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### **????? Yosbe ????? says**

4.5 :)

Esta es una historia que quizás no es la más original. Las primeras páginas me hicieron dudar de continuarlo, pero a la vez, me invitaron a seguir adelante.

Pero definitivamente Playing Patience tiene el ritmo perfecto que me gusta. No amor-instantáneo. No chico malo-inmediatamente bueno. Nada *If You Stay*-loco.

Patience es una chica abusada sexualment Y aunque nunca he conocido ninguna persona cercana que haya pasado por esta terrible situación, se por testimonios que leído y visto en t.v. que realmente muchas de estas personas se quedan en silencio aceptando este destino sobre todo cuando pasa desde temprana edad y más cuando es algún familiar. Eso me llevó a aceptar la trama principal de este libro.

Y Zeke es un chico para nada perfecto con sus propios problemas, sus propios abusos. Y tambien carga con ellos. Amé que no se convirtiera en un romanticón idiota e instantaneamente bueno-a-primera-vista.

De algún modo la forma en como estan escritos los personajes nunca me hizo sentir incomoda o poco creibles.

Estaba rezando durante todo el libro para que Tabatha Vargo no apresurara nada o hiciera alguna cosa absurda que me hiciera poner los ojos en blanco. Y aunque hubo momentos que llamo "guilty pleasure" definitivamente creo que tiene las cantidades de drama, romance y sexo perfecto, por lo menos para mí.

Siempre lo digo: puedo amar un cliché, pero tienes que saber como escribirlo. Tabatha nailed it!

Su historia fue intensa, fue graciosa, fue angustiosa.

Dosis perfectas.

Me mata mucho que un libro así no sea más famoso que otros que estan terriblemente narrados, como el que mencioné antes. Tengo que darle más mérito por el hecho de haberme hecho leerlo en solo un día!

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## M says

PLAYING PATIENCE is the age old story of the "good girl" and the "bad boy" who find a connection and blossom into having an intense relationship. The obstacles come from their emotions and also from the people around them. Zeke is a "bad boy" with tattoos and piercings who plays in a band, and Patience is the sweet daughter of the governor. In this book, they come up against the families and themselves and who their respective environments turned them into.

PLAYING PATIENCE is also a complete and utter trainwreck from the first chapter.

Zeke is a douchebag misogynist would-be rapist\* who collects bruises from his alcoholic father while playing for the accurately-named band BLOW HOLE. The band's name is just the start of the recurring issue with incredibly outdated, frequently awkward lingo and dialogue. At least once, Zeke refers to his supplier as "the local dope dealer," which, I don't know about you, but for me, totally conjures the image of Red Forman crossing his arms and yelling "THAT KID'S ON DOPE." Zeke's mother died from cancer before the start of the book, and we never really learn what his relationship with her was like -- though given the degree to which Zeke loathes women (excuse me, "females"), it's assumed she was also not a good person.

\*A direct quote from the book: "Please. That chick's as straight as they come. I'd have to drug her, too, to get her to put out."

Patience is the stereotypical, quiet, wooden girl from a slightly more affluent family. Her father is the governor, although we don't actually ever see this have an impact on her life in any way other than it being a fact about the character. She has little to no personality, and what's there is incredibly peculiar. She's intended to be the smart one of the two, but everything she says and does comes off as completely stupid -- and not in an endearing teenager way. In an "are you from this century?" way.

See, Patience is roofied during a night out. That's how her and Zeke meet. He's in the bathroom she's stumbled into, he helps her by bringing her to get medical attention. And then he gets arrested for drug possession because for some reason the police had a reason to search his car (!?!?!?). Except instead of taking time to get her stuff together after being drugged, Patience... returns to the same bar where she was roofied within days.

Now, I'm not saying this couldn't happen. But with what we know about Patience, it makes absolutely no sense. Patience's father rapes her frequently. We know this from early on, and it's one of the big plots in the book. While it does inform Patience's harsh reactions to Zeke's advances, it is really the catalyst for the poor, sexually abused girl to be rescued by the flawed hero. When Patience comes into her own, it's only to turn around and pine for her lover and become nothing without her. She's not a strong character, she's impossibly weak and malleable -- and while it would be understandable to see this through the eyes of the misogynist Zeke, we're actually seeing it through her own eyes. Patience does not change in the book. Her character does not grow.

