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A shy young woman, raised in a conservative community, seeks to break free from her predetermined path and explore her desires but emotionally unavailable best friend Cole. She proposes an arrangement where he would be the first person she loses her virginity to, without any romantic commitment. However, when she expresses her intentions to him, his reaction is unexpected - anger and protectiveness. He refuses to be intimate with her, even as no one else seems to be able to approach her. Despite Cole's initial hostility, they share a kiss that changes everything, leaving the protagonist wondering if she misjudged him entirely. This novella explores themes of religious trauma, relationships, and self-discovery, offering an engaging story with a captivating delivery, a compelling couple, and enjoyable narration. This book was really good I loved the couple but I wish I could've learned more about their relationship at the end The main character enjoyed reading One Handed Feather by Lindsay Marsolais, getting hooked from the start and eagerly awaiting the next installment in the series However, another reader found the story to be entertaining but lacking depth The characters were not well-developed, with little description of them and poor development throughout the plot This tale was relatable for one reviewer, who enjoyed seeing a realistic portrayal of human emotions and experiences Another reader pointed out that the book's handling of purity culture as a theme left much to be desired Purity culture is often blamed for stifling young people's desires and curiosity The story follows a woman raised in this environment who wishes her best friend, Cole Walker, would take her virginity She feels stuck in the friend-zone and longs to move on However, when she asks Cole to take her V-card, he reacts negatively The two share a kiss that makes the world stop, but their relationship is not without controversy One reviewer criticized the heroine's passivity and the hero's lack of commitment They also felt that it didn't make sense for her to pursue him while trying to get over him Another reader praised the story's grounded portrayal of human emotions and experiences The plot explores themes of purity culture and virginity, with a focus on two characters who have secretly loved each other since childhood I was underwhelmed when I quickly got attached to the wrong person, which is honestly quite pathetic of them. Anyway, this book just didn't live up to my expectations. The heroine's lack of common sense and inability to hold a conversation made it hard for me to suspend my disbelief. They're all over the place with their thoughts, talking to themselves, each other, and friends. I get that using your words is important, but these characters' circular reasoning was exhausting. What really bothered me was how both Cole and Livvy came across as fake plastic people. It's hard for me to connect with characters like that. I did finish the book, though, so I'll be generous and give it 2 stars. However, my opinions are always my own. YMMV. It seems like these types of heroines are often paired with manwhores, which is frustrating. Tragic flaw: the heroine overgives herself and doesn't ask for what she wants, making her journey SO satisfying! MMC who loses his mind when his shy best friend starts to break out of her shell and flirt with friends; a dom who frequently says "good girl"; primal kink; mutual pining; extremely jealous and possessive MMC. The book's portrayal of purity culture is a massive middle finger to a movement that perpetuates shame and low self-esteem in young girls. I agree with this sentiment, but as someone who makes personal choices outside of societal expectations, I also can't let myself be judged solely because my choices align with those of an oppressive group. At the same time, I'm troubled by the book's depiction of submissiveness and agreeableness as signs of weakness rather than strength. Caring for others when it's difficult, putting others first, and being demure doesn't mean you're weak - it means you're compassionate and selfless. It's also disturbing to see a heroine who, in an attempt to prove her strength, acts toxically towards someone she supposedly loves. We should hold our male leads to the same standards as our female ones, calling out toxic behavior without excusing or romanticizing it when displayed by men. A reader praised the book for its quick and easy read, loving the characters of Livvy and Cole. They related to the themes of purity culture, having grown up in a Christian household where they were taught to wait until marriage and dress modestly. However, another reviewer was embarrassed to have finished reading it, finding it difficult to look past the book's problematic portrayal of possessiveness and double standards. They noted that the hero sleeps around but is excused because he had no hope of being with the heroine initially. A third reader received an ARC and initially hoped for possessive moments but ultimately DNF due to the book's problematic themes and treatment of relationships. They suggested that readers can overlook these issues if they're willing to look past them. He had many OWs around his big love interest, making out with them in front of her, but later complained about the women surrounding her. He told her "you never acted jealous," which seems hypocritical. The protagonist has loved him for years but wants everyone else to be happy; However, she