



Loyalty (John + Siena Book 1)

Bethany-Kris

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Fresh out of prison after serving a three-year sentence, Johnathan Marcello wants to get back to normal business as a mafia capo. The rules set out for him are clear—keep out of trouble, maintain a low profile, and stay stable. But stability is a delicate balance for a man like John, and shaky ground is only a single step away.

A chance encounter with a blue-eyed woman might just change his whole world.

Siena Calabrese's life revolves around cooking numbers, and scrubbing books clean. After all, a girl is only useful to men in the mafia, if she isn't totally useless. As long as she does what they want, then she can maintain the illusion of freedom. But illusions are only delusions in the grand scheme of her life, and reality is far more dangerous.

A man with secrets might just be the one thing she didn't know she needed.

In this life, family is everything. Or, that's how it should be.

Distrust.

Love.

Betrayal.

Loyalty.

Mix it all together, and it makes for a volatile city.

A war is coming.

Loyalty (John + Siena Book 1) Details

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Author : Bethany-Kris

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Genre : Romance, Mental Health, Mental Illness, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Loyalty (John + Siena Book 1) for online ebook

Maria11 says

Heartbreakingly real

Wow this is such a kick you in the gut story. This author blows me away every time. I loved Cross and Cat, but John and Siena are taking up a big chunk of my heart too.

Damn I read this and I felt everything John felt it is so heartbreakingly real it brings tears to my eyes. Everything is so real and makes me sad that there are therapist out there that don't listen to their patients and just want to drug them. Thus making them go off the mental wagon into dangerous territory.

Siena, like Cross was to Cat, is a rock and seems to understand John like no other. She too has to take a "beating" from the family, just like Cross. She stands by her man.

I can't wait for more!

Tanaka K says

Guys, Bethany Kris is amazingly talented writer. I am addicted to her words and her books just make me go crazy. Like so crazy that is not normal lol. Her books just speak a language so effortless and hard hitting that I just became so marveled at it. It is books like Loyalty that absolutely move a piece of my heart. Loyalty just exceeded all my expectations. This phenomenal book. This engrossing book. This special and soulful book. What more can I say? What more can actually articulate enough words for this masterful and dynamic book that had me by the balls. I was ignited and struck by such a brilliant mafia romance that will totally leave you in stitches of pure delight. Bethany-Kris brought a unique and real story that totally gave all the right vibes. I was beyond amazed. Bethany-Kris writes mafia romance but gives her own spin that makes it worthwhile and totally unputdownable. Loyalty definitely became my favourite book from Bethany-Kris hands down. Definitely a must on your TBR.

Loyalty is the first book in the John + Siena series. Plus it is also a legacy novel. I am loving the legacy novels. Who knew the kids all grown up could be just as crazy and fantastic just like the parents. Rawr. Loyalty told a gripping and emotional story that ruined me. I am telling you, every page and every sentence was dripping with a story that heartfelt and honest set in a dangerous and unpredictable world of crime. Loyalty will cut you and rip your soul apart. Its story will make you bleed, set you on fire and possibly make you fall in love with it. I fell in love. Blindly. Addictively. Irrevocably. Touching. Raw. Real. Open. Suspenseful. Deadly. Loyalty was a story of one man's struggle to a mental illness and forbidden love he has with one woman set in the Cosa Nostra la familia in New York. Bethany-Kris wrote her heart and you could feel all the emotions seeping out of the book. Her books are always intoxicating with punched out and edge of your seat thriller but Loyalty was different. It told a story of forbidden love, pain and family. Bethany-Kris told a story that so thought provoking and takes on a topic that not many talk about but still needs to be heard. I commend for that risk and giving me a romance that I can relate to.

I love Johnathan Marcello. He is the perfect Capo. Dominating. Bad. Strong. Dark. Swoon worthy. But he

touched me more than any alpha male Bethany-Kris has written. Here you could feel a man struggling with family. Struggling with his feelings and mental illness. Struggling with his own personal demons. They struck you. They open up a wound. They move you. And I was moved, deeply. Siena Calabrese is the perfect partner to John. Sassy. Caring. Loyal. Loving. She demonstrates the love for John with equal measure. I admired it. Their love had so much angst and drama that I was on high alert but wow, did it speak volumes. They had genuine love and affection that made me smile. Found myself totally indulging in their love affair.

Loyalty is Bethany-Kris best work to date. I loved every moment. If you haven't started on her books, what are you waiting for? Read them now.

