



## Instigation

*Tessa Teevan*

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# Instigation

Tessa Teevan

**Instigation** Tessa Teevan

***Breaking up is hard to do.***

Three years after her life changed forever, Gabriella Latham finally has it all. Killer job [if working for her boyfriend counts]. Killer closet [even if she doesn't *technically* own any of it]. Killer boyfriend [who refuses to let her leave him, even when she tries]. Unfortunately for her, the last part isn't hyperbole. She just doesn't know it yet.

Adrian Morningstar was a dream come true. No one had ever loved her more, and for the first time, in longer than she could remember, she was no longer alone. He was the Prince Charming to her Cinderella, until suddenly he became the Beast with whom she could not escape.

Until *him*.

When Rafe Matthews is hired to oversee the guest home construction of one of the most powerful businessmen in the country, he finally has his in. Nothing will get in the way of what he sets out to do.

Until *her*.

Watching from the shadows, he's drawn to the beautiful, isolated woman of the house. His curiosity is piqued and he has to have her. She may be taken by the boss, but that's not enough to stop him. Or her.

Nothing is quite as it seems, and this is only the beginning.

***Passions ignite. Tempers flare. Secrets kill.***

## Instigation Details

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Author : Tessa Teevan

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## From Reader Review Instigation for online ebook

### Kelli C ~ Jack Sawyer's Heart says

#### 4.5 Rafe Instigated Me Stars!

\*ARC provided per author in exchange for honest review\*

\*\*please note quotes used may differ from published work\*\*

*Instigation* starts a new series for author Tessa Teevan and while it is quite the departure from her previous books it is no less than stellar. This romantic suspense is the story of a young beauty Gabriella Latham and how she fell into the arms of the wealthy Adrian Morningstar who is both powerful and sexy. The story is fast and takes on the modern day Cinderella of sorts...until it isn't. Lust and want quickly turn to need and control. Gabriella may have everything she ever wanted yet she has absolutely nothing until Rafe Matthews appears in her home.

I cannot say that this romance is a triangle. It is more of two relationships....one of the past and one of the future that are seemingly intertwined in a web of mystery and lies. Teevan delivers a fast paced intimate tale where control is sexy yet seems so off. With an air of malevolence, Adrian keeps Gabriella on his arm yet out of his mind. She is provided for materialistically, yet the one time dashing prince seems to be lost in his own world taking from Gabriella what he believes to be his and controlling what little of herself is left...

Mysterious phone calls, out of town trips lasting weeks, blood stained laundry, woman's lingerie...nothing is as it seems with Adrian. Gabriella needs to find herself...it is time to walk away. But how? Could the help she needs be so close as the new contractor? Rafe Matthews appears in her life at the perfect time. Who is this man? Why is she so trusting of a stranger? Perhaps it is the stark contradictions to Adrian...Rafe is comfort, security, and passion. After merely existing in a man's world she is finally living her life and filling another man's deepest desires. Could love be this easy?

Oh this book! I never thought I would read a book with one woman seemingly in a relationship with two men. Or is she? I cannot decipher what is truth and what is lies. I cannot determine if one man's coldness is truly an act of affection or if another's passion is just a means to an end. The only thing I know for sure is that there is so much more to Gabriella's story...if only she can survive long enough to understand it!

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### Polly says

Get your copy today! LIVE!!! Only .99 through release day

Instigation (Clandestine Affairs, Book 1)

This book is unlike anything Tessa has ever written. It has suspense, steam, and some anger inducing moments.

It kept me guessing the whole time and I still have no clue what it is going on and yet I LOVE that!!

Pick up your copy today!

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### **Michelle says**

[image error]

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### **Sam says**

WHAT IN THE EVER LOVING.....

Holy god damn!!!!!!! This book, Tessa's writing, the characters, the plot, the EVERYTHING! I just can't! And THAT ENDING!!!!!!! My poor kindle is still suffering a concussion! GODDAMIT! I just.....I need the second book.....STAT!!!! (Full review to come)

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### **Jacqueline's Reads says**

#### **3.5 Nothing-is-what-it-Seems Stars**

This is my second Tessa Teevan book. I read Combust and loved it. I gave Combust five stars. I also think she is an adorable and is a sweet author. Tessa Teevan is known for her lighter romance books. Instigation is darker. I wouldn't call it a dark read, just not as light as she usually writes.

