



Kiss It Better

Linda Kage

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Contemporary Adult Romance

some explicitness

A PAST TO PLAGUE HIM...

When Reed Walker's sister is raped, memories of his miserable childhood haunt Reed and interfere with his perfectly structured life. To add to the chaos, just when dating becomes the last thing on his mind, Sophia Eschell, the very woman he's been dreaming about for the past three years, barrels into his life.

AND A WOMAN TO HEAL HIM...

After hooking up with too many troubled men, Sophia is determined to find a normal, average guy sans baggage. She turns her attention to Reed, only to discover he has more issues than anyone. But if he can learn to open up to her, can she honestly reject him or will she...kiss it all better?

(revised and republished from the 2011 version)

Kiss It Better Details

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Author : Linda Kage

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From Reader Review Kiss It Better for online ebook

Yona says

I wanted to read a few pages before falling asleep, but I ended up finishing the whole book. I loved the story and the characters.

Jillian (NetGalley Addict) says

This book was part of a blog tour I was given a copy for my honest review

Reed had a horrible childhood and has spent his life taking care of his little sister when she is sexually assaulted he fears she will never recover or remember things from their childhood. At work he can escape this turmoil and see the Sophia the woman he has wanted for three years. Sophia has a thing for men with problems, when the last guy she dates shows up on her doorstep with his new wife she vows to never date a guy with a bad past. She thinks Reed is the perfect guy he seems so normal, when everything starts to fall apart Sophia finds out Reed has many ghosts. Can Reed tell Sophia his secrets? Can she accept everything he has to tell her and help him get past it? I really liked this book, the turmoil and angst that Reed feels is heartbreaking. When he is with Sophia it's like those bad feelings disappear. Sophia irritated me a little bit at the beginning, but as the story progressed and she began to see what love really was she changed. Even though I knew something was coming, it still made me cry and I just wanted to give the couple a hug. Kiss It Better is a great read for romance fans who like their heroes a little bit broken and heroines who are strong enough to help fix them.

Katie says

A heartwarming tale filled with love and hope.

This story was beautifully written and captivated me from the beginning. I have enjoyed books by this author before and was not disappointed with this one. The characters slowly worked their way into my heart and I found myself sharing many of the same emotions as Sophia throughout her journey to find out what loving someone really means.

Sophia was a courageous and caring woman and I highly enjoyed seeing the relationship between her and Reed slowly develop. She grew a bit throughout the book as well and finally realizes that when it comes to love the heart doesn't abide by any rules or conditions and nothing can stop it.

Reed hasn't always had the best life and it has only gotten worse. Despite all of this he has a big heart and any woman would be lucky to have him. He was an interesting character that I enjoyed getting to know right along with Sophia. He also grew a lot throughout the book just as Sophia did.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves heartwarming romances with characters that will captivate you from the very beginning.

Chu says

Review Originally Posted at: Book Freak

It was the men themselves, men with backbone and strength who could live through hell and still make it out alive. Men who survived and triumphed.

Reed Walker's life is almost perfect, he's got a job, a nice apartment shared with his best friend and he's about to ask the girl of his dreams of a date - until he received a call that his sister, Danni has been sexually assaulted. Just when every thing else in his life is starting to fall apart, Sophia, the girl he has been wanting for ages, strolled in to his life.

Sophia didn't want to add another Troubled Man to the list of her dating partners. She has enough of them. All he wanted to find was someone normal - no emotional issues, no hidden past or scarred soul, just an average guy. But then there was Reed Walker - he has more baggage than anyone. Only if he could tell her what is bothering him - perhaps they could work things out, and she could just kiss it all better.

The secondary characters are pretty amazing as well. Most especially Nic - he's an awesome, awesome friend. He may hook up with a lot of girls and bring them home (despite the fact that Danni is staying with them), but he doesn't judge, he listens and most especially he wanted to help.

I NEVER EXPECTED. I thought all the while... I was so surprised, had my jaws drop in the revelation. I didn't see it coming. Sexual abuse or any types of abuse can happen to anyone, at any place, at any given time. Denial doesn't help. So as keeping it a secret. Victims of abuse are not of fault here. They should know that - we should make them realize it.

Linda Kage never fails to amaze me with the twist and turns of her stories. I love this book turned out to be, my expectations were exceeded. This wasn't just a book with a pretty cover, nor it deals with a love story between two couples. Linda Kage ventured into one of the most delicate topics of the society - she had done successfully with tact and sensitivity.

