



The Upside of Being Let Down

London Casey, Karolyn James

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The fact that AJ's sister is a stripper has been the bane of AJ's existence for as long as she can remember. Every guy that has showed interest only wanted to get closer to her sister. After being kicked out of college, and subsequently out of her apartment, AJ heads to the strip club for some sisterly advice. Instead, she lands in the apartment of a cute stranger who seems way too eager to help.

Bryan is a regular guy looking for the simplicity in life. A strip club is definitely not his idea of simplicity, but he is pleasantly surprised at who he finds not prancing around on stage. In the middle of a strip club his eyes are glued to a woman that is fully dressed and thus begins a rollercoaster romance that he never saw coming.

When a risky dare is set in motion, an earth shattering truth is unraveled and AJ no longer knows who she can trust. Can Bryan prove that he loves AJ and help save her bond with her sister before it's too late?

The Upside of Being Let Down Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : London Casey , Karolyn James

Format :

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review The Upside of Being Let Down for online ebook

Sue Zawisa says

Review for THE UPSIDE OF BEING LET DOWN

I received this as a gift for an honest review.

I was completely captivated with this story. The major players here are Bryan, AJ and her sister Wendy. Wendy is AJ's older sister who happens to be a stripper. Bryan and AJ meet at the club where Wendy works. He steps in when a skirmish involving AJ takes place. He tells her to leave and after she is gone he finds her phone on the floor. It seems to be his lucky day, because he really wants to see her again. He finally tracks her down via her phone and gives her his address if she needs a place to stay. She has been booted from college, her roommate has kicked her out without so much as a call and she is unable to get hold of her sister. So, after thinking it through, she stays with Bryan. Neither one of them has had much luck with relationships, but they both feel something for the other. They just aren't sure what it is. AJ keeps telling him not to "ruin it" with feelings and everything. And so the dance between them starts to play out. As time passes, emotions do come into play and that is when the problems start....especially after a drunken visit from his ex at 3:00 a.m. Doubts creep in on AJ's part and she decides to go on a date with a co worker. Bryan is torn because he doesn't want to lose her. But when they get together to talk after the date, something else intrudes on them. A picture that Wendy has...a picture Bryan has seen at the halfway house his father lives in. But what does it mean and will it tear Bryan and AJ apart or bring them closer together ??

Susan says

Wendy and Aubrey are sisters, Wendy is a stripper and Aubrey is attending college. Wendy has taken on the name "Wicked" as her stripper name and Aubrey not liking her name has decided to go by "AJ."

AJ goes to the club where her sister dances to talk with her and while waiting for her she meets Bryan who is there as the designated driver for his buddies. Bryan rescues AJ from an angry guy after she had thrown her drink at him for making passes at her. AJ hasn't had the best of luck with guys most date her only to get to her sister so she is a bit cautious when Bryan shows interest in her. This story follows the unspoken feelings between these two and how each deals with it. Bryan falls hard for AJ but does not want to push her while AJ can't accept that Bryan likes her for her and not to get to her sister. I enjoyed this story and look forward to the second book to know how their relationship begins or ends.

Armenia says

Difficult life struggle

Be forewarned, this is not a stand-alone and ends in a cliffhanger. It is the first installment of a trilogy.

The Upside of Being Down by London Casey is a collaborative writing of Karolyn James and Ana Fawkes. I'm finding it difficult to write a review, it evoked a lot of emotions from me, centering around the main characters. The other part is that I found several errors which threw me out of focus.

AJ is an unhappy, and pitiful woman in her twenties. She manages to get kicked out of college, kicked out of her apartment, and has left her job. Mainly she has no idea what she wants to do with her life. She looks up to her older sister, Wendy, aka Wicked who works as a stripper. Okay, Wicked is mentioned way too often in this story, and mostly because of Wicked's career choice AJ blames her mistrust of men because men use her to get to AJ's gorgeous sister.

Bryan is a nice guy who just wants to help AJ but she treats him terribly. He just takes whatever AJ dishes out, and I wanted to shout at him to grow a backbone. I can understand with AJ's awful childhood how a person like her can erect defensive walls to keep from getting hurt. Still, I found her abrasive, reactive, and immature. Bryan has had a tough past, too and feels hopeless because he's starving for love and accepts any crumbs AJ is willing to throw at him. But I hope that both of them can help each other. I didn't expect the twist at the end coming and I hope the next installment gets better.

I was given a copy of this book by the author in exchange for an honest review.

