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Shannon Stacey

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Josh Kowalski is tired of holding down the fort—better known as the Northern Star Lodge—while his siblings are off living their dreams. Now that his oldest brother has returned to Whitford, Maine for good, Josh is free to chase some dreams of his own.

As the daughter of the lodge's longtime housekeeper, Katie Davis grew up alongside the Kowalski kids. Though she's always been "one of the guys", her feelings for Josh are anything but sisterly. And after a hot late-night encounter in the kitchen, it's clear Josh finally sees her as the woman she is.

Katie's been waiting years for Josh to notice her, but now that he has, she's afraid it's too late. Giving her heart to a man who can't wait to leave town is one sure way to have it broken. But Josh keeps coming up with excuses not to leave—could it be that everything he's ever wanted is closer than he could have imagined?

All He Ever Dreamed Details

Date : Published January 21st 2013 by Carina Press

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Author : Shannon Stacey

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From Reader Review All He Ever Dreamed for online ebook

Brianna (The Book Vixen) says

Review copy provided via NetGalley

Why I Read this Book: Shannon Stacey writes good contemporary romance and the Kowalski Family series is on my auto-read list. The books in this series are cute, fun, funny, romantic, smutty, yet there's an emotional connection that the characters bring share with the reader. I absolutely love this series!

What I Liked: One of my favorite tropes is a friends-to-lover romance. I love the discovery, and the transition from friends to something more, that comes with this type of love story. Josh and Katie have been best friends for so long and have a very comfortable friendship. Katie has been in love with Josh for a very long time and everyone knows except Josh. He's never seen Katie as anything more than his best friend. And when written by Shannon Stacey, it's fun and entertaining to watch this kind of story unfold.

The romance wasn't the only thing going on in this book; Josh has some real concerns in regards to his manning the Northern Star Lodge. He's been stuck in the same town, watching everyone else around him go on and live their lives. He wants to know what else there is out there in the world. Which proves to be an obstacle for Josh and Katie's relationship but the outcome was realistic and believable.

I enjoyed reading about Rose and Andy as much as I did the lead characters. Their relationship somewhat mirrors Josh and Katie's and I was rooting for them as much as I was the main couple.

This book was just a barrel of laughs. There was funny dialogue, memorable moments, and even a possible serial killer friend.

What I Didn't Like: A little predictable in some areas but I didn't mind at all.

Memorable Moments:

"Mom wants fresh blueberry muffins for your guests, so I have to go make a test batch. That gives her time to tell me what I did wrong and make me bake more."

"So you're telling me we're having shitty blueberry muffins for supper."

"Yup."

"Wait. Did you just middle name me?"

Overall Impression: *All He Ever Dreamed* is one of my favorite Kowalski Family books. Shannon Stacey writes good small town, family-oriented romance novels without making things too serious or heavy. These books are the perfect reading material when I'm in the mood for a light, fun, smutty read. *All He Ever*

Dreamed was a great addition to the series and I look forward to catching up with this couple in future installments. I'm ready for the next book – *Love A Little Sideways* – which will be Liz's book.

Lisa Kay says

★★★★☆ (This is a review of the audiobook.) Nicely narrated by Lauren Fortgang, who has done all but one book in this series. She has a nice cadence for the story-line, emotions, and dialogues.

While this is a predictable contemporary romance story, it is nice, when I'm doing my household chores, to listen to something that isn't too heavy. Nothing new here, but it is *always* nice to return to the Kolwalski Family, as I know the characters so well. I was really looking forward to Josh's story. He's the brother who has been stuck at the family ski lodge while the others have gone out into the world to discover themselves. To tell the truth, I was expecting a bit more for him. Though I knew it would end the way it did - it had to, didn't it? - I still would have liked to have seen (view spoiler)

Rose's romance was a bit of a surprise, but I think we had hints of it in a previous book? Or am I imagining things?

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

All He Ever Dreamed is the sixth book in Shannon Stacey's *Kowalski Family* series and, start to finish, I couldn't put it down!

