



## Smooth Talking Stranger

*Lisa Kleypas*

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## **Smooth Talking Stranger Lisa Kleypas**

Jack Travis leads the uncomplicated life of a millionaire Texas playboy. He makes no commitments, he loves many women, he lives for pleasure. But no one has ever truly touched his heart or soul. Until one day, a woman appears on his doorstep with fury on her face and a baby in her arms. It seems Jack is the father and this woman is the baby's aunt. The real mother has abandoned the child to her more responsible sister. And now, Jack is being called upon to take responsibility for the first time in his life. With delicious romantic tension, characters so real they walk onto the page and into your heart, Lisa Kleypas delivers the kind of novel that makes you laugh, love; cry and cheer.

## **Smooth Talking Stranger Details**

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Author : Lisa Kleypas

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## From Reader Review Smooth Talking Stranger for online ebook

### ♥Sharon♥ says

Okay, apparently I am a pretty fickle woman. With each Travis Family book I have read, I have fallen in lust with Gage, Hardy (though his isn't a Travis) and now Jack. Honestly I can't make up mind which one of them I lust the most because each story as been pretty FANTASTIC.

Have you read any of these books? If you haven't then you are missing out. I'm serious. It doesn't matter which book you start with. They don't need to be read in any particular order (IMO) because Lisa Kleypas does an amazing job of weaving everyone into the story without giving away anything important from their own stories.

In Smooth Talking Stranger we get Jack Travises story. He is the middle son of Churchill Travis. He enjoys his life and the women in it. Things were pretty simple for Jack. That is until he meets Ella Varner. She was unexpected and a bit of a whirlwind.

**Jack** ~ WOW. Just WOW. He certainly was a smooth talking guy. He was also hot, sexy, sweet and incredibly charming. He was a Travis so of course he was successful and wealthy too. But there was a simplicity about him that was irresistible. I loved that it was his smile that sent tingles to every part of Ella.

**Ella** ~ She was something special. She was fun. She was strong and such a beautiful person on the inside and outside. Life had left her a little skeptical when it came to love and happiness. She was living a life that was comfortable and safe. But things were about to change in ways that she never expected.

Ella finds herself in a situation that she has no choice with. Because she loves her sister Tara, though she is very self-centered and selfish, she finds herself taking care of Tara's newborn son Luke. What swirls around Tara is a bit unsettling and Ella is determined to do what is right for Luke.

Trying to find Luke's dad brings her to the doorstep of Jack Travis. But Ella soon finds out that nothing is as it seems. Her life with Luke becomes filled with more than just sleepless nights, dirty diapers and endless bottles. In the middle of all the chaos she finds a man that does funny things her heart.

Life has a funny way of unfolding. Ella never planned to have a baby but now she has Luke. She never thought she would want to be a mom but she doesn't know what she is going to do without Luke in her life. She also didn't expect to meet a man like Jack. He made her want more in her life. He made her want him.

I absolutely loved the connection and chemistry Ella and Jack had. Their relationship was filled with laughter, kindness and passion. The way that Jack seduced Ella's mind and body was incredible. And the anticipation to their intimate moments was crazy! I loved every minute.

I truly enjoy all things romance but I have to say Smooth Talking Stranger gave me a bit more than the traditional sexy romance story that I have come to love. This was such a heartfelt story. Watching Ella and Jack both change in ways both did not expect and little Luke being at the center of it all was wonderful. I loved this book and I highly recommend it!

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### **MelissaB says**

Smooth Talking Stranger by Lisa Kleypas was a wonderful read. I loved the characters and the storyline. Ella was a heroine who I could identify with, especially about trying to help out your family and the constant guilt you feel when you can never do enough. She has a very complicated relationship with her sister but she is there for her when her sister needs her. Ella gets a call from her mother saying her younger sister left her newborn baby at the mother's house and disappeared. Ella knows her mother cannot handle a baby, so she drives to Houston to try to figure out what is going on. Once there, she has to take over responsibility for baby Luke and try to figure out where her sister ran off to, along with finding out whom the father might be. Ella hears that Jake Travis, a rich local businessman, might be the father, so she goes to his office with Luke to demand a paternity test but he denies ever sleeping with her. Despite their rocky first meeting, Jack and Ella have a very powerful attraction to each other from the start. Jack finds an apartment for Ella and proceeds to help her as she adjusts to being a sudden mother to a newborn. Jack falls hard and fast for Ella but she has a lot of problems with commitment due to her bad childhood. Not to worry though, Jack is more than enough of a man to help her through her problems!