My rating: 3

Tanja says

what happens when two people meet? a lot or nothing. in case of Aj and bryan there is a lot happening. one is kicked out of school, trying to talk to her sister, who's a stripper, gets her thrown out of the strip club. it was there she met bryan, one of the few men there who didn't ogle the female goods on display. as she arrives at her flat she discovers she kicked out of that place as well. there goes the understanding flatmate ... lost and not knowing what to do and where to go she gets even more frustrated when she finds out she lost her phone. waiting outside the club she sees bryan, turns out he's looking for her because he's found her phone.

he picks up quickly that she's in bit of a pickle and offers her a place to stay but she refuses. at first that is until later she just shows up at his doorstep and stays for longer then one night and their attraction leads to more then just bryan helping her out with a place to stay. bryan, ever the good guy, has a few demons of his own, namely one ex girlfriend who doesn't understand the meaning of ex ... aj keeps pushing him away and reeling him in, she doesn't know what she wants or doesn't want. for bryan it isn't easy either because he wants aj but he's not sure where things are going.

will they be able to work things out, i really don't know, i hope they do. can't wait to read more.

April Symes says

AJ was having a bad week- first kicked out of college--She had gone to see her sister, Wendy who is a stripper but her sister was unable to see her and told her to sit at the bar until she got done with her set. While there , she ran into this handsome man, name Bryan. There was this instant chemistry but he was with friends and went off and while waiting on her sister she got into small tussle with a girl and her boyfriend. Her night went from bad to worse when she got tossed out of the bar and she got back to her apartment and her roommate had kicked her out of the apartment with no advanced warning—what's a girl to do?? Bryan, the guy from the bar happened to be her one saving grace. He found her phone which had gotten lost

during the fight at the bar and ended up finding her back at her apartment and ended up giving her a place to stay after her horrible day, evening, week..... She had nowhere to go, especially since her sister couldn't put her up and she couldn't go back home or to her former apartment. Bryan was her one place she could go. AJ had some trust issues but he came across as a good guy and that is what she needs right now- Bryan likes this fiercely independent, beautiful, sweet girl that life put in his life. Bryan has his own triggers and issues in his life and though he is there for AJ, he is working thru his own. Living together is a new experience- for her, because she has never lived with a guy and she likes him as a friend but she also finds she is coming to care for him so she is at times short with him ; for Bryan, he is trying to get over an ex-girlfriend and he is trying to use AJ to get over her but as they continue to live with each other , he finds he is coming to truly care for her and those feelings grow. There are twists and turns that come to their relationship and when this story does end, it doesn't even end on a HFN note- it ends on a cliffhanger of a doozy involving AJ and her sister. OMG, boy does it. I cannot wait for book 2 to find how AJ, Wendy and Bryan are all connected and how this will impact their relationship. I really enjoyed their growing relationship and the passion between them. The rough spots AJ & Bryan had , led up to a new love that was starting until the bombshell that is waiting to explode-this is a trilogy and book 2 is lining up to have secrets waiting to unload. I cannot wait to read the next book in this trilogy.

My rating: 4.4 stars *****

Linda says

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review. 3 1/2 stars.

AJ got kicked out of college and heads to the strip club to talk to her stripper sister. While there she catches the eye of Bryan who recently broke up with his cheating girlfriend. After an altercation at the club she discovers she is also kicked out of her apartment. Good guy Bryan steps in to help again.

I can't decide how I feel about AJ. She is a little crazy and she doesn't treat Bryan very well. Her character is all over the place. Bryan is a sweetheart but he's letting her treat him like a doormat. The story was good except that it made me really want to smack some sense into AJ. The ending of the first book was rather interesting and I really want to see what happens in the next one.

Emily says

I am so glad that I got mad at the main characters and decided to skip to the end - only to find out that the book is continued in more books! Glad I didn't waste my time. Really mad that I read a third of it - wasted my time on poor writing and unlovable characters.

Diane says

3.5 stars

Quirky...

This is the first in a trilogy series chronicling the relationship between AJ, sister of a stripper, still searching

for what she wants and Bryan, sexy, solid and oh so dependable. Meeting at a bar may sound like an average start to a romance but, like the rest of this story, is quirky in its own unique way. Strippers, vomit and eviction are hardly the usual start to a courtship but then romance isn't what this is supposed to be. Couch surfing and a bit of friendship, yes, but definitely not love. And certainly not sex before the six month moratorium. Yah, things don't always turn out the way you plan.

