



# Rooke

*Callie Hart*

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**Rooke** Callie Hart

Watchmaker. Car thief. Heartbreaker extraordinaire.

Rooke Blackheath has spent enough time in juvie to know that he really doesn't want to go to jail. The food sucks, the clothes itch, and there are absolutely no women in sight. Well...none he wants to fuck, anyway.

He should probably stop boosting cars, but the money is stellar and the high is out of this world. And why should he turn his back on something that sets his soul on fire anyway?

The answer to that question comes in an unexpected form: a petite five-foot-three firecracker named Sasha who refuses to give him the time of day no matter how thick he lays on the charm.

Rooke's not easily deterred, though. Just like the watches he builds from scratch, Rooke knows all too well how women tick. Women are a game to him. A game he always wins.

Sasha doesn't stand a chance.

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Sasha Cross's life has been permanently derailed since her son died five years ago. You wouldn't know it to look at her, of course. She has a great job, a beautiful house, and caring friends. Every week, she hosts a book club featuring the sexiest, most romantic stories on the planet, and every week she falls for a new fictional knight in shining armor.

Fictional men are perfect, though. They don't hurt you. They don't break your heart. They don't cheat on you after your child dies, and they rarely ever leave the toilet seat up.

When Rooke Blackheath shows up at Sasha's workplace, it's clear he's nothing like the men who grace the pages of Sasha's favorite books. Dangerous, arrogant, sharp-tongued and sarcastic, Rooke's not the kind of guy she needs in her life. Not to mention the fact that he's eleven years her junior.

They don't live in different worlds. As far as Sasha is concerned, Rooke lives in a different galaxy altogether. She'd like to keep it that way, but fate appears to have other plans.

When Cinderella lost her shoe, Prince Charming showed up at her door.

When Sasha Cross loses her book, an entirely different kind of rogue comes a-knocking.

## Rooke Details

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Author : Callie Hart

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## From Reader Review Rooke for online ebook

### CC says

Five years ago, museum curator, Sasha Connor, experienced a tragedy that caused her to lose practically everything she loves. Trying to live her life in the only way she knows how, with her heart fiercely protected, she is numb and resigned to being alone.

“And then ... everything went black.”

At 23 years old, Rooke Blackheath is an ex-con with a formidable presence and has an affinity for fixing mechanical things. While he enjoys the adrenaline rush of criminal enterprises, Rooke is also a person that observes and sees people for who they are. After a chance encounter, he meets a woman that gives him pause.

“He looks beyond the surface, beyond what you might want others to see, and he delves deeper.”

Upon accidentally running into Sasha, Rooke is intrigued by this slightly older woman who appears to be reserved and professional. After retrieving the romance novel she drops, he decides to read the book to learn more about her. Determined to see her again, Rooke arrives unannounced at Sasha’s book club and makes his intentions very clear.

“I’m attracted to the dark ache in her soul, because it’s something I can understand. Something that feels real to me.”

To say Rooke and Sasha are opposites is an understatement. Rooke is purposeful, brash and willing to take risks. Sasha is insular, quiet and doesn’t want to disturb her routine. But when they are together, Rooke forces Sasha out of her shell while still respecting her feelings. For the first time in years, Sasha feels safe and begins to want to feel again.

“The very moment he’s all the way inside me, he’s true to his word. He flips me onto my back, a sharp, jagged-edge smile cutting across his face. Feel free to scream.”

What ensues isn’t a straight path of romance, as Rooke and Sasha endure outside elements that test their

strength and dedication to each other. With Rooke, he knows without a doubt how far he will go to protect what is his. As for Sasha, being put in the position of protecting another is terrifying but ultimately she accepts what she's always known.

While Rooke offers action, hot sex and appealing characters, the overall plot left me wanting more, as there were plot points that were slightly disjointed and not fully explored. Additionally, the speed at which Rooke and Sasha find love felt a bit quick for me. However, there are tender moments when wounds are healed and love is accepted. And, I absolutely loved Rooke's reactions to Sasha's romance novel.

Ultimately, Rooke offers a chance at redemption and the renewal of hope.

