



Cancelled (The Red Ink Collection, #1)

Elizabeth Ann West

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Robotics engineer Johnathan Michaels knows about biding his time. In love with his business partner, Alexis Rodriguez, it's just never been the right time.

Finally both single, they extend their bond over saving the company's first multi-million dollar defense contract into a budding romance. Until a previous one-night stand appears to return Johnathan's shirt. Pregnant. And it's his.

Now Johnathan's scrambling to keep up at work, keep his fiancee happy, and deal with his impending fatherhood. How long can he keep it all going before his love life is CANCELLED?

CANCELLED puts a new spin on the rules of contemporary romance/chick-lit with a male POV and an ending that packs a punch. 75,000 words.

Librarian's note: See alternate cover edition with this ASIN here.

Cancelled (The Red Ink Collection, #1) Details

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Author : Elizabeth Ann West

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From Reader Review Cancelled (The Red Ink Collection, #1) for online ebook

Newbee (JoAnn) Brown says

When I asked the author where to leave a review for her book, she told me to please be honest, that her ego was perfect, lol, so I'm going to be honestly blunt here.... I don't normally navigate toward romance books. The reason is that usually they are too graphic in the romance department for my tastes, and too predictable about what'll happen in the end. So I was pleasantly surprised with this one! She was very tasteful in the romance department and there were enough twists and turns in it to keep me guessing about what would happen! Very well written and a joy to read.... I loved the fact it was from a man's point of view! It could have been a bit smoother in a few places, but not overly noticeable.... Loved it and highly recommend it!

I wouldn't mind a sequel to this book.....

Sheila says

Honest romance, written from the man's point of view, Elizabeth Ann West's *Cancelled* is a quick read, satisfyingly untypical, with successful male and female protagonists in a world of robotics engineers, business contracts, deadlines and betrayals.

Is it really betrayal to sleep with someone else when the girl of your dreams hasn't yet shown she cares for you? What if you then get engaged to dream-girl? What if your past is rushing to catch up with you and carries a deadline nobody can miss?

Johnathan seems self-absorbed but hides an inner honesty and strength. Alex seems ever-wavering, ever-patient, but will she break? The stepmother shatters stereotypes while family ties shatter hope. Meanwhile trust, communication and betrayal carry their own costs.

Delays might cancel contracts. Betrayals might cancel dreams. And failure to communicate might cancel hope. There were moments when I almost closed this book, thinking "why don't they just talk," but I'm glad I didn't. Each page tells me more of past present and future, and the ending when it comes feels very satisfyingly right.

Disclosure: I received a free copy of this novel from the author in exchange for my honest review

Klaudyna Z. says

I really loved this story. If only we were all so lucky to have a Jonathan in our lives to step up to the plate like that and claim responsibility for his own child.

I usually am upset when the main characters don't end up together at the end but I have to say I was relieved when Jonathan and Alex didn't end up together. Throughout the whole book it just didn't seem right between them to and even when Jonathan did both registries it was obvious that him and Kellie had more in common than him and Alex.

I absolutely hated Alex's character and thought she was a completely selfish bitch who didn't even give Jonathan a chance and didn't see how responsible he was being for the mistake that he made. I also didn't particularly like Eric's character and hoped that at the end he would leave Alex high and dry also but oh well.

I really enjoyed this book and can't wait to read more by this author.

Emily Wrayburn says

To be perfectly honest, romance is not my usual genre of choice, but after chatting to the author on her blog and mine, I was intrigued enough by the premise to give it a go.

While I did find the characters in this book a little frustrating at times, and while I tend to always find typical romance-y language a bit flowery and over the top, I did actually find 'Cancelled' really enjoyable. The characters were well-rounded and the plot did not focus solely on the romance - while that was obviously important, the characters struggled with stressful work and crazy family members just as much as the romantic relationships.

While the book does not have a typical 'happily ever after' ending, the ending it does have is really the only one that made sense, considering everything that happens throughout the book. (view spoiler)

Overall, a nice, quick and easy read, even for one who wouldn't usually pick up this genre of book. :)

Donna McBroom-Theriot says

The author kept you at the edge of your seat with all of the unexpected twists and turns in this book. From the seemingly goody two-shoes best friend/girl friend who turns out to be quiet the manipulative ex-fiance' to the innocent baby, you will enjoy each page in Cancelled. Three best friends start a company which is finally becoming the successful company they all dreamed it would be; but is one of them bent on destroying it?

