



Kilty Pleasure

Shelli Stevens

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The line between lust and hate is often blurred...

The McLaughlins, Book 2

After being ditched at the altar over a year ago, Deputy Colin McLaughlin is fine with being single. Despite the fact that nearly every eligible female on the island wants him, he isn't looking for love.

But something stirs his blood when Hailey starts showing up more on the island. And it's not just the conviction that the apple doesn't fall far from her troublemaking, drugged-out family tree. His frustration mounts that even after she ruined his twin brother's life, the desire he's felt for her since high school still simmers.

Hailey Alexander knows her past is littered with mistakes. She's done her best to make amends and move on, but a certain Scottish-born deputy doesn't seem in any hurry to forgive or forget.

More than just fighting the attraction that's compromising their hearts, they face a new threat from Hailey's past that may threaten her life.

Warning: Contains sexy Scottish men living in America. The occasional kilt. A hero deputy who can't forgive or forget, and a nurse immune to bullshit. Angry kisses. Scalding sex. And a drugged-out stalker ex to keep these two on their toes.

Kilty Pleasure Details

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From Reader Review Kilty Pleasure for online ebook

Up All Night With Books says

ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review

Straight No Chaser by Shelli Stevens is book two of *The McLaughlins* series. I look forward to reading more about the McLaughlin family. *Straight No Chaser* is a complicated romance of two people who have crazy chemistry but are they willing to open their hearts to love??

The main character Hailey Alexander is a single woman who works as a nurse. She grew up on Whidbey Island with her mom and brother. Long ago, Hailey made a bad decision that hurt Colin's family. She hasn't forgiven herself for that one moment of weakness. She lost her two best friends that day but she had to do it to keep her family together. As soon as she could she moved away from the island and cut off ties with her mother. Now she's back and her history of picking the wrong men may have followed her in the form of the last loser.

Deputy Colin McLaughlin follows the straight and narrow path. When Colin was younger, he had a crush on Hailey. Colin refuses to believe she has changed and assumes she has followed in her mother's footsteps. The more Colin gets to know Hailey, he discovers his assumptions about her are completely wrong. Their chemistry is off the charts and they soon give into it. But due to being burned in the past, Colin is hesitant to pursue a relationship with Hailey.

Hailey's poor self-esteem has guided most of the decisions she makes in the book. She really needs to realize that she is not the little girl from the wrong side of town anymore! Colin starts out with a cocky cop attitude but the reader soon realizes he's really a sweetheart underneath. Soon Colin and his family are coming to Hailey's rescue when the old boyfriend shows up to cause trouble. Colin's former fiancée makes an appearance and causes feelings of jealousy and insecurity for Hailey.

I would recommend you read this book. In the end, it's an action packed love story with a HEA after a little danger. I can't wait to read the next book in the series starring Colin's sister Kenzie.

Four stars

****Review by Kara, Late Night Reviewer for Up All Night with Books****

.Under the pages says

This is coming out tomorrow, check out my review up on the blog: Under the pages

Tori Thompson says

Oh how I love these McLaughlin books!

Yes, I'm biased, I am a friend of Shelli's, and I live on Whidbey Island, but I really do like these books!

So. Colin and Hailey... Where to start. Colin is a good man, looking to settle down, with a big chip on his shoulder about Hailey. And his ex-fiancee, who left him at the alter. He has a attitude! And he's a cop, so that comes with the territory.

Hailey has some family issues. Serious family issues! Her mother is a drug addict, and Hailey has fought to not follow down that path, and to keep her brother out of it as well. As a high school girl, she made a really bad decision, and took money to say she'd slept with Ian, (from book one in the series) to break him up from his then girl friend Sarah. The McLaughlin clan has been angry with Hailey ever since! It started to calm down in book one when we learn why Hailey did what she did, but Colin can't let it go.

On to their story! Colin is a stubborn snot, Hailey is a proud girl. This makes for a wonderful, fun, hot story! Throw in a nasty ex-boyfriend of Hailey's, and Colin's interfering family, and you have a fabulous book.

I've read a bunch of Shelli's books, certainly not all of them, but a good handful. I've liked them all, haven't disliked any, but these two are by far my favorite. Yes, I know, they are set on my island, but the writing in these is just excellent. I think she's really come in to her own as an author, and I am so proud of her!

~V~ says

Very cute, i enjoyed the romance between this couple a little bit more than the first book. Looking forward to Kenzie and Aleck's books!

Layla says

Straight, No Chaser is Book 2 of The McLaughlins series but you can definitely read it as a standalone. To be honest, I had a hard time getting into the story at the start. The hatred Colin has for Hailey put me off a bit. But then, I picked it up again and the rest of book kind of flowed.