*\*An ARC was generously provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.*

*\*This was a (F)BR with Hawkey!*

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## **Eliza says**

### **★4.5 STARS★**

I love the anticipatory thrill that comes along with the prospect of a new Callie Hart novel. As an avid follower of her writing, I'm well versed in the knowledge of expecting the unexpected. Rooke is exactly what I love about a Callie Hart read, it's dark, deeply-emotional and so damn sexy.

To the unknowing outsider Sasha Cross has it all. She has an impressive job, great friends and a home that most would envy. Beneath the surface however is gapping chasm left by the traumatic death of her six year old son. They say time is a healer, but in the five years since his death, she's become well adept to functioning rather than living.

By way of hero, Rooke Blackheath is the unexpected kind. He has a stint in juvenile detention under his belt and makes no apologies for his lifestyle. As far as criminals go, ironic as it is to say, he's one of the good guys. It's difficult not to be drawn to Rooke. He has a boyish charm that is endearing, but don't let that fool you, there is also the domineeringly alpha male that made me go weak in the knees.

He's a shot of adrenaline in Sasha's otherwise (self-inflicted) mundane life. As bizarrely as their paths cross, is as quickly as they become entwined. I have to say I was hesitant in regard to their age difference but my fears were quickly assuaged by not only their intense connection, but also by how little it mattered in the grand scheme of the story. I never thought there would be another hero of Callie's that come could close

Zeth Mayfair status for me, but my god did Rooke come close.

Much like my review there are a few things the blurb to Rooke does not mention. Personally for me it all was all part of the crazy ride. Rooke's world is one that no amount of warning can prepare you for.

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### Malene says

Rooke is an exhilarating, suspenseful and hot as hell story. I really enjoyed this story mainly for the characters and how they evolved. Especially Sasha who's been through one hell of a trauma five years ago. She lost her son in the process and now she's kind of a recluse. Going about her every day life which consists of work and her weekly book club.

When she bumps into the handsome and mysterious Rooke with his inked arms and neck Sasha slowly starts to come out of her shell and her walls starts to crumble. Rooke brings out what she's been hiding for five years. He's a man with so much baggage but doesn't hide it. He's upfront about his criminal history. There's an age gap of eleven years but that's doesn't matter to me. I actually love how Rooke handles it and proves to be more than his twenty three years. Their connection is intense and how Rooke sees her is freaking intoxicating. He takes charge when he sees fit and how that makes Sasha feels is really entertaining and hot.

Their relationship is a little too insta-lust/love for me but I can easily ignore that fact because these characters are too intriguing. The story is a fabulous mixture of sex, suspense and angst. Callie Hart keeps surprising me with her stories. She delivers when it comes to character development and an entertaining plot.

4 BadAssDirtyHealingStars

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### Elizabeth says

**"The love between us is fire and ice. It's loss, and it's redemption. It's pain, and it's comfort. It is everything."**

**Rooke** is a contemporary romance full of healing, raw passion, and heart-stopping action. An unlikely pair, Sasha Cross, and Rooke Blackheath find peace in the chaos and turbulence of life.

**"Drowning is a peaceful way to die."**

Sasha Cross has experienced great loss in her life. Despite her successful career and her support system of

friends, Sasha has never recovered from the pain and loss in her life. When she meets a tattooed stranger at the museum, a spark ignites, and Sasha begins to feel things that she hasn't felt in a long time.

**"Do you think I won't lock you in a basement and fuck you stupid until you can finally see how important this is?"**

Rooke Blackheath is a watchmaker by day and a car thief by night. With a quick temper and a passion for life, Rooke has lived life in the fast lane. When he meets Sasha, he is drawn to her brokenness and wants nothing more than to fill her up (both emotionally and physically). Rooke feels a connection to Sasha, and although she is unwilling to accept Rooke's presence in her life, he will stop at nothing to be by her side.

**"Rooke, my raven King."**

Told in dual POV, Sasha and Rooke create a beautiful bond that is unique, passionate, and tender. Sasha has experienced loss, and throughout the course of the story, she suffers more trauma and life-shattering events. Rooke is Sasha's protector, and although he is broken himself, their love acts as a healing balm for them both. The tempo of the story is steady, and although this wasn't my favorite Callie Hart read, I thoroughly enjoyed the strong connection between Sasha and Rooke. The action is intense, and the physical connection between Sasha and Rooke is off the charts! Rooke and Sasha are quite a mismatched pair, and yet, I found them to be perfect together. There were certain plot points that I would have liked to have been more developed and yet, the presence of Rooke and Sasha was enough to keep me happily entertained.