dreams of marriage with him and has only considered a Christian husband in the past. From his conversations with friends, it's clear he knows about other women and even talks to them about it. His mother mentions "lady friends," and his friends call him "fuck boy." He admits bringing many women around her, which is mentioned frequently throughout the book. When she kisses him, he hesitates, saying he needs time. Later, he picks up another woman and makes out with her in an Uber. Despite knowing about her feelings, he's willing to pursue other relationships easily. The protagonist feels betrayed because he doesn't prioritize their relationship. She compares him to someone who is touchy with women he wants but not with her. After sex, he says he doesn't believe in monogamy. The female protagonist has a to-do list of impure activities she wants to do within 3 months. Her best friend, Cole, rejects her offer after being traumatized by family issues and fearing commitment. She's upset when he says no because she thinks he'll change his mind about wanting a relationship with her. When they finally have sex, she tells him she loves him and expects them to be in a relationship. When he declines due to his fears, she leaves and walks out naked 10 minutes later. The author is frustrated that the protagonist is mad at Cole for not overcoming his fears quickly, when she didn't change her views enough time to assimilate anything. Given text here She said he's only afraid to lose her and leave his house. She makes him wait until she feels ready, knowing for sure that he wants to be with her, because she's tired of waiting for him to be ready to date her for years. When she explicitly told him that she'd only date a Christian guy, which contradicts the fact that he wasn't one. I don't like her, but I do find the hot part interesting. Edit: After seeing an author recommend this book on TikTok, I was about to comment how much I dislike her books and think this one is trash. However, it was the author's account that I saw, so I didn't say anything. I'm not as mean as I thought. Review: The heroine is a doormat who claims she isn't but ultimately turns out to be one. The hero is a jerk who says he's overprotective, but his true intention is to keep her trapped in a relationship with him. Despite the author highlighting this point repeatedly, it's conveniently forgotten by the end of the book. I have a strong dislike for all of Skyler Mason's books, and I often forget that they're written by her until I see them on Goodreads. Her male leads are always horrible, and the heroines pretend to be independent but ultimately fall back into unhealthy relationships. The author's books have potential, but they consistently fall back into the same issues. I should be less harsh, but someone needs to tell Skyler Mason that her books would be better if she wrote decent male leads or allowed the heroines to remain single by the end of the book. Taking away from the book's core concept is a major turn-off. From the get-go, I felt like something was missing - despite decent writing, the story lacked depth. The lack of plot made it hard to invest. Character-wise, I didn't connect with the heroine; her actions were often petty and unconvincing. Her growth was stagnant, making me disinterested in her interactions. The only glimmer of hope was when she expressed self-awareness, like when H said "You're too dependent on me emotionally...". This line was comical and relatable. However, I'm still unsure about the hero's character; he lacked development beyond his daddy issues and weird obsession with the heroine. The side characters were forgettable, with unresolved storylines that frustrated me. The romance fell flat - the childhood friends-to-lovers trope was handled poorly. There was no buildup or explanation for their feelings, making it feel unearned. The dialogue was awkward, and I felt like I'd read 200 pages of nothing. Overall, I wanted more from this book, but sadly, it didn't deliver. I struggled to finish this book, which feels like a novella but is surprisingly long. The main character's transformation from a puritanical virgin to a more primal sex kitten was jarring and overwhelming. While I appreciate the author's willingness to take risks, the pacing felt off and the ending was rushed. The epilogue, often criticized for being out of place in some readers' opinions, feels like a crucial part of the story to me. The heroine never lost her faith, which is admirable. However, Livvy's story expanded my repertoire of smut to an uncomfortable level, making me question why this book was published. I would've expected such explicit content on Wattpad, but its presence in a published novel has left me perplexed. I'm not sure what I really know about the book, as I read it despite my reservations. The imagery burned into my mind is too extreme to be easily cleansed. Read at your own risk, as this book explores themes that may challenge even the most open-minded readers. The author's writing style and character development are as strong as ever, making it easy to become invested in Livvy's story. However, her transformation into a more sexual character might not be for everyone. I'm already craving Skyler Mason's next release, which promises to deliver similar content. Her characters' struggles feel real, and their relationships are relatable. The book's exploration of love, desire, and personal growth left me with strong emotions.

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