Jack Travis was quite a hero – he was sexy, responsible and the type of guy you would dream about having in real life. He loves Ella just the way she is and does everything he can to support and help her. He is a manly Texas man who loves hunting and fishing but he still helps with the baby and putting together a crib. I love the fact that he didn't want Luke wearing pink socks or having a "girly" bunny rabbit, so Jack bought Luke a nice "manly" toy truck. I love how Jack was dominant and possessive toward Ella but he still gave her time and space to work out her feelings. There were a lot more love scenes in this book than the last two, which was great because Jack was quite a lover – nice and dominant in the bedroom just the way I like them. The whole story was sweet and wonderfully romantic, I loved reading it.

All three of Lisa Kleypas's contemporary heroines have been wonderful. She manages to write women who I can identify with because I have some of the same life experiences. She does a great job characterizing the various feelings and emotions women go through as a result of bad childhoods and dysfunctional families. All of her heroes have been just amazingly sexy and powerful. I would have a problem choosing between them, but Hardy and Jack would have the top spots. Hardy was just such an overwhelmingly sexy man with a rough edge, while Jack was the sexy, dominant man who was always fun to be around. I can't wait for Joe Travis's story, I hope it's as good as the first three Travis books!

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### **Susanne says**

**4.5 wonderful stars!**

*He was tall and big-framed, all hard muscle and easy masculinity, with dark eyes and heavy well-cut black hair. The way he carried himself – the confidence in his walk, the relaxed set of shoulders – proclaiming that he was accustomed to being in charge.*

**Say hello to Jack Travis!** He is fantastic. He is hot but he is also warm and caring without losing his alphaness. As soon as they meet, sparks fly.

*"Why? Do they make you nervous?*

*"Not at all." I gave him a mock-threatening glance. "I eat alpha males for breakfast."*

*There was a spark of mischief in his dark eyes. "I'll be over here early then".*

Ella is comfortable with keeping people at a distance until her sister dumps a baby on her. She lives in Austin with her boyfriend Dane who doesn't want anything to do with the baby and wants an open relationship. So Ella stays in Houston and try to hunt down the father. **Which is how she meets Jack Travis.** Jack takes an interest in Ella and the baby – and he keeps inserting himself in their lives. I really missed his POV in this book. I loved Ella, but I would have liked to get some glimpses into Jack's mind.

Lisa Kleypas is a *wonderful author*. I adore her historical romances but I tried Sugar Daddy and I was not impressed. I decided to give her CR one more chance and **I'm really glad I did.** It is a classical contemporary romance in line with Susan Elizabeth Phillips. They tend to be a forgotten genre with all the Fifty-spin offs. I adored it.

**If you want to read a well-written romance with a hunky adorable hero and a slightly broken heroine and a baby – then this is the book for you!** I guess it's better to read Blue-Eyed Devil before as they play a big side part but you can easily read it as a stand-alone.

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## **Auntee says**

No summary, just some thoughts...

Ohhh, where do I begin? All my GR friends said "wait until you get to Jack's book"...and you all were right! I adored milionaire playboy Jack Travis--he was absolute perfection! To tell you the truth, I thought it might take a while for him to win me over, since I expected him to be sort of a shallow man-slut. I was surprised that he put that all behind him and was ready for something different when he met advice columnist Ella. I wish I knew what it was exactly that made Ella so attractive to him (besides what he tells Ella--how he admires her for taking care of her sister's baby and how he likes arguing with her). This is where I really felt that dreaded first person POV--it didn't bother me most of the time but there were times where I was *dying* to get inside Jack's head! Sometimes words just aren't enough--I needed his *thoughts* too!

*Just add some chest hair, and this could be Jack...*

Ella didn't win me over right away--she sort of grew on me. She was a little too stubborn about some of her beliefs about love and marriage and a little too independent. I realize she had it rough as a child (what a winner that mother of hers was!) but I wanted her to really *want Jack like I did!* LOL! I loved seeing her fall

in love with baby Luke though.. I thought all the parts LK wrote about Ella's feelings towards Luke really rang true. And when she finally gave the idea of having a real relationship with *Jack* a chance, that's when I softened towards her. I felt bad for her when she thought to herself *I lose everyone I care about, sooner or later*. No wonder she never wanted to put her heart on the line. I think Ella underwent a real transformation in this book, and became a much more likable and sympathetic character as the story progressed and she opened herself up and became more vulnerable.