A little back story: I've absolutely loved every book in this series, but there's been something about Josh that has been tugging at my heartstrings since I first set eyes on him. He's the youngest of the Kowalski siblings and as each of the others left home to build their own lives, Josh's life has seemed less and less in his control. Everyone's assumed he'd run Northern Star Lodge, but they never asked if that's what *he* wanted to do. He was becoming more and more frustrated and bitter, but then one day he got a lucky break – literally. He fell off a ladder and broke his leg. As his siblings come home to help with the lodge, they start to see that Josh isn't as happy to be there as they thought he was, and this is when he finally tells them how he *really* feels about being left behind to run the family business.

So that brings us to now...Josh's story, and it's every bit as emotional as I had expected, and Josh is every bit the honorable, devoted – and very sexy – man I knew he would be! There were times I wanted to smack him right upside his gorgeous head and knock some of the stubbornness out of him, and other times I wanted to bring him home and love him all better! Such a great, great man he's turned out to be.

Katie Davis – I adore Katie. Her mom, Rosie, has been the Northern Star's housekeeper forever, so Katie grew up with the Kowalski kids. She's been Josh's best friend for as long as she can remember, but that friendship became something more - to her. She fell in love with him. Katie knows that in Josh's eyes, she's just "one of the guys" and she's sure he'll never see her any other way, but with a little encouragement from friends and family, she decides to pull out all the stops and make him see that she's all woman, she's all his, and always has been! And *this* made for some very funny, very romantic, and *very* sexy reading!

And as always, these stories wouldn't be nearly as fun as they are without revisiting the rest of the Kowalski friends, family and neighbors! It's always such a treat to catch up with them. They are caring, devoted, amazing people, people I can't get enough of!

The bottom line: Contemporary Romance fans, Shannon Stacey's *Kowalski Family* series is not to be missed! These stories are sweet, sexy, emotional tales that are guaranteed to leave you with a smile on your face and a sigh in heart!

My thanks to Carina Press and Netgalley for providing me with a copy of this story in exchange for an honest review. It's been an absolute delight!

... says

I think I've run into a case of the "it's not you, it's me"s. I used to love Shannon's books. Yours to Keep was a five star rating from me, and you know that's hard to come by. The first two in the series weren't as great for me, and these last few haven't knocked me off my feet, either. As far as I can tell, her writing hasn't changed, so alas...it's not you, it's me.

While All He Ever Dreamed was a cute, fun, light read, it was predictable. Ridiculously so.

The banter and back and forth with Katie and Josh was great. I love the friends to more storyline, but it didn't work so much for me here. The all of the sudden, light bulb moment is hard to swallow. Decades of being best friends with a girl and you'd never noticed she had boobs? Or checked out her ass? Yet your brothers--the ones who actually saw her as the sister you didn't see her as--did? Nope. Not buying it.

And when we did get the crash...the culmination of decades of friendship *finally* coming together? Talk about the disappointment of the century. It was missing *emotion*. It was almost robotic, especially after. It was a disappointment of epic proportions.

Besides that, the depth--or lack thereof--of Josh's character was frustrating. I wished we could've seen more of him besides his desire to leave, his moping around when things went a different way than he thought, and then continuing to do nothing but thinking of leaving.

In the end, while it had the HEA you knew was coming, I wished Katie had done more than sit around and wait. That, to me, knocked her down a couple pegs in my book. Don't just sit there and wait for the dude to come back, then throw yourself at him when he finally graces you with his presence. No and gross.

Also, do we have to end every single contemporary romance with a proposal? And a three name ILY? They're awkward and unrealistic and, frankly, I might stab my eyes out if I have to read it one more time.

If you're looking for a no-brainer, light CR, this was an okay way to spend the day, though I'd highly suggest Yours to Keep over it. I'll be interested to see how Stacey does the subsequent books when the problem of the hero needing/wanting to flee town isn't an issue as it has been in the last three...

Jane Stewart says

Average. No story. Small town characters with small town conversations.