This is not a love story. If anything, this is amped-up lust, possibly limerance. These characters believe they are in love because they were thrown together by circumstance, but we see no reason other than action to understand where the supposed love comes from. It's not insta-love, it's absolutely nothing. They rely on each other with desperation -- and I think the book would have been a much stronger success if it wasn't

portrayed as love and connection, but rather two people in desperate need of counseling grasping at the first thing they can touch.

Patience escapes the oppressive, abusive reign of her father and runs straight into the arms of someone who will in all likelihood also abuse her.

Look, I'm going to be frank. Zeke is a douche. When Patience won't sleep with him (for reasons we understand and for reasons Zeke is supposed to understand, but doesn't empathize with?), he turns around and sleeps with another girl, and says "A man has needs, snowflake."

whoa man, that's so romantic and deep and special. A man who doesn't care about the girl he's supposed to be in love with and just wants some booty. Charming.

wait no, excuse me

he just wants to DIP. HIS. STICK.

Okay, so characters need to be real and sometimes the raw ones are the most compelling, right? But tell me, what's compelling about a man who talks about raping women, who calls them "females" and sluts, who looks at them as nothing but sexual objects? Characters, even the unlikeable ones, need something to make us root for them. We need to be on their side in order for the story to work. But there's never a reason for us to root for Zeke. He doesn't grow as a character either -- he learns to care about Patience, or so we're meant to think, but we don't actually see him doing anything about it.

When presented with gratingly unfavorable characters and a run-down, trampled plot that's been done more times than the macarena was in the 90s, we can hope the writing is there to guide us through and make everything seem a little less frustrating.

Except PLAYING PATIENCE wasn't edited. If it was, and I was the author, I'd be firing that editor and finding someone new. The story is full of typos and grammatical errors (six alone in the first chapter, and I'm not even a Grammar Person), filtering, repetition, passive sentences, I, I, I, I, I, and worst of all, confusing timelines. For the most part, Zeke and Patience have the same voice with different words. And since it's broken up into perspective chapters, we get the "treat" of going back and reading the same scene from the other perspective. Instead of picking up fluidly, it's all over the place and you have no idea where the next chapter is going to start.

Awkward phrases:

Empty black dots surrounded by a sea of blue swam inside her eye sockets

I'd known just by looking at her that she didn't belong on my side of town (seriously?)

"Shit," I said out loud to myself.

Her impassiveness pissed me off.

Her eyes crashed into mine.

This book was not ready to be published. It reads like a first draft. Had I never read the author's works

before, it would be the last time. There are only so many times you can read about things crashing, banging, and assaulting someone's senses.

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### **.Lili. says**

DNF @ 29%

I'm sorry to quit so early.

I just couldn't get into the author's writing style.

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### **C. S. says**

#### **\*\*THIS REVIEW CONTAINS SOME SPOILERS\*\***

I've spent a while thinking about this review, and there are a lot of strong feelings attached to it. I feel burnt by the author for several things that went down before I even finished reading, but this review is not necessarily of the author but her work, and I'll try to remain subjective while writing this. Also, this review will contain spoilers. Consider yourself warned. :)

Playing Patience is labeled new adult, which is actual bull since both the main characters are young adults still in high school. This is a classic case of an author wanting to write YA but with graphic sex, and so the poor NA label gets a bad rap again.

Patience is a governor's daughter, playing the ultimate good girl while suffering intense sexual abuse at the hand of her father. Even though her father's been raping her (graphically) since she was thirteen, the author never tells us how Patience avoids getting pregnant. No mention of contraceptives or past abortions. If a teenager is exposed to sex for that long, pregnancy should be addressed. At the beginning of the story, Patience's mother is dying of breast cancer. Zeke is a "bad boy" from the other side of town, raised by his alcoholic, abusive father in a run-down trailer park. His mother died when he was younger of... you guessed it! Cancer.

At the core these characters are living the same life--abusive father, cancer victim mother. Which I felt was a huge lack of creativity. And Zeke's father fell into every trash alcoholic trope you can think of--a "raging" alcoholic who beats the tish out of his kid without any provocation. There was no other side to him either. No moments where he was mildly sober or decent. I know mean drunks, and there's more to the story than drink beer, beat people senseless just cuz. People like that aren't ALL evil ALL the time. Yes they're nasty, but they are human.