I loved Ella and Jack together. I loved how he didn't push her beyond what she was ready for, but was there for her always. He was patient, strong, generous, and so darn *sexy*! Loved him with baby Luke too. Made me forget all about Hardy! And oh God the love scenes? *Red hot*, and way more numerous (and inventive) than in the previous books!

I have no real complaints about this book or series. Lisa Kleypas is probably one of the few authors skilled enough in her storytelling to make me forget (most of the time) that these stories were all told in the dreaded 1st person POV. I will admit that there were times where I thought *how wonderful would it be if I knew what Jack was thinking*...but that would just be like the cherry on top of the whipped cream. It would've made a delicious story even more delicious. So I won't complain, and I'll be satisfied that LK served up one fantastic story, a very likable couple, and especially one yummy hero. So he wasn't covered in whipped cream and with a cherry on top...Jack Travis was still one tasty treat! 5 stars

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### **Shawna says**

5+ stars – Contemporary Romance

Boy oh boy did I love this book!! “Smooth Talking Stranger” is a sinfully decadent treat for contemporary romance lovers! It’s like Godiva for chocolate lovers and a good French roast for coffee lovers...just yum!

I loved “Sugar Daddy”, despite that it leaned more towards chick-lit and really liked “Blue-Eyed Devil”, even though it was heavy on the drama and lacked Hardy’s viewpoint, but “Smooth Talking Stranger” is straight up romance and nice and steamy, just the way I like it!

Bachelor playboy Jack Travis is positively delicious...pure male and completely irresistible. Miss Independent Ella Varner tries mighty hard to resist his charms, but she’s delusional if she thinks for one minute that would ever work against a sexy, sweet, confident, enticing man’s man like Jack. I kept screaming...girl, if you don’t hurry and snatch him up you are crazy!

There are so many funny, tender, sexy moments in this book that it’s impossible to do it justice. The banter between Ella and Jack is a real delight. And good lord, the scenes with Jack caring for and playing with the baby nearly made me faint! He’s just absolutely swoon-worthy! There’s really no other way to describe him.

Ella hales from Austin (where I happen to live) and Kleypas’s description of the hippie Austin boyfriend Dane, with his hemp shirt and Birkenstocks, cracked me up because it’s just so true. Being an independent-minded, liberal vegetarian living in the conservative Lone Star State myself, I identified a lot with Ella’s character, but knew she stood no chance against a force like Jack Travis! He could pursue me any day girlfriends!

Even if you didn't care for "Sugar Daddy" and/or "Blue-Eyed Devil" or avoided them because of the mixed reviews, don't miss out on the sheer pleasure that is "Smooth Talking Stranger", and I think it would be okay as a stand-alone novel. It's utterly delightful and a contemporary romance lover's dream...big 5 stars!

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### **Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says**

#### **MARRY ME, JACK TRAVIS!**

It's official now. I'm adding Jack Travis to my harem! There are now FIVE of LK's heroes on that list, including Kev, St. Vincent, Craven and McKenna. Wow, talk about hot heroes!

Jack Travis is the ideal man. Throughout this entire book, I was hoping to find one flaw in his character and despite his bed-hopping past, I couldn't find a single thing wrong with this guy! What I love about him the most is the fact that he doesn't do things half-measure. He's an all-or-nothing kind of guy, even when it comes to love. I loved that he pushed Ella to her limits, stepping on her toes when she started to shy away. He didn't allow Ella to go through tough times without him there for a shoulder to cry on. He was always up-front and direct, never allowing his feelings to go unnoticed. He knew what he wanted and he took it.

Ella Varner is probably my favourite heroine out of the entire series. I thought she was sensible in her actions, especially when dealing with a sister who isn't exactly in the right place at the moment. She was patient and kind with Luke. And most of all, she never allowed Jack Travis to use her. What worked between them was the fact that Ella wasn't trying to impress Jack with her charm or beauty. She was trying to get her priorities straight and she was perhaps the only woman who hasn't ever taken an interest in the gorgeous Jack Travis.

I loved how their relationship developed. There were sooo many instances where LK spent the time to make sure she got their chemistry right and I thought she did a wonderful job with this blooming relationship. And her little snippets of Miss Independent were quite good too. It's no wonder she writes such great romances, she gives great relationship advice!