“Of all the wild times he had with friends or with girls this one had the possibility to top it.”

AJ is a woman who seems to be trying to find herself while her more than crusty exterior certainly didn't invite you in to learn her secrets. The choices she made, the back and forth between her and Bryan, had me shaking my head at times as the inner monologues and actions really didn't help me understand exactly what her motivation was. Bryan seemed a more sympathetic character as he wrestled with trying to do the good in his relationships with family and friends.

As this first instalment came to a close there seemed to be a different feel to the characters as, AJ especially, seemed to be finding her stride and finding some direction. With a cliffhanger that is sure to blow that right out of the water I can't wait to find out what is in store for the couple and their families.

Cherry says

OH. MY. GOD.

What kind of book is this?! I can't believe that I added this on my **to read** file. Who wrote this? A sixteen year old high school who's suffering from peer pressure and was either way too scared or too strong to be a bully?!

The blurb was so interesting I almost fell in love with Bryan and AJ. But holy shit did it fooled me! I gave up reading at 42%. This is gonna make my head hurt I'm gonna have to murder someone.

AJ was homeless, kicked out from college and wasn't able to talk to her sister. And in less than 12 hours she's sleeping in a guy's bed she had just met in the club where her sister is working. And in less than 12 hours she's demanding good 'ol Bryan who offered her his apartment, to kiss her, do her, and then kicked her out of his own bed and told him to sleep on the couch?!

What's more surprising was that, she told him that '***she usually have a six (6) month waiting period*** , you know, before she would have sex with her boyfie. And she always tells him to '***don't ruin it***', '***you're gonna ruin it***'. She's an idiot and an asshole, no, not just a bitch, but an asshole and a jerk too. And a hell of a bully. And what?

I thought I'd give this book a go since I saw that there were very few people who read and review it, but man I should have read the signs.

Racy says

AJ had spent most of her life living in her sister's shadow. Everyone tried to use AJ to get to her sister

Wendy the stripper. She loved her sister very much but there had to be some jealousy that lies beneath. When AJ's world started falling apart the one person she ran to was her sister. AJ's sister was very busy with work so of course AJ found some trouble to get into. AJ was a capital "B", she did not care to put you in your place and bring you down a few notches if needed. She had this wall built up where she did not want to let anyone in. Underneath laid a broken person who needed put back together.

I really liked Bryan. He was so attracted to AJ and I am not sure he knew why. But they were like strong magnets being pulled together. Bryan and AJ both have a lot of issues and a lot going on in their life. They also have a lot in common; more than they really know. Can Bryan break down the walls and claim AJ as his own or will Bryan be like all the guys that have walked in and out of AJ's life?

Erin says

Was given ARC by author for an honest review

First you should know that this is book one of a 3 book series and ends with a cliffhanger.

The story begins with us meeting AJ also known as Aubrey. She was having a really bad day. She had just been kicked out of college for not attending classes, kicked out of her apartment that she shared with a fellow college student because she no longer attended college, couldn't go home because her home life sucked thus the reason for moving out and going to college in the first place. She went to go talk to her one and only sister Wendy, also known as Wicked who just so happens to be a stripper to see if maybe she could crash with her for a few days. But Wicked didn't have time to chat with her. While waiting at the bar for her sister, she meets Bryan.

I liked Bryan right away, nice guy who has had a hard life just like AJ. Bryan's mother left Bryan and his father when Bryan was younger. Bryan's dad was in and out of Bryan's life and now he is living in a halfway house, never seeming able to stay out of trouble for long. As much as Bryan hates it - he still goes to visit with his dad.

While waiting for her sister at the club - AJ's sharp tongue and rude behavior gets her into some trouble with a guy and his girlfriend. Bryan sees it and comes to her rescue to help her get out. During the scuffle AJ dropped her cell phone & Bryan finds it. After some snooping through it, he finds AJ's address and goes to return her phone to her. That is where he finds her standing outside of her apartment with her boxes of belongings that her now ex-roommate set outside before locking AJ out. Bryan being a nice guy (and having a thing for AJ) offers her his place to stay for as long as she needs till she can find something else. AJ says no - but after trying to sleep in her car and having old demons come to her to remind her of bad times - she ends up at Bryan's.

As the relationship between AJ and Bryan developed - I got really irritated with AJ. She is always RUDE and tells Bryan what to do ... and he does it! She is constantly contradicting herself. She will tell Bryan not to do something (like kiss her or come after her) and when he listens and doesn't do it, she gets mad at him. I

can sense that Bryan has a backbone and can stand up to AJ - just not sure why he doesn't - maybe we will see that in the next book. All in all this was an entertaining read and I am hooked on finding out what is going to happen next.