Hailey did something horrible to Colin's family, but she had her reasons for doing so. Reasons that everybody finally accepted except Colin.

So, he basically makes her pay the price by being horrible to her in return but it's apparent that Hailey used to mean something to him and that's why he reacts so strongly.

Anyways, the story goes on like this, he's mean to her and then admits he went too far so he makes it up to her and this way they kind of grow closer.

What made me like this book is The McLaughlins, I love big and loving families' stories. This was one of them. I kind of liked Colin and Hailey together in the end. Not my favorite love story but still cute in its own way.

ARC was provided by NetGalley

Pelusa Rivera says

Received an ARC at no cost to author. This is the second book in this series. This is Colin's book with love interest Hailey. Colin was angry at Hailey since she set up Ian years ago, and due to that Ian and Sarah had suffered a lot of heartache and Ian missed years of Emily's upbringing. Hailey claims that she regretted what she did, but supposedly it was the only way for her to keep her brother from going to the foster system. Now the author kind of wanted us to have sympathy for Hailey, now don't get me wrong, her life was not easy, but I am sorry I really didn't see her regretting what she did. It took her eleven years to admit what she did, and she only did it because of Emily. I don't get that, it took you 11 years to own up to what you did? No, the McLaughlin's are way better people than me.. However, I still will read the next book, I want to know what happens to Kenzie.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Slick's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

I have to admit, I was really excited to be back with the McLaughlin family. I love being back in Washington state and I most definitely loved watching Colin realizing that all things in life aren't black and white. I can't help it, I love when a hero has to come to terms with the fact that he was wrong with his assumptions about the heroine. Author Shelli Stevens has given us a love/hate relationship that turns into a lust fest followed by love; it wasn't pretty but damn it was fun!

Deputy Colin McLaughlin has a hard time letting go of his anger when someone does his family wrong. He's fiercely loyal and often refuses to forgive no matter what the circumstances. Being left at the altar has only intensified his need for loyalty. So when the woman who broke his twin brother's high school love resulting in the family not knowing of his now 10 year old daughter resurfaces, he's not too thrilled to see her. Unfortunately his body can't deny the attraction he's had for the woman who was once best friend's with his little sister and his soon to be sister in law.

Hailey Alexander has tried very hard to make amends for the things she did in the past to keep a roof over her and her little brother's head and food on the table. She's not proud of the part she played in breaking apart her best friend Sarah's relationship even though she did it to survive. Now a nurse, she takes her job seriously and is dedicated to making her patient's lives better. She tries to stay out of the way of the McLaughlin family's way but when a work celebration takes her to their pub; she's put straight in their path once again.

Despite Colin being completely pigheaded at times, I couldn't help but love him while at the same time I wanted to kick him in his tight little kilted ass. The whole family, including the two who were most affected by Hailey's betrayal, was willing to leave it in the past and move on but Colin just couldn't let it go. Yes, he has reason to not trust women but he was really hard on Hailey so much so I was surprised she allowed him to get close at all. The undeniable chemistry between these two boiled over whenever they were together proving there is a VERY thin line between love and hate. What was most telling about Colin's character though was when Hailey was in danger; he did everything in his power to protect her.

I very much enjoyed watching these two figure out their feelings for one another and moving past what happened years ago. Their intimate moments were sometimes out of control, sometimes sweet but always fiercely explosive. Hailey learning how to forgive herself was also huge and I loved how both Sarah and Kenzie embraced her and worked to make her feel welcome back in their lives.

With each story in this series I fall more in love with the McLaughlin family and I can't wait to see what happens next. A sinfully sexy story filled with forgiveness, understanding, and love makes Kilty Pleasure one hell of a good book!

Review copy provide for an honest review.

Raquel Cortes says

Straight, No chaser has everything I look for in a book: Sizzling romance, witty banter and likable characters. A must-read for those who enjoy love-hate relationships between the main characters.

Tami says

We met the H (Colin) and h (Hailey) in the previous book in the series. In the previous book, we learned that the h set up her best friend(Sarah) and our H's twin brother (Ian) into believing that the twin and this book's h had slept together. She was monetarily paid by her best friend's father and this book's h needed the money in order to keep her brother out of foster care. Colin hates her, because she set up his twin and his GF causing them all to miss their baby's (Emma) growing up years. As much as we didn't like Hailey in the first book, we are supposed to like her now?

This review is based on the ARC received from the author and/ or the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest opinion.

Runner10 says

This is the second book in the McLaughlins series. It is a stand alone book, but I recommend reading the first book in the series to understand the characters and family history. I am loving the Scottish family. I like the chemistry between Colin and Hailey. There is a bad history between these two that may be hard to overcome. Shelli Stevens keeps the reader glued to this story and eager for the next book.