This had a lot of potential but it just wasn't happening. Josh was stuck running the family business when his siblings moved away. He resents not having a choice. He dreams of a new and different life. I remembered my own thoughts when I was in my twenties, go to a big city, get a neat job, learn new things, meet new people, find out what I'm good at, what I want to do. Here, when Josh gets a chance to get away, he does nothing like that. (view spoiler) I was disappointed. But the story wasn't going to be about Josh's dreams. It was about feelings among people back in the small town.

Regarding the relationship development between Josh and Katie, it was ok, but it was not a compelling story. It was just small town friends who start becoming more than friends. It needed more about the how and why the relationship changed. I wanted someone to learn something new about the other to cause the change. I would have liked some awkwardness or unsureness. And the sex scenes needed more anticipation and emotion. They were almost robotic.

This is a feel good story. You will like the warm family fuzzies. All the siblings care about each other and help each other. They care about Rosie their housekeeper who is like a second mother to them. They care about her future.

The writer is a good writer. She makes it sound more interesting than it is. So I compliment her. It's just that when I got done, I thought oh, no real story. She needs some better ideas.

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Kindle count story length: 3,437 (425 KB) 384 pages. Swearing language: strong including religious swear words, but not often used. Sexual language: mild. Number of sex scenes: 3. Setting: current day mostly Maine. Copyright: 2013. Genre: contemporary romance.

Soany says

Ultimo libro que leo de esta autora.

Jaci Burton says

I loved this book. Katie has loved Josh forever, but in typical guy fashion, Josh has always thought of her as his bff, until one day he wakes up and realizes she's a full grown woman and his attraction to her tilts him sideways. Suddenly everything is different between them. Funny, romantic, emotional, and I got teary-eyed at the end. Another winner for Shannon Stacey in her always awesome Kowalski series!

Christi Snow says

My Review:

I've been dying for Josh's story ever since we met him in book #6. Wow, it did not disappoint. Out of the five Kowalski kids, Josh has been the one who never got to chase his dreams. The family owned a snowmobiling lodge and when his father died, it automatically fell to Josh to take it over. At that point in time, there were no other choices. But that was the problem, Josh was never given the choice. His life has always been the lodge, nothing but the lodge and that's left him feeling that there may have been something else out there that he's missed out on. He hates and resents the fact that he's never had any other options.

As a reader, you can't help but feel for this guy. He loves his family, but he doesn't love his job any longer. It's gotten to the point where he actually really resents it, but he's trapped. There aren't any other options. The family knows he's at the end of his rope and they are working other options. A couple of different ones fall into their laps and then suddenly, Josh doesn't know what to do. He knows that he's always dreamed of leaving the lodge and pursuing something else, but that also means leaving Katie.

Josh and Katie grew up as best friends. She's always been in love with him, but he's never seen her as anything more than one of the guys....until the day when his eyes are suddenly opened. I adored this aspect of the story. Josh is so clueless...and so male....you just can't help but love him for his idiocy. To make it worse, his brothers are more than willing to point it out to him on a regular basis. As a reader, I felt sorry for him, but the whole time I was giggling too. Seriously, these scenes are some of the funniest in the book. Shannon Stacey knows how to write contemporary humor and she does it best between the brothers. Between them and just all of Josh's internal dialogue...seriously, so freaking funny! That was the first half of the book.

Then the second half was the heartbreak for Josh and Katie. FINALLY, they find their way to each other, but FINALLY Josh has the opportunity to also pursue his dream. The two things don't work together. He can either have Katie or his dream because she's not leaving this little town, her business, or her mother. Seriously, it broke my heart and literally brought me to tears a couple of times.

This book had all the highs and the lows that make it just a fantastic read. The characters are amazing and Shannon Stacey remains high in the running for best contemporary romance author. I just love her books and am so happy that this one lived up to my expectations. Now I just have to decide whether to give it an A or an A+. I cried, a couple of times, and I think that just pushed it over to the A+side of things.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in return for an honest review.