I read Instigation blindly, meaning I didn't read the summary prior to starting it. A few things about me, I do not like prologues, love triangles or highly narrative writing. So my review is based on those items.

#### **Instigation, to cause by incitement.**

#### **Instigation, to urge, provoke, or incite to some action or course**

Gabriella fell in love with perfect Adrian. Adrian is successful, rich and very charismatic. Gabriella doesn't have any family and I believe that is why she craves affection so badly. Gabriella and Adrian go into the relationship fairly quickly. So, Gabriella quits her job and shacks it up with Adrian.

#### **Everything seemed perfect.**

Then, Gabriella meets Rafe. Rafe has a contract to work on Adrian's home. While Adrian is away \*gasp\* Gabriella is to work closely with Rafe to make sure the project is done correctly.

#### **We all know where this is going**

## **But, like I said, not everything is what it seems.**

When Rafe and Gabriella first meet, it's just like Adrian where there's an instant attraction and lust. Again, I think it's because Gabriella craves affection so badly. Rafe and Gabriella enter this intense relationship. It's really emotional and you question where it will go.

You will also question who Rafe is. Yes, he's there to work on the house, but there seems to be something he's hiding. It's not told outright, but just an underlying feeling I get when I read.

**What really worked for me is the whole mystery element to the book.** I'm a suspenseful junkie. I was reading like mad, trying to figure out what will happen with Gabriella, what Adrian has planned and who Rafe is. Instigation is very narrative. A lot of the time I am being told what has happened. I prefer to read dialogue and scenes, but this is a personal preference.

I liked Adrian. He's very dominate and kind of ruthless. Of course I like the mean Hero. I like how aggressive he is towards Gabriella and it's borderline abusive. I wanted to read more of this. I wanted to know why Adrian is the way he is and how he can act one way and act another. He's a huge enigma to me.

Gabriella isn't an easy Heroine to read. She has many conflicting issues and that will happen in a love triangle. Her need for affection can be somewhat self-sabotaging to me. I feel like this girl has a lot of issues and she is very desperate for love. I know a lot of readers will love her.

When the book shifts, it throws you in this crazy roller coaster and it gets INTENSE. A lot is thrown at you and it will leave you feeling a little bit whipped lashed, but in a good way.

*AN ARC was provided in exchange for an honest review*

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AMAZON

## **Tessa Teevan says**

Release day: 4/20!!

Teaser Trailer made by the amazing Michelle Tan from Four Chicks Flipping Pages--> I cannot wait for y'all to meet Adrian, Gabriella, and Rafe!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature...>

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## **Beverly says**

I have read all of Tessa's books and up until now her stories have been safe, minimal drama, steamy - perfect for me. *Instigation* is so different, but I am intrigued, hooked, otherwise can't wait for more!

When we first meet Gabriella she is at a crossroads since she just finished school and is looking for a job. Orphaned by her parents just a few years prior she is completely alone in the world. That's why when she meets a charming, successful, handsome Adrian is completely entranced.

Years later she doesn't even recognize herself. She is living in his home, living off of his money, and "working" for him. No longer is she the girl who thought she could take the world by storm, she is Adrian's girlfriend. Gabriella was fine with being all these things until Adrian begins to change, now her discovering his cheating is the last straw.

I know I can no longer do this. I may have no one. I may have nothing. But as long as I regain my sense of self, that's all I need.

After Adrian leaves on one of his many business trips she decides now is the time to change. When Rafe Matthews, the contractor, enters her life moments later, she is completely taken back and torn. Rafe treats her differently, he wants to cherish and protect her. She is torn by what she wants, but knows she shouldn't have.

One man wanted to own me like a cheap toy, his until he was ready to discard me. The other looked at me as if he could see the old me. The real Gabriella.

*Instigation* began as one thing and I thought I had a clue where things were going. I thought we had a cheating boyfriend and knight in shining armor, but I was wrong. After finishing this story I am not sure what I think. Tessa leads you on a journey that leaves you guessing and dying for more.

I am completely intrigued and can't wait to see what happens next for these characters!

*ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.*

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## Catarina says

### 3,5 Instigating Stars.

Brie met Adrian after dealing with a great loss and in a very dark moment of her life. For a while he was everything she needed and the perfect prince charming. Until he changed to a cold, mysterious cheater and not the man she once loved. In the day she decides to end things for good and he goes on a business trip. Then she meets Rafe, the constructor that are building something Adrian wants in the mansion, and something they feel attracted to each other.