Bette Hansen says

So. Freaking. Awesome! I am loving this series with the McLaughlin family. This is Hailey and Colin's story and it's one you don't want to miss.

Years ago Colin McLaughlin may have had a crush on Hailey Alexander. That was before she betrayed his family and almost ruined his brother's life. The rest of his family may have accepted her late explanation and

apology but Colin isn't so quick to forgive. So what if there is an intense attraction between himself and Hailey. He's strong enough to resist it. Isn't he???

I highly recommend this one and I can't wait for the next book.

Becky Burciaga says

For a story that on its way to a HEA, it took a fantastic and unexpected route through some tense and gripping moments that were expertly weaved into Colin and Hallie's journey. With charismatic characters, a smart and quickly moving dialog, I was hooked from the onset.

I've also read the first book in the series, Ian and Sarah's story, and truly look forward to Kenzie and Aleck stories in books three and four.

This ARC book was complimentary, provided by the Publisher and NetGalley. I am voluntarily providing my honest review.

P.e. lolo says

This book opens up with Deputy Colin McLaughlin who is a tough opinionated man and it is only worse when he sets his eyes on Hailey Alexander. Once his sister best friend she in his eyes should not be welcomed in the family bar or on the island if he had his way. At the same time that he is angry over something she did to his family not to him, and the two people forgave her is one hardheaded son of a gun. Each of them find the other attractive and have since high school which is still frustrating to both of them. Now when one day he is watching his niece and takes his eye off the prize for one second it turns out he needs her help, for she is a nurse. After that day they seem to be more together and when he finds out about a problem she has going on with an ex-boyfriend he decides maybe it should be time for him to get over his issues with her. A good story about family forgiveness and just how close love and hate can be and how they can keep you apart or perhaps bring you together. Read this wonderful story. I received this book from Netgalley.com I gave it 4 stars. Follow us at www.1rad-readerreviews.com

Marsha Spohn says

Reviewed at Keeper Bookshelf

Colin and Hailey have a history, a family history, and one that Colin is not letting go of any time soon. That makes his attraction to her a very rough issue in this romance. Yes, Hailey did some really bad things. There really are no excuses, although there are explanations and regret, so much regret.

With Hailey back on the island, and his twin brother and his wife willing to forgive, it places Colin in that uncomfortable spot of being the holdout in the “welcome Hailey back committee”. He is certainly not looking for love, been there, done that – have the broken heart and the didn’t happen wedding to show for it. Yet Hailey keeps drawing him in.

Hailey knew that coming back and trying to make amends would not be easy. Yet she's trying. Her attraction to a man who cannot stand the sight of her hurts, there's no denying that. But maybe Colin can begin to see that she's different now from the girl he once knew. Sure she admits that she, and her family were trouble back then – but right now trouble is following her and this reluctant man, this cop may be her only hope not only to survive but to find out that love can be so very real.

Straight, No Chaser is an emotional story, full of anger, hope and that thin line between hate and love that eventually crosses over to one side or the other. I enjoyed my time in this world. Watching Hailey and Colin work through their past and toward their future was a rocky, emotional journey.

This is a re-release title. It was originally released as Kilty Pleasures in 2014. Simply be aware that you may have already read this story.

I received an e-ARC of this novel from the publisher via NetGalley. That does not change what I think of this story. It is my choice to leave a review giving my personal opinion about this book.

Elaine says

This contemporary romance goes to show just how close the emotion of hate can be to love! Deputy Colin McLaughlin has never forgiven Hailey Alexander for something she did as a teenager that almost ruined his brother's life. He definitely bears her a huge grudge and when she turns up with some of her nursing colleagues at his family's pub he finds it hard to even be pleasant with her and can't understand the more tolerant attitudes of his siblings. Hailey had a dreadful childhood and escaped an abusive relationship but has worked hard to improve her situation and is now a respected nurse with a real knack of connecting with and reassuring her young patients. However, she also knows that Colin is unlikely to ever forgive her for her mistakes even though the attraction between them is still as powerful as it was when he was her teenage crush. Can they forget the past to move on to a future together? Can he forgive her teenage mistakes or will they prevent them having any chance of finding their HEA together?

This is a story of uncovering reasons for what happened in the past, discovering that life isn't always a case of right and wrong, black and white. It involves accepting the motivations for past interactions and being willing to move on to a more promising future with trust and love. The characters are brilliantly developed and the plot has some real loops in it to throw the reader off track! The story hooked me from the start and I thoroughly enjoyed escaping into it, so have no hesitation in recommending it to anyone who enjoys a contemporary romance where the hero eventually discovers he's jumped to some erroneous conclusions!

I requested and received a copy of this novel via NetGalley. This is my honest review after choosing to read it.