Jess says

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

Blog rating: A-

Josh has been the Kowalski stuck at their family's lodge for years, the one left to run the business while his siblings all went out and explored the world. Josh is bitter and he wants out. The Kowalski's have all pitched in to get the lodge spruced up and back on its feet and now they're ready to put the lodge on the market so Josh can have the freedom he's always longed for. It's mixed emotions though because the lodge and home have been in their family for generations and no one wants to let it go, but they also don't want to come back and take over for Josh. Josh just wants a choice. He wants to be able to choose what he does with his life, whether it's to travel the world or be at the lodge, he wants that choice and for too many years he's felt trapped in the life he's currently in. He's ready to figure things out. Complicating matters is his best friend

Katie, the daughter of Rose, a woman who's like a mom to the Kowalski siblings. Josh and Katie have been best friends for years but that relationship is now changing and for Katie, it's about damn time.

Katie has loved Josh for years, but never knowing how he really felt, she kept her outward feelings toward him strictly in the friends-zone. I loved that relationship between them, they truly are best friends. They grew up together, they have tons of memories to look back on, both good and bad and it's a relationship that's important to them both. What the whole town, Rose and Josh's siblings all see is that there is so much more between them than just friendship and it takes Katie moving into the lodge to help out when her mom gets sick for Josh to finally open his eyes to see what's right in front of him.

"I have to find out what Max does for work before Josh does or I'll have to wash his stupid truck for a year." (...)

Hailey laughed. "...Why don't you go on a date with him? Find out what he does and make Josh jealous at the same time."

"I'm not allowed to use feminine wiles, as Josh called it."

"It's so cute he thinks you even know how to do that."

I simply loved this couple's relationship. I loved their history together, their easiness on page and I especially loved how their romance developed. Everything about this couple worked for me. They're both so likable, whether it's seeing Josh help out the people staying at the lodge, greeting customers he's had for years, or Katie trying to keep her own customers happy while not thinking twice about stepping up to help out her mom and Josh when Rose is sick. There's nothing about these two people that I didn't like, they both had me wrapped around their little fingers!

There has to be some heartbreak and that comes in the form of Josh, finally getting his dream of having a choice and wanting to see the places he's always heard about but never had time or the chance to see them for himself. It kills him to leave Katie, but he does and it's so bittersweet, I may have even teared up a few times when Katie was trying so hard to go back to being Josh's best friend, knowing he needed to go away but hoping desperately that he comes back. Oh the angst! Josh and Katie's journey was so well done, yes, Josh makes his choice and it's the perfect one when he finally realizes what he wants for his future.

All the Kowalski siblings show up at some point during the story and I always like seeing what they're all up to. We don't get much more about the, now single, sister Liz, other than hearing her ask about one newly divorced sheriff in town. I can't wait to see how things play out for her.

This was, simply, a wonderful read. I was hooked from the start and fell hard for Josh and Katie. The Kowalski series is one that I look forward to getting back to with each new release and this book is a stand out in a series of solid reads.

Desi says

Ay no que aburrido... no pude seguir con la trama...

Dnf 20% llegué al 5to capítulo y ya no quise seguir, estos dos no pegan ni con clicle, no hay química para

nada!! Lo que venga después será todo forzado....

♥Rachel♥ says

3.5 Stars.

You ever had it bad for someone and they didn't know it? They walk into a room and just looking at them makes your heart skip a beat? Well that's what Katie has felt for Josh...forever. Another case of unrequited love, poor Katie! Fear not, Josh wakes up and gets his head out of...well, you know.

Katie and Josh have been best friends forever. She knows Josh wants nothing more than to get out of Whitford and away from his family's lodge. Josh wants to get out in the world and follow his dreams, find something new. He's always regretted that he got "stuck" with the lodge and managing the family business while his brothers got to move on in their lives. But what if the key to his happiness is right there in front of Josh? When he finally notices Katie is a woman, not just his best friend, and "one of the guys," he's more confused than ever. She makes his heart race at just the sight of her!

Katie is thrilled that Josh finally notices her but she's afraid if he settles down in Whitford he'll always blame her for never leaving. She doesn't want to be the reason he held back on chasing his dreams.