A love story, normally told from a female's point of view was refreshingly told from the man's point. Johnathan's many layers – his love for his co-worker, his sense of right and wrong, his devotion to his unborn child – make for a tantalizing read. In the end, girl gets boy, but you'll be surprised at which girl gets boy.

This book was a fast read and a good read. Looking for something to pick up and enjoy over the weekend, I highly recommend Cancelled. It will envelope your weekend and leave you refreshed for the week to come.

TC says

This book falls pretty squarely outside my comfort zone, being a romance novel of sorts. However this sounded like a thoroughly modern romance and one told through the eyes of a man, so I decided to give it a try.

Johnathan and Alexis work together as partners within their robotics company. He's an engineer/businessman and she's a lawyer. While he's been enamoured with her for years the time has never been right. Finally things start to fall into place for them, and things are looking good for the couple when a girl he had a one night stand with before they got together reappears. Kellie's pregnant and says the baby is his.

Johnathan finds himself trying to juggle the demands of the two women, and figure out the best time to tell Alex he's going to be a dad. His life is further complicated by issues with the third partner in the business and his family. While his step-mother is supportive, his relationship with his mother sees him supporting her and his half-siblings, rather than vice versa.

I was pleasantly surprised by this book. I found Johnathan a very likable guy, despite wanting to give him a good shake at times. Watching the rollercoaster relationship between him and Alex moved me from smiling to frowning, and I found myself caring about what would happen to him. Towards the end Kellie developed far more as a character which I was pleased to see.

It's hard to say too much without turning the review into a massive spoiler, so suffice it to say I enjoyed this quick, easy read that is a good reflection of how complicated modern life can be.

Kristin (Kritters Ramblings) says

Almost a novelette, this little book packs quite a punch in less than 150 pages. With a rough start and a stellar ending, I loved reading a book with both males and a female as the central characters. It was also interesting to read a book with three characters that weren't exactly the typical love triangle. And although this book may not have all the pages that most books may have, the reader is still able to find a deep and twisting story.

I said that it was a rough start because I felt as though from the beginning you were assaulted with all the characters and you were given little time to get to know them each in their own rights. I reread the first few pages twice to make sure that I had each character straight, but once I knew who we were talking about - I was ready to read on.

The twists and turns were fun to take with the characters. Although the three main characters work together, it was nice to see them both on the job and after hours. I felt that they were each complete because the reader saw them through both their work lives and their personal lives.

A little soap opera drama mixed with a great chick lit story made for a perfect novelette for a weekend read. If you like a little drama and some twists and turns, I would advise picking this one up.

Autumn Darling says

I had to force myself to finish this book, it dragged out for what seemed like forever. There was just so much information about what Jonathan does for a living that it seemed more like the author was trying to brag about her (inadequate) knowledge on engineering.

The portrayal of Kellie (the blonde idiot who happens to get knocked up from a one night stand with Jonathan) was annoyingly stereotypical. I understood the difference between the two women that Ms. West was trying to make, but I don't appreciate the way she did it.

This is one e-book that reminds you why free e-books are always a risk.

Amanda says

I may not have been so disappointed in this book had it been sold as a drama rather than a romance. Putting "love story" in the title and a couple in bed on the front cover implies the story is a romance. That is not the case here. There is no romance and there is no HEA.

But that didn't even matter because I couldn't make myself care about any of the characters. Everyone is too self-involved to care about what anyone else needs or wants. And I was really confused about why Alexis thought Eric was the baby's father when there had been no indication up to that moment that she even knew there was a baby. The stretches of time between scenes was too long and that made it hard to keep up with what was going on. This book was just too disjointed and the characters not fleshed-out enough for me to be able to enjoy it.

Susi Borath says

Elizabeth Ann West's new novel, *Cancelled*, looks at romance from a man's point of view. Jonathan is living out his dreams—he is the CEO of an engineering company he started with his two best friends, Alexis and Eric. Even better, he and Alex are finally dating after he spent years harboring a secret crush.

Just as things start to get serious and they start talking about living together and marriage, a one-night-stand from months earlier shows up in his office with news—she is pregnant with his baby.

Jonathan spends the rest of the novel trying to balance the needs of the company and the woman he loves, with what is best for his child. At times, he is successful. More often, he can't balance it all, but he sure does try. Through it all, his heart of gold is obvious.