**Rooke** is a perfect read for someone who enjoys a tatted broken hero who finds redemption and strong independent heroine who finds peace in the most unlikely place. The relationship between Sasha and Rooke is what makes this read appealing. Be forewarned the plot takes some interesting turns but as always, Ms. Hart delivers!

**\*ARC graciously provided via author in exchange for an honest review!**

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**Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says**

4-4.5 stars ♥

This is my second book by Callie Hart and I'm becoming addicted to her writing! I love her ability to captivate me with her stories and her characters.

Rooke is one of the best parts about this story. I loved him, he is complicated, super hot, protective and kind. Also Sasha is a great heroine. After facing a really heartbreaking tragedy, she tried to rebuild her life and not let things take her down. Rooke is the perfect person to change Sasha's life.

I loved their relationship. They are hot, intense and passionate when they are together.

This is definitely a story you should check!

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### Michelle says

*ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review*

An intense, sexy, riveting, and emotionally charged romance that will set hearts ablaze. Callie Hart blew me away instantly from the opening pages as she tactfully lures her readers to an emotionally broken heroine who is suffering from the tragic loss of her son. From that opening scene, I was drawn to Sasha Conner.

Sasha is an empty void of the woman that she was once before. Her life took a turned when she survived and her son didn't. For five years, she has closed off her heart that is until she meets Rooke.

The collision of Rooke and Sasha was palpable from the start. The heat. The chemistry. The passion. The intensity. And most importantly, the emotional aspect of healing and feeling alive. Right from the start, readers could feel the connection as it was strong, visceral, and passionate.

Callie Hart did an amazing job as she beautifully weaves grit, vulnerability, love, healing, and second chances in such a gripping manner. The writing was flawless as she bring forth raw emotions and characters that will easily steal your heart from the start. Hart boldly paints a literary canvas that was full of many shades of color from pain, loss, love, healing, love, and passion. So if you are looking for a story that was poignant and full of heart then **Rooke** is the book for you.

Callie Hart

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### Christie«SHBBlogger» says

[Yes (hide spoiler)]

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### NMmomof4 says

3.5 Stars

**Overall Opinion:** I liked this more than I thought I would -- until the end!! I'm SO freaking frustrated with the ending! I even was freaking out at about the 90ish% point thinking it had to be a cliffhanger, because there was no way things would get handled appropriately in time. The suspense and criminal crap did get handled, but I was still left hanging wanting to know more about their future together! Ms. Hart, you almost cost me my iPad because I seriously wanted to throw it across the room!! So frustrated :/

**Brief Summary of the Storyline:** This is Sasha and Rooke's story. Sasha is just going through the motions of her life after a traumatic past. She is thrown off when she meets a much younger, hot, and flirty Rooke. He decides that there is something about her that makes her worth pursuing, and he goes full pursuit to win her. They dance around things for a little bit, there are some big secrets revealed, some hot sexy times, some big dramas...and they get a HFN ending.

**POV:** This alternated between Sasha and Rooke's POV.

**Overall Pace of Story:** Good until the end (see closure section). I never skimmed and I thought it flowed well otherwise.

**Instalove:** No, but they do develop stronger feelings pretty quickly.

**H rating:** 5 stars. Rooke. He was awesome! Totally my kind of loveable, damaged, hot, alpha, bad guy!

**h rating:** 4 stars. Sasha. She had a horribly tragic event happen to her in the past that made it hard for her to move on, so I understood where she was coming from when she was hesitant with the H.

**Sadness level:** Low, no tissues needed

**Push/Pull:** Yes (view spoiler)

**Heat level:** Hot. They have some hot tension, chemistry, and scenes -- but not so much it takes away from the story.

**Descriptive sex:** Yes

**Safe sex:** Yes (view spoiler)

**OW/OM drama:** No

**Sex scene with OW or OM:** No

**Cheating:** No

**Separation:** Not really. Once they're together, they are together.

**Possible Triggers:** Yes (view spoiler)

**Closure:** This had a really abrupt ending with what I would call a HFN ending. It didn't give me nearly enough closure!