This book is packed with sexual objectification of women. Zeke, our supposed heart-throb of a bad boy, the guy we're supposed to fall in love with, calls women "females." Sees them as a pair of tits and doesn't even ask for names. To reiterate my point that Zeke is a trashfire, slimeball of a human being, here are some quotes from his POV:

**PAGE 22: "Nice tits." I grinned down at her as I ran a finger across her bulging cleavage. There was a**

**jagged tattoo just under her lacy bra line that I wanted to have a look at. “Meet me beside the stage later.” I wasn’t asking. I was telling. (Because we all know women LOVE to be told they have no choice when it comes to providing you with some kind of sexual satisfaction.)**

**PAGE 147: “If you want a one night stand to leave, all you have to do is pull out your wallet and ask how much you owe her.”**

**PAGE 177: Usually, I steered clear of girls like her since there was always a chance of an inexperienced female sprouting feelings...**

**PAGE 181: I’d never denied myself a woman when I wanted her... (that’s called rape, douche canoe)**

**PAGE 222: I knew her name, but it wasn’t necessary. Redhead was a good enough name for me. (because women don’t need names. Our hair color will do.)**

**PAGE 258: I wasn’t sure why I asked. I’d never asked a female permission for anything in my life... (AGAIN...rape)**

And then he makes an actual joke about date-rape.

**PAGE 80: “Please. That chick’s as straight as they come. I’d have to drug her, too, to get her to put out.” We laughed. (ha.haha. so funny)**

Zeke and his little posse, Flinn and Chet, don’t deserve the paper they were printed on. Zeke literally makes this statement "...dip my stick in a chick that reminded me of her", and I had to take a break from reading because ew! (I’ll tell you what I’d like to do to his "stick" and it doesn’t involve any dipping) And people fan-girl over this guy, who has no character arc whatsoever. Zeke’s opinion of Patience changes, but his opinion towards women in general stays the same. In fact, he spent the whole second half of the book elevating Patience above those "other women". He’d think something positive about Patience, and then would add in a "not like those other women" sort of line. So Patience is the special little snowflake. In fact, that’s actually Zeke’s nickname for her. Ha. I wish I could root for her, tell you she was better, but she spent most of the book calling all the women around Zeke "half-naked skanks" or "slutty".

Apart from content, the writing is weak. Secondary characters are described by the color of their hair/eyes. The author had a habit of backtracking each time the POV switched. I got to the point where I’d skip the first few paragraphs of a new chapter just to catch up to the plot. Lots of telling and not showing.

The relationship between Patience and Zeke was slow (no insta-love, though I hated both their characters so much I almost didn’t care). There were several small twist that I didn’t predict, and two big twists that I totally did predict. The biggest climax of the book, when her father is shot down, was given away right in the prologue. So there’s that. We saw it coming because the author showed it to us right from the start. The second plot twist, aka Zeke cheats on her (big surprise), was easy to see coming. And Patience’s reaction to catching him cheating was to run away apologizing, like she’d done something wrong. WTF!? No.

The first sex scene between Patience and Zeke, keep in mind this is a girl who’s a victim of serious sexual abuse, was aggressive and rough and happened two weeks after Zeke is caught having sex with another woman. No apologies from him or attempts to make things right in between. I expected the severely abused Patience’s first time with any other man to be careful, but instead we got this...

**“A tiny growl escaped his throat and he grabbed under my ass and lifted me onto Finn’s dresser. The back of the mirror slammed into the wall behind it. He pushed my skirt up, gapped my legs more, and pushed himself against me.”**

And they proceeded to have very rough sex...

So this book, full of sexual and physical abuse, is at the core just a smutty romance novel which exploits delicate subject-matter for entertainment purposes. This makes me feel very sorry for anyone reading this who's actually suffered these kinds of things. This is a damaging book. Full of damaging messages. The author needs to self-reflect considering her "message" is reaching a lot of readers and potentially causing harm.

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### **Jennifer Kyle says**

#### **3 ½ Snowflake Stars**

Playing Patience is the story of two broken teens. Patience and Zeeke are from different sides of the tracks but both are living in abusive homes and find comfort in each other. Both characters fight feelings of being underserving, unlovable and plan out broken.