But as feelings grow between them, so does the questions. When everything is suspicious and starts to feels dangerous, and Brie doesn't know who to trust anymore, does she stills follow her heart?

After all, who is Rafe? And who is the man she married? And what is everyone hiding?

Tessa Teevan is an author whose books I usually love, so it's safe to say that I jumped on this one without hesitation.

Despite not loving it, it was still a pretty enjoyable reading. My main problem with this book was not being able to connect with neither of the characters, and well, two distinctive scenes that put me a little off.

Overall, I believe that Tessa did a wonderful job writing a romantic suspense book: the story was addictive and kept me on my toes from the beginning. When I finished all I could thought was that I needed answers!! About everything and everyone involved!

Will I read the next installment? Definitely.

The book was intriguing and I'm really curious to see how this story will unravel, so I'll definitely keep up with this series.

If you're in the mood for a steamy romantic with a suspenseful background, give this series a try! ;)

**Rating:** 3,5 Stars.

**Characters Development:** I had trouble connecting with all the characters and to be completely honest, I didn't. Adrian from the very beginning had something dark about him, like it was all made for him to be bad guy. I don't believe he is as bad as he's being portrayed and that there's some big secret about him.

Brie... well, Brie was a doormat. There is no other way to say it. She was just... there. I understand that she was in a complicated situation and that's the only reason I didn't completely hate her, but the fact the she didn't take action over her own life, and how she was easily manipulated by everyone around her put me off. Rafe, well, I didn't dislike him but I also didn't love him. He was sexy and I liked how caring and protective of Brie he was but things progressed so fast that sometimes I had second doubts about his true personality. (Well, maybe that's the point.)

**Steam:** Hot. Too much, actually. The amount of sex was too damn high. (And here's a thing I never thought of saying!)

**Sensible Subjects:** (view spoiler)

**Love Triangle:** (view spoiler)

**Cheating:** (view spoiler)

**HEA:** (view spoiler)

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**Patty Belongs To Kellan~Jesse~Lautner~Miller~Jack~Racer~Rafe~Liam~Prince  
Nicholas~Hayes~Simon~Gianluca & Archer says**

\*\*\*\*\*FOUR STARS\*\*\*\*\*

{ARC Generously Provided by Author in Exchange for an Honest Review}  
(BR with Mel)

**Last night, she showed the purity of her heart and the depth of her strength. She's so much more than I ever expected, and as I watch her, I realize I've never wanted anyone more. I never will.**

Gabriella Latham is a young woman who has suffered great loss and finds herself trying to start a new life in a new city, but feels utterly alone. Until she meets a handsome stranger in a coffee shop. Adrian Morningstar is gorgeous and a bit of a bad boy. He quickly sweeps Gabriella off her feet.

She soon moves into his mansion and quits her receptionist job to become his personal assistant. Adrian takes care of her as if she were his princess. Several months later, Gabriella is realizing that she really doesn't know the man she's been living with. Adrian has turned into a cold stranger and he's almost always away on business trips. When he is home he is cruel to her and she suspects he may be cheating as well.

In comes Rafe Matthews. He's the sexy contractor Adrian hires to build the addition he wants on his estate. After being treated so callously by Adrian, Gabriella finds herself drawn to Rafe. Rafe is making it clear that he is very into her as well.

Gabriella was not a likable heroine to me. I found her to be very weak and a little too easy. Even though Adrian had been a huge disappointment to her, I still think she fell into Rafe's arms a little too quickly for my taste. I guess if you get rejected enough times, you may turn into someone who is desperate for affection. That was my take on her. She also doesn't seem to learn from her past mistakes and is just a tad bit too naive.

Rafe seems a little too good to be true and I couldn't help but be a little suspicious of him. There's definitely a huge secret that he is hiding. I also got the same feeling about Adrian. I didn't fall for Adrian from the start because he seemed like a douche, but towards the end I started to wonder about him. I wondered if there was a reason behind his cruelty. Maybe my heart was opening up the tiniest bit for him.

So even though one man may appear to be a certifiable asshole, things may not be what they seem. The story ends on a HUGE cliffy. I was trying to solve the mystery by the end of this but now I feel like we're left with more questions. I don't know who to trust, and who is the right man for our heroine.