**How I got it:** It was part of my kindle unlimited subscription.

**Safety:** This one should be either Safe or Safe with exception for most safety gang readers depending on personal preferences.

(view spoiler)

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◆\*Arianna◆\* says

4 Stars!!

While *'Rooke'* was different from what I had expected, I really enjoyed it. It's raw, intense, steamy and, overall, fantastically written. Callie's writing is flawless and I was immersed in the story from the very beginning. The story is gripping, the characters are intriguing and the plot really surprised me. What I really like about this author is how versatile she is. This was my third book by her and she continues to impress me with her fresh stories and vivid characters.

*"I'm drawn to that hollow look in her eyes. I'm drawn to the sadness of her. I'm attracted to the dark ache in her soul."*

Sasha is a woman in her thirties who has a great job as a curator at a museum. She's good at what she does for a living and has a fantastic group of friends. She has her books and her book club who makes her forget about her tragic past. Five years ago, Sasha lost her son in a car accident and still feels guilty that she survived while her son did not. She feels like a failure for not being able to -somehow- save him. Sasha's life changed irrevocably after the tragedy and, after divorcing her husband, she is keeping to herself. In the past five years, Sasha hasn't been spending time with any guys at all. In these five years, she tried to avoid not only men, but (almost) anyone who tried to have any kind of relationship with her.

*"He's carved out of stone. When you look at him, there's no real visible softness to him. He's a hard man to study without feeling a faint glimmer of panic sparking in your gut."*

Rooke is a twenty-three years old bad boy who, after spending some time in juvie, has no desire to go back to jail. However, he still continues to steal cars. He loves the adrenaline and the money, so, of course, he doesn't want to stop. Rooke is mature for his age, he's good at fixing mechanical things and he's even better

at reading people.

From the moment Rooke -literally- runs into Sasha, he's intrigued by her. He doesn't know what exactly makes her special, but he wants to find out. Sasha is taken aback by Rooke's dark, mysterious vibe and by his brazenness from the very first moment she meets him.

***“We’re only going to do this once,” he says. “So really think for a second, Sasha. I’m going to kiss you. If you don’t want my mouth on yours, my body against yours, then say so now and I will never call you again. But if you do want this, if the prospect of my hands in your hair and my tongue in your mouth makes your heart beat a little faster, then all this other bullshit has got to stop. Do you hear me? Do you understand?”***

I really enjoyed Callie's newest release! **'Rooke'** is gritty, twisted, emotional, hot and managed to surprised me in a very good way. Filled with suspense and steam, Rooke and Sasha's story captivated me from the very beginning. I was a little worried about the age difference between the two main characters, but Callie did a wonderful job with this aspect, mainly because of wonderful portrayal of Rooke's character. The story-line is really intriguing. While I didn't expect all the danger and suspense, I enjoyed how the story unfolded.

I loved Sasha. She's a strong woman I really sympathize with. She's a fighter, a survivor and my heart broke for her at times. Rooke is awesome...like really awesome! I loved his portrayal. He's sexy, dark, mysterious, confident and clever. He knows what he wants and goes for it and he loves to have control. I loved the sexy way he controlled Sasha. I loved his honesty about his past. He never pretended to be someone else. He is who is he – a bossy, possessive criminal. I also loved the way he is with Sasha, how slowly he gets her out of her shell, how he tries to make her believe in him and believe in what they have together. He is sweet, caring, protective and I loved the hell out of him.

***“We do not work on paper. In real life, our lives have slotted together so perfectly that I can hardly seem to remember what being without him was like.”***

These two are great together. I liked how the romance aspect was done and I absolutely adored the connection between the two main characters. I truly felt from the beginning they are good for each other. Therefore, the sex scenes are extremely hot, passionate and also a little dirty, which, personally, I loved.

All in all, **'Rooke'** is a great, fast paced, well written story filled with action, suspense and plenty of steam, with a nice developed plot and two engaging main characters.