West created a tale that is full of twists and turns, and kept me engrossed throughout. Jonathan is a very sweet and likeable character, and it was fun to see him mature throughout the book. The supporting characters were great, and were successful in keeping Jonathan on his toes.

In all, this was a great book. It is a quick read, and held my attention late into the night. I would definitely recommend *Cancelled* to any fans of romance or chick-lit, and am looking forward to future novels from this author.

Sharon says

The book up for review is "Cancelled" by Elizabeth Ann West

The main character is Jonathan who is CEO of a company he started with two of his friends, Eric and Alex. While both men are interested in Alex, it is Jonathan who eventually ends up dating her. Just as he finally has the woman of his dreams, a woman with whom he had an one night stand with tells him she is pregnant. The fact that issues arises with his company, his mother is stealing money from his sister and that he has not told Alex of the other woman's baby does not help matters. But throughout the book the reader can see he is trying his best to do the right thing for all concerned. You just could not help but like this character.

I am not one to read books in this genre as a norm. But it was a delightful book that was short but still pack a great punch. Well done on the author for making me really like this book

Theresa says

I really enjoyed this book. This is the first I have read of Mrs. West's and I will most definitely seek more out! The writing was easy and quick to read, which is something I look for in what I consider a "chick lit" book. The characters were fairly easy to relate to and identify with.

SPOILERS!!!

I was able to guess a couple of the events as they happened, such as Alexis planning to kick Johnathon out of the company. But, the way it was written was a surprise!

I did NOT expect that Alexis and Johnathon would not end up together. I kept waiting for her to come around to the baby, but she obviously didn't. Her selfishness was well written and kept me guessing to the very last page!

I loved the character Anna! She is kind and caring, but very forth coming and honest (well, except for the MAJOR omission of Johnathon and Jenn being full brother and sister!). She seemed to tell it like it is and I really enjoyed that about her!

I really did enjoy this book and can't wait to read more!!!

Tia Bach says

Girl loves boy, boy acts elusive, girl wins him over, and they sail into the sunset. Romance books have a formula. That's not necessarily always bad. Anything well written is worth reading, but what an

extraordinary surprise to find an entertaining and beguiling romance novel with a male point of view and not so standard formula.

Johnathan is unabashedly in love with his coworker. Has been for years. They've been playing a tango of dating the wrong people while avoiding their true feelings. They finally come together, but there's one problem . . . Johnathan recently woke up to an unknown woman in his bed, a woman who is now pregnant with his baby.

Never have I become so attached to a male character in a romance novel. Normally the men are cardboard cutouts and barely fleshed out. In *CANCELLED*, you see Johnathan struggling with the right thing to do. He puts family first, thanks to an unconventional upbringing. He avoids his psycho mother like the plague, while fully embracing his stepmother, Anna, as family. Anna quickly became one of my favorite characters in the book, outside of Johnathan of course.

Johnathan is so expertly layered; the reader gets to see his conflicts at work and in love while also watching him make difficult choices. He's not perfect, but I was rooting for him from early on. It was so refreshing and rare to be rooting for the man in a romance/chick-lit novel. Plus the ending definitely defies the romance formula, and I loved it. Not giving away anything more here.

I highly recommend this to readers who enjoy romance but are looking for something outside the standard cookie cutter story. This story is a breath of fresh air in a sometimes stale genre. And I say that as someone who enjoys a good romance every now and again. I just want them well written and interesting. This one certainly fits the bill.

Rating: A squealing 5 stars!

Kristin Davison says

I would like to thank Elizabeth Anne West for making an edition of this book available for free over goodreads. However the process of downloading the book wasn't as easy as I would have liked it to be.

I wanted to read this because I had read and enjoyed an austenesque book by West, and the reviews and blurb sounded interesting.

It's an interesting story that I found hard to put down. I liked that it was from a male pov, makes it different from so many contemporaries. Fast paced story, author has obviously researched and knows the subject well. It's not much of a romance as described, but it is engrossing.

Stacy Eaton says

A pleasurable change to read a chick-lit book from a man's point of view. Johnathan Michaels appears to have "his" life in order and a plan for his future when something comes up and changes things. Seeing how Johnathan tries to find his way around his problem, while still trying to run his business and get the woman he loved was interesting. I enjoyed the relationship he had with Anna and the small side twists with the

family issues.

If you are looking for a fun, simple book that won't take a lot of thought and processing, this is a good one! I look forward to reading more of Ms. West's work.