I thought I could get through this book without tearing up. I almost did, except the last 20 pages got me and I may have teared up towards the end. LK always does this to me! You make me look like a ninny! Nevertheless, *Smooth-Talking Stranger* was, in my opinion, the best of the series. It had everything I wanted in a contemporary romance and more, making it a definite favourite for years to come.

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### **Jill says**

#### **4.5 stars**

Set in contemporary Texas, Lisa Kleypas has written another wonderful story in the *Travis* series. Sometimes a novel just resonates with you. I've found this with *Smooth Talking Stranger* as well as book #1 *Sugar Daddy* and #2 *Blue-Eyed Devil*.

Enjoyed the writing, the stories. Loved the heroines. But. Adored the heroes. The books in this series are fine reads, but Lisa Kleypas' characterisations of Gage, Hardy and Jack make these books unforgettable. She writes my type of hero. Sometimes it's just a sentence, a phrase, a remark they make that has them coming off the page in 3-D technicolor. Very few authors are able to manage this. She writes alpha males, but not OTT. She writes Real Men. So much so that in my next life I'm marrying a Texan. I want to be called Darlin' for the rest of my life in that slow, thick-and-smooth-as-molasses drawl of Gage, Hardy and Jack.

This isn't a sexy or romantic quote but it so exemplifies what I love about Lisa Kleypas' men. I find this quote not only funny but perversely, sexy -

*"Well, you missed out on some important protocol, Ella. You can't stand between a Texan and his power tools. We like them. Big ones that drain the national grid. We also like truck-stop breakfasts, large moving objects, Monday night football, and the missionary position. We don't drink light beer, drive Smart Cars, or admit to knowing the names of more than about five or six colors. And we don't wax our chests. Ever." He hefted the drill. "Now let me do the guy stuff while you go to the kitchen. Trust me, it's a perfect arrangement."*

The romance between Jack and Ella was sweet and I loved seeing it unfold despite my lack of conviction about Jack's attraction (the whys and hows and insta-love) for Ella. The *Travis* series is in my opinion a must-read for lovers of contemporary romance.

**Steam:** 3

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### **Tammy says**

*Smooth Talking Stranger* is a fabulous book. *Absolutely wonderful*. Unlike the other books in the series, this one reads like a solid romance with Jack and Ella's relationship being the main focus. (It is 100% pure contemporary romance without the chick-littish feel to it and, for the most part, lacks the darker issues re: domestic violence, abuse and rape that became the main focus of the prior books.)

This book has an honorary place on my Keeper Shelf for one reason and one reason only: Jack.

Billionaire Texas Playboy, Jack Travis, with his blackstrap molasses eyes, male confidence and possessive attitude is about as sexy as all get out. And let me tell you that this man is totally yummy! Here is a great mental picture of Jack ...

**"He was tall and big-framed, all hard muscle and easy masculinity, with dark eyes and heavy well-cut black hair. The way he carried himself - the confidence in his walk, the relaxed set of his shoulders - proclaimed that he was accustomed to being in charge."**

\*SIGH\*

I loved, LOVED, LOVED the fact that Jack was the one pursuing Ella through-out the entire story. How often do you see that happen? His attitude may have been borderline chauvinistic at times, but honestly ... would you care if a man like Jack picked you up and called you "MINE"? Or wanted to argue about who was

paying for dinner? It was a nice change and I really enjoyed watching Ella struggle with her opinions on love and marriage. It took an almost fatal tragedy for her to realize she was wrong and finally change her mind.

And finally ... I was thrilled to see that the author's sense of humor is back! I giggled more than once at the dialogue in this book. For example ...

**"You should give me everything I want," Jack informed me. "You should spoil me rotten. And it's too late to play dumb, and you're cute as hell without make-up."**

**I smiled, my eyes still closed. "What about my glasses?"**

**"Definite turn-on."**

**"Everything's a turn-on for you," I said languidly.**

**"Not everything." Laughter thickened his voice.**

**"Yes. You're like one of those pharmaceutical commercials where they warn about four-hour erections. You need to go see your doctor."**

**"I don't find him all that attractive ..."**

The scene where Jack was lying on the floor next to Ella's nephew playing with a baby gym, spouting off his ideas for an adult version had me hooting and hollering until my husband thought I would hurt myself!