*“The love between us is fire and ice. It’s loss, and it’s redemption. It’s pain, and it’s comfort. It is everything.”*

**Find me on:**

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**warhawke says**

**Genre:** Contemporary Romance

**Type:** Standalone

**POV:** First Person - Dual

**Rating:**

From outside perspective, Sasha Connor might look like she had everything in her life in order. As a museum curator, she was competent in handling her job, but her personal life was a whole different matter. Still reeling from her personal tragedy, she had hard time opening up her heart until a handsome rogue crashed into her life.

When Rooke Blackheath walked down the street, people went out of his way. Being a watchmaker was only one part of his job description. He lived a dangerous life without a care in the world. That was until his heart got stolen.

Based on the cover and the blurb, I actually expected a different kind of story.

*The way he studies things, including people, is quite disturbing. He looks beyond the surface, beyond what you might want others to see, and he delves deeper.*

Rooke was a bad boy. He was young and reckless. But he could also be matured and responsible when he chose to be.

*I’m attracted to the dark ache in her soul, because it’s something I can understand. Something that feels real to me.*

Sasha seemed like a prim and proper lady. She put work in maintaining a facade so other people couldn't breach her shell. But behind the facade, she longed for all the things she tried to protect herself from.

I do like their relationship dynamics. The way they met and connected was something different and for a reader, there's the relatability factor. The story was a lot more mellow than I expected but I didn't mind much until the story changed direction.

***It's strange to admit that there were benefits to being locked in such devastating grief, but it's true. There were benefits. One of them was that I never had to apologize for anything.***

I would expect to like the new direction more, however with the faster pace, I felt the story actually fizzled instead of propelled it. I like that the plot was moving, but there was nothing extraordinary about it. Everything was just scratching the surface when there were a lot more that could have been delved deeper for the questions to be answered more properly.

Rooke is a story of two people from a different side of the track who found common ground in understanding each other. It would appeal to romance lovers who like a shot of suspense in their reading

♠ ? ♠ . . . (F)BR With Twinsie CC . . . ♠ ? ♠

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**Lisa (Two Bookish Brits) says**

Rooke

**Book Description**

*Watchmaker. Car thief. Heartbreaker extraordinaire.*

*Rooke Blackheath has spent enough time in juvie to know that he really doesn't want to go to jail. The food sucks, the clothes itch, and there are absolutely no women in sight. Well...none he wants to fuck, anyway.*

*He should probably stop boosting cars, but the money is stellar and the high is out of this world. And why should he turn his back on something that sets his soul on fire anyway?*

*The answer to that question comes in an unexpected form: a petite five-foot-three firecracker named Sasha,*

*who refuses to give him the time of day no matter how thick he lays on the charm.*

*Rooke's not easily deterred, though. Just like the watches he builds from scratch, Rooke knows all too well how women tick. Women are a game to him. A game he always wins.*

*Sasha doesn't stand a chance.*

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*Sasha Connor's life has been permanently derailed since her son died five years ago. You wouldn't know it to look at her, of course. She has a great job, a beautiful house, and caring friends. Every week, she hosts a book club featuring the sexiest, most romantic stories on the planet, and every week she falls for a new fictional knight in shining armor.*

*Fictional men are perfect, though. They don't hurt you. They don't break your heart. They don't cheat on you after your child dies, and they rarely ever leave the toilet seat up.*

*When Rooke Blackheath shows up at Sasha's workplace, it's clear he's nothing like the men who grace the pages of Sasha's favorite books. Dangerous, arrogant, sharp-tongued and sarcastic, Rooke's not the kind of guy she needs in her life. Not to mention the fact that he's eleven years her junior.*

*They don't live in different worlds. As far as Sasha is concerned, Rooke lives in a different galaxy altogether. She'd like to keep it that way, but fate appears to have other plans.*

*When Cinderella lost her shoe, Prince Charming showed up at her door.*

*When Sasha Connor's loses her book, an entirely different kind of rogue comes a-knocking.*

## **ARC received in exchange for an honest review**

**NO** spoilers from me!

Rooke has definitely become one of my all time favourite characters of Callie's. He's tall, handsome and broody. He's a dangerous, sexy man covered in tattoos *\*sighs\** He's a badass and I **LOVE** it so damn much! He's immensely loyal and will protect anything and everyone he loves.

Sasha is a lovely character to get to know. She's a lady riddled with pain and guilt and we get to see just how badly that affects her, the tragedies she goes through in this book is enough to make one want to give up but not this lady. She's strong and understanding.