*“There’s a place you land, right before you hit rock bottom, a sort of cushion before the blow...Zeke was that place for me. He was like a rainbow in my black and white movie, a soothing touch against jagged scars.”* ~Patience

I found that this book back-tracked an awful lot. Once you read a scene the next chapter was in the other's pov and half the time you were redoing the scene you just finished. For me it took away from the fluency of the story.

Both main characters are pretty hurtful towards one another sacrificing their own happiness for the others. However, when they did get it right, it was perfect.

*“Don’t pretend to understand my feelings and emotions. Half the time I don’t have any anyway, but when it comes to you, they’re limitless, which is more dangerous. I don’t look at you like you’re nothing. I look at you like you’re everything, because you are, and I fucking hate it.”* ~ Zeeke

I'm still wondering... If Zeeke ever found out about Patience paying the fine? If he finished community service with the boy's club? (that part kinda fell to the wayside) and I would have loved for him to go to her school and see her play soccer. I would have like some deep meaningful conversations between Zeeke and Patience. That being said, this was a good read that doesn't end with a cliffhanger but wraps up quickly with an hea.

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## Michelle says

Zeke and Patience were both two **shattered** souls, both **broken** and unsure if they could ever be **fixed** or made **whole**.

But that all changes when they find the light they need to guide them through their own darkness.

Zeke was the bad boy from the wrong side of the tracks. Tattoos, piercings, drugs and lots of one night stands; but there was a part of him that was good. It was a part that had been buried deep inside after years of abuse at the hands of his father. He had his band, his friends - they were his family. And he had his guitar.

Patience seemed like your typical privileged teenager. She played sports, she studied hard and she was not the type of girl that Zeke ever thought he would see in a place like the Pit. But Patience had her own secrets that she kept hidden. Painful truths that had shattered her world for the last 10 years. When she finds herself on the floor of a bathroom in a club a pair of blue eyes finds her and saves her life; in more ways than one.

Although Zeke was not willing to admit his draw to his snowflake, he used his bad attitude and rude behavior to push her away. She was too good for a guy like him. She deserved more than a guy that could offer her nothing. But he wanted her and she had slipped under his skin. And she saw him.

*Everything about him was dark; yet there was a tiny light inside of him that flashed on occasionally, and as sad as it sounded, I was willing to sit in the darkness and wait for that brief bright moment.*

Patience was not the girl that found men attractive, her body reacted to them in disgust. She was not the girl that wanted to be held or touched or kissed. She was too broken to know what a lover's touch would ever feel like. What it would be like to know how to feel protected and adored without the fear. But when Zeke touched her, her body reacted differently. It was like he healed her with each caress.

But this was not an easy road full of two souls finding each other and just simply fixing one another. This was two people that fell in love and opened their hurt up to each other - showed one another all the damaged parts and allowed one another to collect those pieces and try to make them fit back together. There was still hope.

But as secrets come out it shatters their world and finding a way back to one another isn't easy.

Now be prepared for an intense subject matter. I first saw this cover a while back and after a few recommendations dove in without even reading the damn summary. I should have learned my lesson the last time I did that and read a story that I expected to be light and heartwarming that turned out to be an emotional roller coaster. But even with the dark themes in this book - the moments when they are together (and he is not being a complete asshole) make you forget that there is pain waiting for both of them.

Zeke and his friends are jerks, no doubt - but although there were some (okay a lot) of asshole moments I was clear to see that Zeke's behavior was a shield. Maybe he only felt that way towards Patience, or maybe he treated girls like crap because he didn't want anyone close. But since I have seen a few Zeke-bashing reviews, I have to say that sometimes when a girl doesn't give herself the respect she deserves, you can't expect a guy to give it to her. So if he treated the girls like holes...it's kind of because they presented themselves as holes.

Now, back to this book. It was well written and my only issue was how quickly it tied up at the end. I wanted a little bit more than just the quick and easy ending. But overall I loved this story and loved both of them. The other characters were not really focused on or given much in the way of back story but it didn't matter - they were not the focus of this book. This is a story that has some intense moments and although the author gives us just enough to give us an idea of the hurt, I was glad that it pulled away just in time.

Casting - my vision of Zeke & his snowflake

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