The creative way Jack proposed to Ella made my heart go pitter patter and the HEA was the perfect ending to this book. Kudos to the author for throwing an epilogue our way too!

So even if you didn't care for the first two books in this series (there have been discussions!), you might want to give this one a shot. I think it is safe to say that it can be read as a stand-alone. And I dare you NOT to smile!

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### **Dina says**

According to Wikipedia, "***Chick lit* is genre fiction within women's fiction which addresses issues of modern women often humorously and lightheartedly. (...) Although sometimes it includes romantic elements, women's fiction (including chick lit) is generally not considered a direct subcategory of the romance novel genre, because in chick lit the heroine's relationship with her family or friends may be just as important as her romantic relationships."**

So, Smooth Talking Stranger is chick lit, even though my bookstore had shelved it under "Contemporary Romance". Why am I making a fuss about this distinction? Because I don't like chick lit... but I liked this book very much. Trust Ms. Kleypas to make me enjoy something I normally don't care about. :) This book made me smile, sigh, cry, laugh and curse in anger, because Ella (the heroine) pulled me into her story and didn't let me go. I didn't like her all the time - and I came close to hating her in one particular moment (just have a look at my status updates, if you're curious) - but I rooted for her and I wanted her to find her HEA with Jack and baby Luke.

Now Jack, oh Jack... He was gorgeous, wealthy beyond reason, caring, sensitive, protective, charming, amazing in bed... In one word, *perfect*. From beginning to end. That was a problem, believe it or not. He had no character development in the story, and I "blame" the 1st person POV narration for that. As I only saw him through Ella's eyes, I could only guess what he felt and what moved him. Even though he talked about some of that a little later, after he got together with Ella for good, it was too little, too late for me. That said, I wouldn't kick him out of my bed, though. ;)

All things considered, I really enjoyed this read - which was a surprise - but it didn't change my mind about my general dislike of chick lit and I won't be running to read the previous books in this series. They're supposed to be even more focused on the heroine's story and have less romance than this book, and that isn't appealing to me.

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### **Amy (Foxy) says**

**Smooth Talking Stranger** was a book I've been holding off reading for the last 2 years because I knew the 4th book didn't have a release date. Brown-Eyed Girl finally has the release date of August 11th (<http://amzn.to/1HGMoyP>). Now, I'm finally caught up in the series for the release of this book.

#### **"Babies were dangerous... they made you fall in love before you knew what was happening."**

Ella receives the call no one wants... the one that makes you decide what's really important in your life. Ella's sister, Tara, has dropped off her 1 week old baby at her mom's house. Mom has never been a motherly figure to the girls. She's always been about herself and how she can land a rich man to take care of her. Ella's forced to take on the baby, Luke, for the next 3 months while Tara's getting mental health help at an institution. Sounds simple right?

#### **"You're not your sister's keeper."**

Unfortunately, the boyfriend, Dane, wants no part in keeping the baby for the next 3 months. He thinks Ella's family manipulates her and she'd be better off without them. But Ella can't turn her back on the abandoned baby. All through Ella & Tara's childhood they were neglected because of a lack of motherly support and no fatherly figure in their lives. Ella has always been the one to pick up the pieces for Tara. That's what bonds them together... knowing Ella will be there for Tara.

#### **"I'm a public sinner with a ton of money. Any church would want me."**

Here is where Ms. Kleypas shines...writing alpha males. Jack Travis is no exception to this rule because he is one sexy alpha male. Jack is the opposite of Ella's boyfriend who is in another state holding to their **open relationship philosophy**. Ella and Dane have made their relationship about no rules and no promises to each other. Once Jack meets Ella, when he's accused of being the baby's father, he is intrigued by her moxie. She's not the usual woman he meets who's just after his money and family name. She's someone who is

loyal and loving and isn't looking to be a trophy wife.

### **You can have your cake and eat it too.**

Ella never wanted children and she definitely didn't plan to ever marry. Her childhood was no picnic in the park and left her jaded towards having those types things. Feeling safe and secure was her main goals in life and she accomplished that with being a career woman and having a 'safe' boyfriend. But the presence of Luke, Tara's baby, made Ella reevaluate the path her life was heading. As luck would have it, Jack was not easily dissuaded by Ella's constant pushing him away. As reader we could see that Jack was exactly what Ella needed to start challenging her life. The getting out of her head and actually living a life that came with risk was the best healing of past transgressions she could do.