This book is filled with so many emotions that it shook me. One minute I was in aww at the happiness and the next my eyes were leaking from the pain inflicted on both of them. My heart hurt so much for them.

Callie Hart truly is an incredible writer, her talent **NEVER** fails to amaze me. When I heard she was writing this book I was so excited to see what she would come up with and it definitely didn't disappoint, Rooke was

perfect in every way possible. I'm so happy I received an ARC of this beauty and it saddens me I can't rate it more than a 5 star because it definitely deserves so much more!

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## **KAT ? Kitty Kats Crazy About Books ? says**

**A rook is a chess piece, but it's also a kind of crow. Dark, mysterious, clever, wily and brazen.**

**ROOKE:** In the beginning chapters we're introduced to thirty-three year old Sasha Connor as she relives the horrific, tragic accident which occurred five years ago, something a mother should never have to go through. Every night as she tries to settle down to sleep the day she lost her boy Christopher plays on through her mind in techno colour, the what if game playing havoc on her emotions.

She still lives in the house where she gave birth to her boy, his room is like a shrine, locked, left exactly how it was left the day he was taken from her. She works as a curator at the American Museum of Natural History, she has great supportive friends and holds a book club in her house every other week where she gets lost in the throes of the most perfect fictional men.

*These books are my escape from real life. Because you know what? Real life fucking sucks.*

The day Rooke Blackheath shows up at Sasha's workplace as she stumbles into Rooke, dropping the book she had her nose buried in ( *The Seven Lives of James P. Albrecht*), she can't help but compare the fictional men over Rooke. And it becomes abundantly clear that he's nothing like the men who feature in her favorite romance books.

Thinking nothing else of their unusual encounter it's not until the next book club where a knock on the door reveals Rooke brandishing the book she'd dropped that day. Allowing him access into her home and club he immerses himself in the ladies only group conversing over the book he's returning and which he has no qualms admitting wholeheartedly that he'd read it from cover to cover.

Twenty-three nearly twenty-four year old Rooke has a checkered past, he'd done a stint in juvi for as he puts it borrowing a vehicle which didn't in fact belong to him. But that hasn't deterred him going back to what he's best at, and that's a thief in the night.

**Watchmaker. Car thief. Heartbreaker extraordinaire.**

*There are fools out there that take a full thirty seconds to get a car open. Me, on the other hand? Two*

*seconds. Three maybe if I'm off my game. I'm that fucking good.*

Things between these two escalate slowly, she's promised him one date, but that one date gave her a glimpse into a life she couldn't comprehend, and from that day forward he wasn't letting her out of his clutches easily. He knew what he wanted and he was going after it.

*I'm drawn to that hollow look in her eyes. I'm drawn to the sadness of her. I'm attracted to the dark ache in her soul.*

I went through a range of emotions whilst reading this, the first emotion was tears in my eyes, sitting there feeling everything the author wanted me to feel in the first few chapters was an emotional rollercoaster of epic proportions.

**The man is sex. Pure, unadulterated, unfiltered sex. From the way he walks, to the way he wears his clothes, to the ink that marks his body...Everything about Rooke Idlewild Blackheath screams...F#CK ME!**

The second emotion was swooning, wow what can I say about Rooke, you've just got to read this to get a taste of the man. Just wow. He's everything you don't want but everything you need. His job is unconventional at best, his obnoxiousness had me panting for more. His overall demeanor kept me wanting to know everything little detail about the man.

**I'll take a part of your soul. Give me the wounded part. Give me the part that hurts you every time you breathe. Give me the part that feels so heavy you just don't think you can carry it anymore. I'll take care of it for you.**

The third emotion that zapped through me was fear, sitting on the edge of my seat whilst reading her second life changing ordeal.

So to sum it all up this book just ticked all the boxes, the cover lived up to the written words within, everything I wanted and craved this author delivered it ten fold. Highly recommend this. 1-#Click release day recommendation.