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### **Christy says**

I've read all of Tessa's books, and this is so different from anything else she's done. I applaud her going out of the box and writing something different. *Instigation* had a little romance, but more than anything it packed tons of heat and suspense!

Gabriella (Brie) is a woman who was alone in the world. After she lost her parents, she had no one. Then she met Adrian. She fell in love and thought that was it- she'd never be alone again. Slowly but surely, her life wrapped up in his. The identity she had molded into who he wanted her to be. But things have changed in their relationship in a big way, and now she's ready. Ready to get her life back, to get her self back.

Gabriella has one big project to help Adrian complete- she needs time to get her mind and affairs in order, so while he's on business, she agrees to help oversee construction on his home. There is where Rafe enters the picture. Rafe Matthews runs Matthews Construction. He's going to be working side by side with Brie this summer. There is something about Rafe that pulls Brie to him. They are drawn to each other. She feels that unlike Adrian, Rafe sees the real her.

One man wanted to own me like a cheap toy, his until he was ready to discard me. The other looked at me as if he could see the old me. The real Gabriella.

At the end of this story, I was like WHAT IS GOING ON HERE??? There was tons of mystery- honestly, I'm not sure what's going on with any of these characters. I do know I'm intrigued and as soon as book 2 is available I will be picking it up to find out! Thankfully, we don't have very long to wait!

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## Elle the ClosetRomanceReader aka Leftie aka Shoebelle says

*\*Complimentary ARC received from author\**

I'm a little torn about this one...

I like it quite a bit, really. The premise sounded interesting. Gabriella was with one man until things started to change, then she met another man...

The opening immediately makes you wonder what the heck is going on. Shortly after, you can tell there's definitely more there than meets the eye. It gets more interesting as Rafe is introduced, making you wonder some more what his angle is.

I enjoyed how everything is being laid out. The mystery is slowly opening up. It's making me question where everyone fits in. I wonder how those 2 men fit into the puzzle, and why they're doing the things they're doing. For sure, I'm hooked in with the suspense and mystery I've been given a glimpse of so far.

Where I struggled is Gabriella/Brie. I am not able to fully connect with her somehow. I don't appreciate what appear to be her co-dependent thoughts. Her past may have contributed to that, and granted, there really are women like her, but unfortunately, I'm not getting how her identity seems to be attached to which ever man is in her life. I wish she can come to those conclusions about herself without a man's aid. That's what it felt like to me the whole time. I didn't agree with most of her decisions/actions. But interestingly enough, if not for her unintelligent actions, she wouldn't have been in the situation she's in, and where would have the story gone then?

Adrian and Rafe are 2 interesting fellas. Obviously, one is meant to be the hero. Regardless of who the hero is, given how I like a dark read every now and then, I'm just as curious about the one not meant to be a hero, because I found, when done right, those men are the ones who make you question your boundaries. This then brings me to my next point, that this story line is a great vehicle potentially to be a really dark read. If so, it could go down really spectacularly and be one heck of a mind-screw. Somehow, I don't think this won't be that dark. Either way, I'm curious. I have started formulating my own theories. There'll be 2 more books in the series, I wonder if I'm right. And yes, it ends on quite a cliffie but it's a cliffie I actually liked.

As it stands, my reaction is a bit on the tepid side, mostly because of Gabriella/Brie. But like I said, I'm curious, very curious...

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## Amy says

Actual Rating: 4.5 Stars!

What an exciting read! This book had my curiosity from the very first page. I was hooked, wanting to know what would happen next. Instigation follows the story of Gabriella, Adrian and Rafe. Gabriella thought she had found the perfect man: handsome, rich, attentive. Adrian was everything she thought she wanted. Until one day, things started to change. No longer was Adrian the perfect boyfriend. Gone is the amazing attentive man, in his place is an edgy, cold, distant man. How much will Gabriella be willing to put up with??

Rafe is hired to do a construction job for Adrian, but finds himself drawn to Gabriella. But, things aren't exactly how they seem. Rafe has a job to do and nothing will stop him from getting this job down. The only problem, he can't get Gabriella out of his head. Gabriella will suddenly find herself torn between two men. Will Gabriella finally have enough of Adrian's behavior? Can Gabriella trust Rafe's motives??