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review.

Bev says

Well, well, well. Never did I think that any hero could top Cross. And John did by a million miles. I fell so hard for him and that's purely down to the genius that is Bethany-Kris.

The depth and development of her characters is second to none. John is bipolar, and the way she wrote him blew my mind. His imperfections, his problems, how he dealt (or didn't deal) with them, the family support and most of all Siena. What a superb character she is, strong, quiet, supportive - she just "sees and hears" John, you know? Gah, I get chills thinking about these characters. Days after finishing this duet I can't stop thinking about it. It's raw, it's real, it's hard to read at times, it's brutal, it's vivid, it's effing AMAZING.

By far my favourite story by Bethany-Kris, and let's face it - I've flocked them all. But this duet? No words bar phenomenal.

Snow says

It's my Lucian Marcello's kid John... damn, I mean man, he's my man Johnathan, now *sigh*

this can NOT only be good BUT fuckin AWESOME...

and I wasn't wrong, either...

Bethany-Kris delivered an *emotionally powerful and brave* story of a man (Johnathan Marcello) who is not only **fighting the overpowering stigma** of having a *bipolar* disorder but also keeping the straight lines within the members of the **Marcello** family, between trust, power and roles inside the family

Rules. His life was dictated, surrounded and determined by rules.

"Family first....God is a very close second."

So was the Marcello way.

BUT all John feels is pressure of being under the stigma, pressure of being watched, controlled and he felt like his own family didn't trust him. Yes, he did horrible things under the influence of his manic cycle and he severed his relationships with his sisters, cause all of the said words could never be taken back, so the best and simpler way would be alienation, to keep to himself...and yet he felt alone

The stigma around his disorder, and mental health in general, left him feeling very alone.

So, when he comes out of his three years prison sentence, Johnathan needs to grasp the reign of his own life again, while juggling the family liaisons and discovering where the true *loyalty* lies, especially after he meets a woman that after so long stirs his interest and he actually is considering to let her in and exposing himself as he truly is,

Relationships, women, and sex were intense things for John. When he mixed all three together, it could be one hell of a hurricane for him.

revealing the condition of his mental state as a crucial part of him could also be a turning point in other people's vision of him as a person

He couldn't be just Johnathan Marcello to somebody once they knew his little secret - he then became Johnathan who was bipolar.

BUT not her. Not the girl with sapphire eyes and caramel colored hair. Not *Siena*. She's more than Johnathan could have ever expect or hope her to be, to support him, to fight for him.

"Never do that, John."

"What?"

"Apologize for being you. I never want you to do that with me."

And even though, she bears her own burden - the control and the rules that suffocate her, it's her own family's curse and it might be one of the biggest ones - the past actions that link her family and the original family roots Johnathan originates from, she would stay inspite of it all...

It's all cause of the name. The *Calabrese* name.

The Marcello and The Calabrese families never did mingle beyond business. Bad blood.

The old enemy that lurks from around the corner - plotting, scheming and spewing doubts while trying to set the devious plan in motion ending with the ultimate goal - war.

Will they be strong enough to survive more than Johnathan's condition and surpass it while the raging mafia war will most surely ask for more than just choosing sides...

I have to say that this is one of the best works **Bethany-Kris** has done with the portrayal of a character - here, **Johnathan Marcello**.

The *seriousness of absolutely relatable descriptions of experiences of a mental disorder - bipolarism*, showed not only how **professional and serious the author's approach to the subject is**, but she made it **emotionally acceptable and approachable** to many of those who don't know what that's like, or who haven't seen it up close in real life, who haven't witnessed the highs and lows of each episode's strike, and I think that's **commendable and praise worthy**.

I loved this story, I loved the characters, **Johnathan and Siena**, even though I had just a slight feeling she wasn't much in the spotlight (but then again, I considered that, and made a conclusion that she might have been just in the right spot for Johnathan, she was his support column to stand by him so she could hold through) and no, not only cause I'm kinda biased LOL, cause well, it's **Lucian Marcello's** son, we're talking about here, it's, actually cause of the general notion of "something bigger" going through the storyline, and I was able to "feel" it.

It was **fast paced in tempo, remarkably precised in description, it was filled with action and emotional awareness and insightfulness concering the subject**, I would say...

and I can't wait for the sequel to see the bloom of these starcrossed lovers' union...

ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review

Natalie The Biblioholic says

Johnathan Marcello is bipolar. There, I said it. He was diagnosed as a teen and has been trying to thrive despite his mental illness ever since. Over time, his behavior has alienated the people he cares the most about, leaving him to feel alone, unworthy, and distrustful. Locked up for three years, he's hoping to get some semblance of his life back. He understands his limitations and feels he's got better control of his condition. Until he doesn't.

Siena Calabrese is a virtual prisoner in her family. They are the hated enemies of the Marcello family and for good reason. But she is nothing like the people she shares blood with. And John is quick to see the truth of her and she of him. Together they are much stronger than apart and both know that what they have is so right, no matter how wrong everyone else deems it to be.

Read like a modern-day, mafia-style Romeo and Juliet, although hopefully not as tragic, John and Siena found love in a hopeless place. Yes, I'm singing along now lol. But seriously, their families are another story. On one side, you have the Marcellos trying to ensure John's sanity, keep the peace, forge a stronger bond with him, all while maintaining the status quo. On the other, you have the Calabreses deviously plotting away at something underhanded that you can't quite put your finger on. You just know they're up to no damn good!

I loved how intense each scene was between John and Siena. Their instant chemistry was sizzling and I enjoyed how they played off of each other. She was understanding and John was as honest as he could be. However, I think what I loved the most about this story, aside from revisiting some of my favorite characters

(hello Cross!), was how eloquently and passionately the author revealed the layers of John's psyche. I couldn't help but feel overwhelming compassion for him. It was worded in such a way as to give me a chance to **REALLY** see things from his point of view. How something so simple could be a trigger for his irrational thoughts, his paranoia, his distrust, his hurt, his lashing out, his extreme pain. It was beautiful and devastating and desperate and genuine. It only made me love him even more.

There's plenty of romance and action and intrigue to keep the plot entertaining and while this was a lot tamer on the eroticism side of things than I'm used to from the author, it was also very character-driven, which I could appreciate. John and Siena's story isn't complete and I'm on edge just waiting to read the continuation in **Disgrace**, coming in April.

Release: 03.05.2018 | **Genre:** Mafia Romance | **POV:** Dual - 3rd person | **Heat:** 2.5 | John + Siena Book 1

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Paganalexandria says

The Marcello and Calabrese families are bitter enemies, with decades of lies, secrets, and death between them. Johnathan Marcello is fresh out of prison, trying to reestablish his place in the family. Everyone remembers his past mistakes, and quick to remind him at every turn. Siena Calabrese is a mafia principessa, with a twist; the bookkeeper/money cleaner for her family.

1. Siena was a standout heroine for me. She was smart and ballsy without sacrificing femininity.
2. I really believed in the connection between the two.
3. The slow build of events were really effective in laying out the hero's issues in a realistic way.

The Bad:

1. The exploration into mental illness was a little too real. This is a case of real life, intruding into how I processed a read. My being triggered is actually a compliment to the effectiveness.
2. Cliffhanger

Final Thoughts:

This was an emotional read that delves into more serious things a lot of people can relate to. If you like an imperfect hero, you might want to check it out.

*Received Arc from the author.

Pamela says

Before he was incarcerated, Johnathan Marcello was a mafia capo. After being released on probation, Johnathan's family tries to help him but he doesn't see it that way. On the way to a job for the family, John meets Siena Calabrese, the daughter and bookkeeper of a rival family. The story revolves around John's instability and the families' rivalry with some deceit and betrayal thrown in.

This was my first time reading a mafia romance and I enjoyed it. The story reminded me of Romeo and Juliet mafia style (view spoiler)

I will be reading other Bethany-Kris' books.

Deanna♥Pink Lady♥? says

Loyalty

5 “Loving Johnathan” Stars

I just finished a beautiful, emotional, raw and gut wrenching read. Johnathan Marcello.....♥?♥?♥?♥?. He's such a difficult man but it's not by his choosing. Mental illness is a struggle and being a Capo and trusting his Family creates more struggle internally that Johnathan must navigate as well.

Johnathan has just been released from prison after serving 3 years and he needs to keep a low key. But when a beautiful girl sparks his eye on the bus, all bets are off at keeping a low key. Especially when the beautiful girl is Siena Calabrese. Hatred and Distrust run between the families but sometimes love goes against the grain. John and Siena only see themselves even though their families see other things.