**The love between us is fire and ice. It's loss, and it's redemption. It's pain, and it's comfort. It is everything.**

\* Teasers used in my review are off the authors facebook page \*

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## Paige says

### 4.5 "Letting Go" Stars

Rooke was an unexpected, emotional, dark and dirty love story. Right from the very beginning the story grabbed my heart. And as the story progressed, it was filled with steam and suspense that kept me flipping pages. Sasha and Rooke's story was another Callie Hart success.

Sasha experienced the worst thing that can happen to any parent five years ago and she's never been the same. After that fateful day, her whole life turned upside down. Now she's got her job at the museum, her few close friends and a book club. That is until she runs, literally, into Rooke. Eleven years younger and the exact opposite of what she thinks she needs in her life, she expects him to be just a blip on her radar. At last until he shows up at her house for book club.

Rooke sees something in Sasha that mirrors something in himself and he's going to prove that while he may be an unexpected addition to her life, he's one that is for the better. As they begin a tentative relationship, both Rooke and Sasha's lives make things difficult. But their connection is undeniable if only they'll give in.

I was hooked from the start. Rooke may not have always made good decisions but with Sasha he was so much more than a troublemaker. He was commanding and swoony and sexy as sin. Sasha had endured a lot of hurt in her life but she was still strong and sassy and exactly what Rooke needed. Together they were near perfect. I did find that some of what they endured seemed like a lot for their relationship to go through in such a short period of time, but they made it work and made me love them.

ARC provided to A is for Alpha B is for Books for honest review.

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## **Dilek VT says**

### **3,5 really...**

This book had such a good potential with a very interesting male lead but the romance and emotional aspect of the book, which was very-well developed in the first half of it turned into a crazy-silly thriller in the second half of it.

The first part of the book is between 4 and 5, but the second part was 2 stars for me, with lots of unnecessary drama; hence 3,5 stars from me - but I cannot round it to 4, sorry, because the second half wasn't convincing or satisfying enough for me.

**Rooke** is the name of the hero in our book. He is a very interesting alpha-male character who is actually 11 years younger than the heroine, Sasha, but you never feel it because he is ... something else...

Rooke is uber-alpha, dominant, mature, smart, direct and he is reliable as a friend or a partner. However, he has a flaw, he is also a thief. He has a criminal record.

**This was one of my biggest problems** because I still do not have an answer why the son of a rich family steals cars. Was it just for the adrenaline, the thrill or for money? I still have to guess. I would have expected a logical reason for him doing this for so many years and getting involved with other criminals and dangerous people.

Having said that, I must admit that Rooke is always honest with Sasha – he never hides what he is.

**Sasha** is a damaged young woman at the age of 34. She has been going to a therapist for 5 years after a tragedy but she still hasn't healed. She goes through the motions of life but she doesn't enjoy life, she is still in deep pain.

**This was my second problem.** The heroine Sasha was already suffering from a great tragedy in her past but

the writer chooses to put her in three other different near-death experiences and I really started to yell at a certain point, saying, *“Oh come on, isn’t what she has endured so far enough, why do you keep throwing her at one tragedy after another?”*

In the past, she had a tragic car accident, (view spoiler).

All that was enough to ruin her and she has been going to a therapist for 5 years but in vain – it hasn’t helped her enough. Also, she hasn’t been with anyone else for 5 years.

So, when Rooke comes into her life, she naturally resists first because he is younger and she is scared to love and lose again. However, as I said before, Rooke is something else... He literally tears down all her walls and inserts himself in her life.

Think of a huge guy with tattoos all over, dark hair / dark eyes, which is a scary look for most people when they look at him but what our heroine Sasha sees is the very sexy and soft look behind the scary facade. She cannot resist him and their over-the-top chemistry is very well reflected in the book. It is steamy hot between them.

Rooke is immensely attracted to Sasha. He also sees her sad soul and he can relate to it. He never sees the age difference as a problem. He feels the strong chemistry between them and he thinks only what they feel matters.