Instigation might be a short read, but man does it pack a punch. This book has it all: romance, intrigue, action, suspense and drama. I was on the edge of my seat, trying to solve the riddle of what was going on in this story. There were so many great twists and turns and I have so many questions. Who's motives are true? Who is The Boss? These are just some of the questions that I have. This book does end on a cliffhanger, but boy is it a good one! I can not wait to see where this story will go next!

\*I was provided an ARC copy of this book in exchange for an honest review\*

\*My review can also be seen at: [www.onceuponabookblog.com](http://www.onceuponabookblog.com)

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## **Jennifer Kyle says**

### **4.5 Stars**

This is my first book by Tessa Teevan and at first I thought it was a bit sappy for my tastes until she kicked in the mysterious aspect and then she had me hooked. Although the main character is pretty weak I liked the idea of this older orphan falling for the rich alluring man who swoops in and seems to take care of her.

***"My very own American Prince Charming. He wanted to take care of me, and I wanted to let him. What a fool I was."***

The story got interesting when Adrian starts to change on Bri and then takes off for a few weeks. The author adds a third character to the mix, Rafe. Rafe comes in and Bri is all over his hot construction ass. We are privy to a few Rafe pov chapters which made things very juicy. Sadly for me it was pretty mind boggling Bri's fall for Rafe and all his declarations.

***"For as long as you want me, I'm yours."***

It seems that both these guys know a lot more about Bri than she does especially where her parent's murder is concerned. The story ends on a fantastic cliffhanger!!!

***"Yeah, boss. It's done."***

***"I need answers, and I need them quickly."***

Overall, Tessa Teevan delivered an exciting read although I'm hoping our heroine will evolve a bit in the

next book and in case I didn't mention it- **TEAMADRIAN** all the way!!

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### **Diana's says**

Totally different from anything I've read by Tessa Teevan ~ Loved it as well!

WOW so this one came totally out of left field!!

Plot, Style of writing and Vibe..

Definitely unexpected...

Full Review Here...

Talk about left hanging....

Need the next one NOW!!!

[www.bookaholicconfessions.com](http://www.bookaholicconfessions.com)

<http://dianas-confessions.blogspot.com/>

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### **MELISSA \*Mel Reader\* says**

4 "Make Me Yours" Stars!

(ARC provided by author)

(BR with Patty)

Gabriella Latham aka Brie is a 22 yr. old woman living in Philadelphia. She is lonely since she lost her parents, and struggles to get by. She meets a gorgeous, wealthy, sophisticated businessman named Adrian Morningstar. He is everything she's ever wanted in a man, and she falls fast and hard for him.

Adrian is almost too good to be true, and is like her prince charming sent to rescue her and give her the world. Brie was so happy with Adrian, and thought she'd found the man of her dreams. He lavished her with attention & love, and she felt she was finally where she belonged.

Then he suddenly begins to change. Her charming loving man begins to disappear, and is replaced by an arrogant, distant man full of secrecy. As Adrian becomes more controlling and possessive, Brie feels isolated & like she is an object to him. This other side of him that runs so hot & cold confuses and scares her. The man she adored is like a stranger to her.

With Adrian's behavior all over the place, Brie loses trust in him, and her feelings start to change. She feels weak & alone. She doesn't connect with him anymore, and wants out, but Adrian doesn't want to let her go. Brie is completely reliant on him and feels trapped in the life she's built with him.

Adrian is constantly out of town & very mysterious. Brie is still in his home but feels like they are through, and is trying to figure out what she wants. In the meantime a sexy guy named Rafe Matthews shows up to do work on Adrian's property. He owns Matthews Construction, and he's the epitome of every woman's hot construction worker fantasy. He is absolutely beautiful, and so kind to her. They quickly grow very close, and she finds him new & exciting. She feels like he is her fresh start, but wonders if it's too soon.

-He made me feel special. Desired. Wanted.

-I've become fixated on him.

-I want to be his.

Both Adrian & Rafe have secrets and are clearly hiding something. The book ends on a cliffy, and I'm not sure which man I want Brie to be with. Yes, Rafe appears to be the logical choice, but I am not counting out Adrian yet. I feel like there's so much we don't know, and I can't wait to find out all the secrets surrounding these two men! :))

LIVE & .99 today only!

<http://www.amazon.com/Instigation-Cla...>

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