This story was truly beautiful as it was emotional. With the Mafia as the backdrop, Johnathan's bipolar disorder, falling for the enemies daughter and watching the love and trust grow between John and Sienna, this story exposed the complications, the sadness and the heartbreak of mental illness. Watching and being in the mind of Johnathan, but also seeing his family and their concerns, it was all raw, crippling and so very moving. And being part of the mafia, the family is also important. But to what detriment does Johnathan and the Marcello Family clash and come to odds because of the mental illness?

Mental illness isn't easy for anyone. The person and the family are all victims of the disease. What the author accomplished with this story was truly mesmerizing in that I could feel the high as well as the low. John and Siena and the love that forges them together is also too early and too soon after his release from prison. There are too many variables in Johnathan's life and something has to give. And when he begins to spiral out of control, can Siena and his family help or are they too late?

I just loved this story with all its emotional angst. I felt joy and sadness, I cried and I hoped. I fell in love with Andino Marcello for his loyalty to Johnathan. And the rest of the Marcellos.....well they will always have my heart and loyalty. I just hope I can wait patiently for the conclusion to John and Siena's love story. I know it's gonna be a war.....

advanced copy provided by Indiesage PR in exchange for an honest review

Alex ? says

[He killed her father (hide spoiler)]

Bethany-Kris says

Loyalty is live!

Amazon US: <http://amzn.to/2FNvaEf>

UK: <http://amzn.to/2FLZ9My>

CA: <http://amzn.to/2nJnnzL>

AUS: <http://amzn.to/2E3ZZrR>

iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/id13...>

Kobo: <https://www.kobo.com/ca/en/ebook/loya...>

B&N: www.barnesandnoble.com/w/1127927978

Sara ➤ Ink Is My Sword says

3.5 “Bipolar Disorder” Stars

“She could be the ocean. He didn’t mind drowning.”

➤ FULL REVIEW NOW POSTED:

I usually don’t gravitate towards mafia romances, they tend to be too dark for my taste and I have problems relating towards the morally grey characters ~~which is exactly the opposite for me in the fantasy genre, but I guess it is in the real world is too much for me to handle~~. Yet, I have noticed lately if I am in the correct mood I can appreciate and even enjoy these things. As long as my mind is prepared to get into a messed up, sometimes problematic read. So when I picked up this book I had dressed in all the armor to resist hating the dark stuff. **Surprise, surprise I enjoyed this a lot.** Little did I know that this book is what I will call a pretty realistic portrait of the mafia. At least what I think it is, as I don’t have any link to it. Meaning there is not a lot of gruesome/ violent stuff going on. Most of the time our main characters pass either in negotiations, family meetings, or handling business accounts completely opposite to my mental image of guns, guns, and more guns. They do take a part of the story but very minimal. **So I would really recommend this books to the reader who wants to dive for the first time to this romance subgenre.**

I loved how this book deals with mental health, besides the fact is a near experience to the author in her family, so she knows what she is talking about. We follow John who is a capo in the Casa Nostra family, he was diagnosed with **bipolar disorder** since he was a teenager, and we see his struggles with the stigma this disorder brings into his life. Bipolarity is very present throughout the whole book, is not just in the background noise. I found I connected a lot with John’s character ~~yes I related to a mafia guy *GASPS*~~ and I could actually feel how his maniac episodes affected him in the writing. The way he said he couldn’t focus on many things, it was interesting how I could feel that also throughout the style of writing. Also, the unconditional love and support from the family were awesome, even if through John’s eyes felt like unjust

decisions. A great portrait on how we depicted help sometimes when we are in a bad mental state.

I also highly enjoyed our heroine, Siena. She was a very strong yet different from other female characters with this description. Because the mafia is a scene full of sexism, viewing women as just a compliment to men, it was interesting to see how she could still resist barking back to those comments. Not because they weren't offensive but because she knew the danger, something different for me to read from YA female leads who just recklessly fights everything. **She was a very smart and also a romance reads lover like me, scenes featuring this passion were some of my favorites.**

I was a huge fan of both main characters individually, sadly I was missing more sparks between the two. I liked everything we saw in the relationship, especially the way John could find a safe space in Siena without making her a solution to his problems. But I just wasn't feeling them in my being, if you get me ~~probably you don't get me because this is a weird af sentence lol~~. There is something I need to highlight which is how Jonah is a bit in the alpha male spectrum, which will usually make me run miles away, but in this story just worked.