### **SERIES:**

Continuing story where secondary characters from the first book become the main focus in subsequent books.

Book 1 - Gage Travis | Book 2 - Haven Travis | Book 3 - Jack Travis | Book 4 - Joe Travis

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### **Marisa Sauco says**

Ternura + amor + pasión + risas... una combinación irresistible.

Es facilísimo enamorarse de Jack Travis, pero el personaje de Ella te roba el corazón. Adorables los dos. ¡Me encantó! ❤?

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### **?Karlyn P? says**

A wonderful steamy romantic story with a great and satisfying ending. The title really suites too! Jack was such a smooth talker. Yum. As with the other books in the series, there is an underline storyline of personal growth and recovery, but these characters weren't so deeply damaged emotionally as the characters in the previous books. I loved the realistic feel of their relationship from the start. Their growing together, and finally the realization they are meant for each other. I just started to skim chapter one as I am already in the middle of another book, but I couldn't put this one down. Now I'll go back and finish my other book.

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### **Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says**

Miss Kleypas, are you reading my mind? How do you get me where I live emotionally so easily? I felt as though reading this book you had delved deeply inside my psyche, laying my issues out for me to examine in the context of a character with whom I found myself identifying very deeply. You see, I too have control issues. I too am afraid to love deeply and to care, because when you do, you lose something, and you can't get it back. It seems so much easier to hide behind your fortress of heart.

Reading your book was therapy for me. Because it helped me to look at things and to realize that holding

oneself in won't save you from hurt. It just makes you feel more alone and hurting than if you did open yourself to loving others.

You made me cry with Ella's feelings for Luke. I could feel from the beginning, that tender thread of love that blossomed in Ella's wary heart for that helpless bundle of humanity. Babies are the secret weapon, and I think you know that. How can you not love a baby, who looks up at you and knows only how to love and trust you? They sink beneath your skin and find your tender areas of the heart that you have no defense or protection for. And that love builds a bridge between them to you, and from there, to the rest of the world. Luke felt like the way to open Ella up so that she could love Jack. I also think that Jack fell for Ella because he saw who she truly was in the way she cared for Luke, because she forgot to keep up her armor up then. I totally, totally got that.

You also made me laugh with this story. I loved the dialogue and the conversations. They feel very genuine to me. Like people I know talk, like conversations I might have. Texas is my stomping ground, although not Houston so much. But this book felt just like the Texas I know, the folks I see and live with every day, even if I don't really know the richer echelons. But people are people, no matter what how much money they have. You captured that beautifully.

And the romance. Ma'am you have a gift for writing romance that blesses your readers. You capture that deep, irresistible powerful intensity of a love story--the steam, the emotional connection, the powerful bond between a man and a woman. This book is one of your more steamy ones, and you definitely had me fanning myself as I read.

As for Jack Travis--yeah, he's irresistible. He's a mix of charm, determination, and realness that a woman can't overlook. Ella stood no chance. I'm glad she didn't, because they were made for each other. I don't go for that slick ladies man type, but you crafted Jack with a substance that goes beyond the charm and the playboy exterior to make him a fully realized character. I liked his confidence, and I liked that he also had vulnerabilities. Even though he'd been hurt in the past, he didn't hold back from Ella. He gave of himself deeply, and that's what I love in a man. He's not just saying what you want to hear. He's there to back up his words. His actions show where his heart is. Yeah, he played around in the past. In theory, that doesn't appeal to me in the slightest. But, on a realistic level, you take the good and the bad, the experiences that make a person who they are, and you love them for the unique creation that they have been made into by the experiences that have shaped them, along with their intrinsic core. That was my long, drawn-out way of saying that I loved Jack for who he was in this story, and that was a complex mix that worked very well for this story. He needed to be that man to be the right man for Ella. Yes, I can see why Jack is a favorite of many of your fans. I still love Hardy the best out of this series. I just do. Hardy....that man makes me sigh. But Jack....he ain't the slightest bit shabby!