These two had my heart aching. Katie for always being in love with someone who didn't notice her and Josh for being so clueless. Let's take a moment here so I can smack him upside the head!!! I guess sometimes people just need to figure things out for themselves. I was glad Katie wasn't the pushy type or one to give ultimatums; they rarely work and usually lead to resentment if they do.

I really loved this romance. It had just the right amount of longing and angst and enough build-up to make the payoffs oh-so-sweet. Here's a quote that'll make you swoon:

Tugging gently on her hand, Josh pulled Katie close and used his free hand to cup the back of her neck. He felt her sigh against his lips as he pressed his mouth to hers. This time, he was thorough, sweeping his tongue over hers as he claimed the kiss he'd wanted under the mistletoe and couldn't have. He tasted chocolate on her lips and felt her tremble under his touch.

I guess this is part of a series and that focuses on the Kowalski family. It's not necessary to read the previous books to enjoy this, but I'm sure I would've appreciated the updates on the others included more had I read them. I really do want to go back and start from book one, because this author really does a romance right. Sweet with just enough spice.

A copy of this was provided by Carina Press through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Brie says

Originally posted at Romance Around the Corner

Source: a review copy was provided by the publisher through NetGalley.

All He Ever Dreamed is the last book in the newest Kowalski trilogy, and as usual, the best brother goes last. It's a strong addition to the series, perhaps not the best in this new trilogy, which I think ended up being the second book, but it maintains the quality Ms. Stacey has us used to. At this point I should be ready to say goodbye to the books, and making noises about never-ending series, but I think this one still has a few more books in it.

We met Josh in the previous book, but for those new to the series, he's the youngest brother, and as such, he was saddled with the responsibility of having to take care of the family home that also acts like their business and legacy. All the other brothers left town as soon as they could, but Josh couldn't leave because there was no one else left, so he put his dreams on hold and progressively became more frustrated and unhappy. A few months before this book begins, he had an accident that forced his brothers to come home and realize that Josh wasn't happy and something had to be done with the house and the whole situation. So when the book starts, the family is getting ready to sell the house and Josh is getting ready to leave. The problem is that he's not counting with all the attachments he has to the house, the town, and to his best friend Katie.

Every book in the series features conflicts for both leads, but the first one was clearly heroine-centric, the second had an interesting balance, and this one is mostly about Josh. And his particular conflict feels very authentic, because it's based on sacrifices, desires, choices and desires to have choices. Even the climactic scene when he realizes what he wants, isn't so much about his love for Katie, but about finally having the choice to make his own decisions. And I think that we all can relate to that.

Katie and Josh have had great chemistry throughout the books, and the culmination was sweet and less explosive than I was expecting. What keeps them apart is knowing that he dreams of leaving, while Katie's life is the town, yet there's little angst in their relationship because they are mature enough to deal with it like rational, communicative adults. She doesn't get mad at him for remaining faithful to the goals he's had forever, goals she was very aware of. So I was happy with them as individuals and as a couple.

But as much as I enjoyed the main character, I had some issues with the way the romance develops. One second Josh is clueless, the next he gets hit by the realization that he's attracted to her. This is very common in friends-to-lovers stories, and it never works. It's not that I can't believe he's in love with her, but the transition is so sudden that it doesn't feel organic to the plot. It happens because the story needs it, not because the relationship develops and naturally takes it there. And it's a shame because this is one of my favorite tropes, but I'm always left slightly frustrated.

Some developments at the end of the book seemed too convenient, but this is the type of book that doesn't allow happy endings that are a bit rough around the edges, and overall I was happy with the way things ended, so I'll stop complaining now.

What I like about these books is that they are small-town romances, and have the qualities that make such series so appealing and popular, but there is thought and effort put into each story, and Ms. Stacey doesn't rely on reproducing the same formula using interchangeable characters. I appreciate a series that works under so many restrictive rules and still feels fresh after six books. I wonder what's next *cough* Drew and Liz's book *cough*.