Dora says

AJ was kicked from college and from her apartment because she was never presented to classes and had no money to pay her half to her roomie. She needed her sister Wicked, the stripper, for advice and while waiting at the club for her sister she met Bryan. She was involved in an incident with a bold man and his drunk woman and Bryan helped her to get out of the mess while he stayed there to deal with the situation. She lost her phone during the fight and Bryan found it. He was interested in the feisty AJ and realizing he didn't know neither her full name nor her address he tracked her by her phone. He found her outside her former apartment and seeing she had no place to stay he offered his place to crash. AJ was hesitating. All her life she had felt used by her family and her friends. She didn't trust but decided to go for it because she had no choice. Bryan had his own issues. He had been treated badly by his former girlfriend, Chloe, who had cheated and used him to her convenience. He was done with her but she didn't want to accept that it's over. He was feeling weak to deal with her so, this new interest he had with AJ was worrying him. He didn't want more drama in his life. Now, he and AJ were sharing an apartment, a bed and their personal situations and that had led them to something more. They were having steamy sex but seemed that AJ only wanted a casual sex relation for the short time they were together. That was not enough for Bryan. But, both of them were complicated with dysfunctional families and struggling with baggage (out there is a lot of people like them). When AJ made a move to fix things with Bryan something strange happened at her sister's apartment. It was time for the truth and we have the cliffhanger. Now I'm so intrigued by what will be next. AJ, Wicked and Bryan will be together through the new events? In this first book AJ and Bryan were struggling all the time with their emotions, feeling not belonging and inadequate to deal with relations in a healthy way. I felt sympathy for Bryan. Too much pressure over him and AJ boldness and the "Don't ruin it" every time didn't help him. That was her defense mechanism. Liked how the author developed the plot to a point where the new twist caught me totally by surprise. I'm trying to guess but my brain cells are dry. Have no idea what could happen next to this two and that is good because the story had all my attention. Love the books that besides being interesting make me think harder. I recommend this book.

Jojo Bungenaar says

Good read

I received an arc in exchange for an honest review!

First of all I have got to say that I did enjoy this book It took a while for me to get into it but I did eventually! At first I thought that AJ was a complete bitch and that Bryan was just a nice soppy but nice guy! As the story progressed I got to learn more about the characters and started to understand why they acted the way they did.

It was also quite refreshing to see the bond that AJ and her sister have throughout the book. Overall I really enjoyed the story it was well written and enjoyable. I am certainly looking forward to the next book. This is

the first book I have read from these authors and I will be reading more of their work. I would definitely recommend this book.

Linda says

I was given this book in return for an honest review. This book is the first of a new YA trilogy that all readers should enjoy. This is the story about A. J. and Bryan and their similar messed up lives. AJ is kicked out of college as well as her apartment when her student aid is stopped as she never went to class. She is confused as well as her that her parents didn't care about her or that boys only dated her to get an "in" with her beautiful stripper sister. With no place to go, she accepts the offer of a place to stay from a guy she met at her sister's work place. As Bryan starts to worry about her safety, she is unprepared on how to act as only her older sister had cared about her.....

Bryan had never been close to his folks as they did there on thing. His dad was a drunk and he didn't know where his mom had landed when she left town. He agreed to be the designated driver when he was talked into going to a strip club. Once there, his eyes landed on a girl at the bar, before he could go talk to her, a man slid on the stool and order her a drink.....

These three authors tell one heck of a story that left me wanting more and I'm anxious to read the rest!!

Marilyn says

I received an ARC from the authors in exchange for an honest review and I'm really not sure how I feel about the story. This book was originally published in January 2014, but has been revised & extended by Karolyn James with Ana Fawkes. The main characters, AJ & Bryan meet after AJ has been kicked out of college & her flat & he offers her a place to stay. She a rather odd character, completely hung up on the fact that her older sister is a stripper & she feels that everyone only uses her to get to the sister! Bryan, on the other hand, seems like a decent guy who is trapped by AJ's quirky demeanor. The book was slow & didn't seem to have any purpose until 3/4 way through & we discover that AJ & Wendy had a harsh up-bringing & all is not as it appeared...but how it appeared just didn't make sense either. I've read books by both these authors before & really enjoyed their work but I am truly perplexed by this tale.