I do give a huge applause to Bethany because this mafia word is so rich. I found out there are way more series and books from other characters that appear in this book and believe me I am so intrigued. If anyone knows if Andino has his own book, please tell me down below, I loved him.

In conclusion, I recommend this to readers that like romance but haven't ventured into the mafia subgenre much or don't like it because it is too violent and dark. Also if you want mental health representation in your romantic reads.

Pre-reading thoughts:

Weather is cold, rainy and is calling for a mafia romance.

I have heard this deals with **bipolar disorder** so I am hella excited to see how it is dealt with in such a dark environment.

S.M. West says

THIS book!! OMG, just sayin' it up front - it's a MUST READ!!

I'm always engrossed with BK's books. I LOVE mafia romances, no surprise, and Bethany is my Queen. When I want a fix of La Cosa Nostra, action, suspense and romance, and most importantly, the anti-heroes that make my heart beat wildly, Bethany is my go-to. So I totally expected Loyalty to check all my boxes, and it did!

But what I didn't expect was the added complexity and emotion given this story also deals with mental illness. John Marcello not only has to deal with the responsibilities of being in the mob and all that goes with that, he's bipolar. BK masterfully weaves a tale that balances both the light and the dark in a way that was sublime! Truly originally, but raw and real.

And Siena Calabrese is one kickass heroine. I loved her and couldn't wish for anyone else for John. Their story and romance is simply amazing! And the chemistry between these two is scorching!! Their relationship

was so pure and special. They drew me in really quick, and I didn't want this book to end.

I'm anxiously awaiting the next book! It can't come soon enough!

ARC received from the author. I voluntarily reviewed.

For more reviews and blog posts.

Jemima says

Title: Loyalty (John + Siena #1)

Author: Bethany-Kris

Genre: Romance

Publication Date: March 5, 2018

I strive to tell the truth and nothing but the truth. So, I'll be honest and say that I wanted to read this series for no other reason but for the sole fact that Loyalty is Lucien Marcello's son's story.

Now, I write this review because I want you to read this book regardless of the feeling of nostalgia. Loyalty is beautifully written. It's fast paced, detailed and invokes a plethora of emotions that will leave you blissfully content.

Having said that, Loyalty is also different from any other story that revolves around organised crime. I've read my share of books that brings into the light the topic of mental health but Loyalty did something that the others didn't do. Like I mentioned, I've read a few books that deals with mental health but someone they also felt incomplete...like it just skimmed through the topic. Bethany- Kris has written a book that's detailed and educative without it feeling like as though you're reading a self help book. I loved the fact that she's written a book that provides everything we love about any mafia romance- love, lust, greed and betrayal.

Loyalty shows an imperfect perfect world ... it shows the struggle, the strength, will and determination of someone who is considered 'imperfect' in an 'perfect' world.

The star of the book for me is John, I admire his strength but Siena is no damsel in distress. Their chemistry is off the charts and it's unconditional love is something to aspire.

I highly recommend any Bethany-Kris book... Her books are addictive!

For more ...
www.jemimajamir.com

Expresso-Girls Just Wanna Have Books ; A Mafia Romance says

I tried to read this story as slowly as possible. I knew John and ultimately Siena would wreck me. I knew it. Needed it. Prepared for it.

I can't adequately prepare you for John and the wealth of emotions you will feel for this character. I can only warn you to arm yourself with wine, chocolate, and tissue. Siena is an amazing character and is exactly what John needs. Their story is an emotional journey that must be read! John is creating his own mark in this cruel world. I'm definitely along for the ride!

Five stars!

Disclaimer: This review is my personal opinion of this amazing and phenomenal story. I attempted to convey the quality of writing and the amazing scenes without spoilers. As usual my personal opinion should have ZERO influence on your experience with the story. With that being said, read, enjoy, and leave a review!

Elizarey says

Loyalty was good! Really good. I liked both Siena and Johns characters. Bethany took a chance with this book to explore mental illness and how that may affect a relationship in the romantic sense and with family. I think this aspect of the story was done very well and made me understand more what it is like to live with a mental illness.

Siena and John had great chemistry and were good for each other. Always in tune with what the other needed and the best way to do that.

Siena is a Calabrese and John is a Marcello... these two families do not go well together but their not going to let that stop them. This is definitely a big factor in the story and looms over the couple, especially at the end.

I cant wait to see how book two works out for Siena with her brothers, I have a feeling they are going to be a huge part of the next one.