MountainKat says

4.5 Stars

I love this family and all of the books about them!! Loved Katie and Josh, together they were even better. I knew that Josh had to leave to figure out what he wanted and it was well done, didn't like that Katie was hurt by it all even though she knew it too. There were so many wonderful funny things in this book. Loved the "middle naming" - that cracked me up, because it is so true! Christmas with the whole family was great, especially the presents Josh and Katie gave each other. I loved them, even though I think the Patriots are evil! And in the end, my heart both melted and laughed when (view spoiler) There is still the sister and a couple of townsfolk - we do get more right?!

Book Reading Gals says

Title: All He Ever Dreamed

Series: Kowalski Family bk 6

Author: Shannon Stacey

Genre: Contemporary

Josh Kowalski is tired of holding down the fort—better known as the Northern Star Lodge—while his siblings are off living their dreams. Now that his oldest brother has returned to Whitford, Maine for good, Josh is free to chase some dreams of his own.

As the daughter of the lodge's longtime housekeeper, Katie Davis grew up alongside the Kowalski kids. Though she's always been "one of the guys", her feelings for Josh are anything but sisterly. And after a hot late-night encounter in the kitchen, it's clear Josh finally sees her as the woman she is.

Katie's been waiting years for Josh to notice her, but now that he has, she's afraid it's too late. Giving her heart to a man who can't wait to leave town is one sure way to have it broken. But Josh keeps coming up with excuses not to leave—could it be that everything he's ever wanted is closer than he could have imagined?

There is so much I can/could say about this book. How I've been waiting for it ever since All He Ever Needed, how Josh is simply delicious, how much I love Josh. Josh. Josh. Josh. In fact immediately after I finished reading it I tweet Shannon that she was a Goddess for this book.

Ok so I'm just going to say it. In my opinion Josh is Shannon's best hero to date, and I've read almost all of her books. If you have read All He Ever Needed and All He Ever Desired then you know the premise for this book as the set up begins there. Josh resents being stuck in charge of the families snowmobile lodge and wants a chance to leave and do other things.

Josh also has the problem of he's finally noticed his best friend is a woman, and an attractive woman at that. Now he's suddenly thinking lustful naughty thoughts about her. While the rest of town breathes a sigh of relief that he's finally doing something about it.

There is so much I want and need to say about this book and yet the only thing I can think to say is READ THIS BOOK. I'm serious. I've been trying to write this review for a week now that is all I can come up with without giving away a ton of information about the book.

Overall I think this may be my favorite book in the series, and we still have one more Kowalski sibling to go.

Grade A+

Review by: Heather

<http://www.thebookreadinggals.com>

Viri says

Tentada estoy de darle las 5 estrellitas pero supongo que me las estoy reservando.

De toda la serie ha sido uno de mis favoritos. Había estado esperando el libro de Josh durante mucho tiempo y debo decir que fue más de lo que esperaba.

En el libro anterior Mich me decepcionó un poco, pero con este la autora me conquistó totalmente.

No sé si soy yo, que estoy muy receptiva últimamente o si es la historia. Porque bueno, decir que es de las que me gustan es poco.

¿Una historia donde la prota es tipo chico?
COMPRADO.

¿Una historia de Friends to lovers?
TOTALMENTE COMPRADO ♥

¿Una historia de búsqueda de uno mismo?
OBVIAMENTE, SI!

Y así fue. Total y absolutamente predecible. Plagada de clichés, bonita y simple.

EXACTAMENTE LO QUE BUSCABA...

“Perdí a mi mejor amiga, Rosie.” “Oh, silencio. Mi niña te ha amado por tanto tiempo que probablemente hice una nota sobre ello en su libro de bebe. Nunca la perderás.”

Tenia muy bajas expectativas, eso debo admitirlo, pero a decir verdad no quise leer las críticas malas para no crearme ideas preconcebidas. Creo que fue lo mejor porque así dejé que este libro me sorprendiera.

No es de esos libros súper inolvidables, ni siquiera es de los mejores que he leído. Pero me ha hecho disfrutar y vivir en una nube de corazones flotando ahora mismo jajaja

Además, desde que empecé con esta serie... me he ido enamorando más de la familia Kowalski poco a poco. Empecé en el 3 libro porque los 2 primeros no llamaron mi atención, pero desde ya me apunto los siguientes.