I was surprised at the fact that I think I love Ella even more than Jack. It helps that I walked around in her skin in this book. I told you earlier that I felt a lot of identification with her, not on a superficial level. But on a deeper level, in the arena of the psyche. It was cathartic to see her work through her issues, and gave me something to think about. I loved the way she loved Luke, and I loved the way she loved Jack. I loved that she was a loyal sister and a patient daughter to a very difficult mother who needed that kind of love from her daughter. I liked that she picked herself from the ashes of a troubled childhood, and made a good life for herself, and sought mental and emotional wholeness. If she hadn't started that before she ever met Jack and Luke, then those relationships wouldn't have had the same hopeful resolution. I'm glad that's not the case.

Once again, you've given me a great read, and hours of pleasure, but also a read that engaged me fully. Thanks again, Ms. Kleypas!

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## Baba says

FULL REVIEW NOW POSTED

**"I respect you," he murmured. "And your views. I think of you as an equal. I respect your brains, and all those big words you like to use. But I also want to rip your clothes off and have sex with you until you scream and cry and see God."**

**Hot damn! I loved the story and I loved Jack! What a smooth talking guy...ah, be still my little heart...\*happy dance\***

Ella Varner, living and working in Austin, Texas, is the infamous Miss Independent, a columnist. She is happy with her life and is living together with her boyfriend Dane. Then one day her life turns upside down when Ella's younger sister, Tara, gives birth to a baby boy, named Luke. Ella is 'forced' to take care of him because Tara has a mental breakdown. Therefore she has to undergo a treatment at a mental health clinic. Her calm and very organized life changes in a major way. Ella has to learn how to take care of little Luke.

*"Where's your instruction manual?" I asked him. "What's the baby customer-service number?"*

Formula bottles, feedings, diapers, sleep deprivation and of course the baby are ever-present. On top of that, Ella wants to know who fathered Luke. When Tara says that wealthy playboy, Jack Travis, is the father, Ella embarks on a mission...straight to Houston and into Jack's life. Although Jack is telling Ella that he is not Luke's father, Ella wants a paternity test and Jack agrees.

From the get-go Ms. Kleypas was able to draw me into the story which flows very *smoothly*. The characters are well-drawn and interesting. While *Blue-Eyed Devil* was an intense story with a very disturbing background, *Smooth Talking Stranger* is such a fun ride. The book is filled with lots of wonderful banter, great dialogue, and laughter. Admittedly, some parts of the story are very serious but overall *Smooth Talking Stranger* is enveloped by a lightness that I adored. Oh, Jack...yeah, what an incredibly hot hero--sexy as all get out! Gosh, he is such a smooth talking guy, that's for sure.

*"Unbelievable," I said in disgust.*

*"What's unbelievable?"*

*"Your ego. It's surrounded by its own cloud of antimatter. You're a black hole of...of hubris!"*

*(...)*

*"Are you amused?" I demanded. "What the hell is so funny?"*

*"I was just thinking if the sex with you is one-tenth as fun as arguing with you, I'll be one happy bastard."*  
*\*grin\**

I really appreciated to see how Ella came to love little Luke. She fell so hard for the tiny and cute man. This woman who had to start off in such uncharted territory did a fine job with the little baby. From uneasiness to love. It was totally sweet to watch these two...well, three actually (including Jack). Sometime he will be an amazing dad. **This story epitomizes romance.** *Smooth Talking Stranger* displays real, deep and heartfelt love. I loved the playfulness and the intense passion. Their relationship develops from initial attraction into

real friendship, trust, passion and ultimately strong love. Jack is such a fabulous charmer--he is seducing Ella with hilarious dialogue, a rich and smooth voice, sizzling glances, arousing touches...and a spectacular body. The sex? Let me think about it...oh, now it dawns on me. I remember that I adored the sizzling *hawt* garage quickie! Seriously, the love scenes are well-written and I loved the utterly intimate and sexy kissing and touching. YUM!

*"I don't even get cheesy seduction music?"*

*Jack shook his head. "I usually do this a cappella."*

*"You mean unaccompanied?"*

*"No, I haven't done this unaccompanied since I was fourteen."*

The way Ella handled the (view spoiler)

### **What annoyed me**

Tara. She is very naïve and selfish. Tara is the opposite of responsible. She prefers to (view spoiler) \*shakes head\*

Well, after reading *Blue-Eyed Devil* and *Smooth Talking Stranger* I am already a fan of Ms. Kleypas' work. I'm looking forward to reading more from this author. *Smooth Talking Stranger* has many swoon-worthy moments. It's a wonderfully penned and highly entertaining read. Enjoy!

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### **Lisa Kay says**

[image error]

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