*I’m drawn to that hollow look in her eyes. I’m drawn to the sadness of her, the way she seems to visibly throb with it.*

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*“I’m nearly twenty-four, Sasha... You think the amount of days I’ve been alive on this planet has any real bearing on how well I can fuck you? You think the date on my driver’s license means I won’t be able to make you come? That I won’t be able to love you? That I won’t be able to make you happy? If that’s the case, then you are the child here, not me. You’re clinging to this age bullshit like it’s a life raft that’s saving you from drowning, Sasha, when it’s the only thing dragging you under. This moment, here, right now... this is the only time when our ages will ever really matter. You’re eleven years older than me. Accept it. Let it go. You’re fighting an unstoppable force, Sasha. I’m growing impatient...and I do very, very rash things when I grow impatient.”*

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*“I’m fucked. I am completely, one hundred percent fucked.”*

*“What are you talking about?”*

*“I’m going to have to quit my job. I’m not going to have time to work anymore. I just found my new favorite pastime, and I sense it’s not going to leave me much time for anything else. Jesus, Sasha... Making you come is fucking incredible. The way your head tipped back. The way your thighs tightened around my head. The way my name sounded when you were panting it like a motherfucking mantra. I’ve only heard it once, and I can’t live without it now.”*

As you can see, Rooke is something else. And the inevitable begins. They are together and they burn the pages when together!

**The first half of the book is really good and promising.**

What I naturally expected from the second half of the book was how their relationship would develop and how Rooke would help her heal while Sasha affects him positively enough to make him stop his criminal activities.

However, this never happens!

The second half of the book is a crazy thriller... And **this was my third problem.**

Sasha endures 3 more near-death experiences, one is her fault and the other two are when other people hurt/beat/threaten or kidnap her... See? So many tragedies one after the other! So unnecessary! I don't know why the book took this path at all!

I was expecting that she would finally let her pain go after 5 years of suffering with the help of her connection with Rooke but the writer created one drama after the other instead of focusing on solving the "already-there for 5 years" problem!

Reading all these events were both **frustrating and boring** for me.

In the end, they are happily together, having survived all these horrible tragedies that came to their way and I still don't know if Sasha has healed now and if so, how...

I also don't know if Rooke is going to stop his criminal activities...

Hey, I still don't know why he started stealing at all, being the son of a very rich family...

And therefore, the second part of the book didn't live up to the high expectations it created in the first half... Sorry, I am really sorry - it could have been a 5-star book :(

### **Do I recommend it?**

Well, I don't regret reading it - I am just sorry that it wasn't what I expected. Still, just getting to know a guy like ROOKE might be your reason for reading it, he really is a different character!

P.S. At the end of the book, in the "questions/answers" part with the writer, there is a very slight hint that the writer may continue to write about them but I really don't know for sure. And after this point, I really don't care!

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**Sonya ?Chatterbooks book blog? says**

???? 4 Stars ???

This book took me completely by surprise!! I really wasn't expecting to have such an intense connection to these characters and let me tell you, I fell for Rooke from the moment he uttered his first word. This was

exactly the kind of the story that I was looking for and I'm glad I got to be a part of Rooke and Sashay journey.

***“The love between us is fire and ice. It's loss, and it's redemption. It's pain, and it's comfort. It is everything.***

Five years ago Sasha Conner's life changed dramatically. Having to go through what no one should ever have to experience, Sasha is now trying her best to move forward. But that's easier said than done and for Sasha, no amount of time is going to make her forget. How do you move on from something like that? One person is about to give her a crash course lesson on learning how to love herself again and what it means to be in love.

Rooke has been in his fair of trouble in his life. From spending time in a detention center, to working with the Mob, and stealing cars, he's practically seen and heard it all. So when he bumps into an older brunette at a museum where his grandfather works at, Rooke sees something in her that he's desperate to explore more of. But all Sasha is seeing between them is a age gap that speaks volumes and despite his cocky good looks, being with someone like him can only lead to heartbreak and she's had enough of those to last a lifetime.

Will Rooke give up on his pursuit of having Sasha?

Or can these two people finally have a love worth fighting for?

***“I'll take a part of your soul,”.. “Give me the wounded part. Give me the part that hurts you every time you breathe. Give me the part that feels so heavy you just don't think you cannot carry it anymore. I'll take care of it for you”. “***

I really enjoyed this one. It was fast paced, sexy as hell, and just when I thought I had the plot figured out, I got a reality check. I was on the edge of my seat for this one and I loved the fact the Rooke didn't waste any time in letting Sasha know where he stood. That man was a force to be reckon with and when he entered the bedroom?

This is one Hero you're definitely going to want to read about.

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