*ARC Copy was given in exchange for an honest review.

Casey says

Not just another romance

Linda Kage writes with heart and compassion. The people in this novel are in no way plastic or one dimensional, but rather fully rounded and developed characters that you might meet tomorrow or perhaps already know.

Carrie says

This story was SOOOOO GOOD! It moved quickly, but did a great job of building relationships & back story. It's a work place romance, and that type sometimes really annoys me, but this one did not at all! Reed & Sophia had been crushing on each other for awhile, and we come into the story when they both decide to go after what they want, even tho it's a really bad time - or so it seems. Really, it's the best time for both of them. They each have things to work through, but really this is Reed's story. The things he has to face and overcome are quite daunting. I love that Sophia doesn't give up on him. Also, the supporting characters in Reed's roommate and sister, have their own stories going on, but they mesh so well w/ the main story - they don't take anything away from it, which can sometimes be a problem. I liked this, and I'm glad I had the opportunity to read it. :)

Amanda Sheila says

This book's making me laugh and cry and smile with snot filling my nose and cry again.

"I'm never invited, Sophia."

Shaking her head to continue denying, Sophia blinked, hoping if she fluttered her lashes enough she'd see him smile instead of sending her a weary look.

"But.."

"It's fine," he assured her. "I know I don't fit in."

I've read a book with insecure Hero once, but that Hero's seventeen year old boy. I cry a lot while reading this book because this *man* is every women's dream come true, tall, handsome, have a good job and good heart, yet his insecurity is beyond everything. I just want to cuddle him.

Reed's in love with Sophia and apparently, vice versa. He wants to date her, but everything fall apart all of a sudden and he can't get it together. Lucky for him, Sophia's willing to help, no, she's eager to help him. But the thing is, he just don't want her helping him..

I love these characters. Linda Kage's one hell of an author. Her style of writing is comforting, convincing, tearjerking and just perfect to me. I feel the chemistry between Sophia and Reed big time and I'm so happy that finally, he got his happy ending.

I just wish Linda would wrote more about Sophia's family because I'd love to see Danni and Reed being welcomed. Oh, and I want to know how the stupid guy Zack continue his work in Kendrick's. I bet Marcus is slowly torturing him. LOL! :)

So yeah overall, this book is amazing. Looking forward to read another Linda Kage's books.

Tia says

What a dreary story. I felt even Kage was maybe struggling to write this. I kept falling asleep trying to read it

and then finding grammatical and spelling errors. I'm amazed I made it to the end.

Barb says

A PAST TO PLAGUE HIM...

When Reed Walker's sister is raped, memories of his miserable childhood haunt Reed and interfere with his perfectly structured life. To add to the chaos, just when dating becomes the last thing on his mind, Sophia Eschell, the very woman he's been dreaming about for the past three years, barrels into his life.

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What an awesome story. A story of tragedy, forgiveness, humor, love and most of all healing. Very well written. Its the kind of book you read again and again. 5 stars.

Linda says

What a powerful novel! I felt bad when Danni was attacked, and could see how overprotective Reed was. Both Reed and Danni came from an abusive home, an uncaring mom with her abusive boyfriends. I liked that shy Reed Walker had secretly crush on Sophie Eschell, a total hottie who he worked with. As senior account to a firm, he got tongue tied when Sophie was near.

Kelsey Mouhot says

While the history behind the story honestly lacks some serious depth, lets be honest. It's erotica, people don't read...heck I don't know what's popular with kids today...J-13 magazine? Whatever, seventeen magazine then. Anyway! You don't read Seventeen magazine and expect to find the secret to understanding your freakishly hormonal teenage daughter. Just like you don't read erotica for it's ground breaking insight into rape victims, if that's a part of the story like it is here.

So, that all aside, I seriously enjoyed this book! I kept having to remind myself that it was a fictional character I was reading about and not an alternate reality me. I completely identified with Sophia, having a propensity for wounded men is something we share. And I kept rooting for her and Reed the entire time. So sweet. So touching. Loved it!

Ivy Deluca says

This is the second book I've read by Linda Kage - I really enjoyed The Price of a Kiss, so I decided to try this book out since it was on sale at amazon. She has a distinct voice as an author and while I did have some issues with the story, it wasn't a bad read.

Sophia has an attraction to damaged men, and vows that she won't get involved with another one after the last disastrous relationship. Of course, she somehow thinks that one of her bosses, Reed Walker, wouldn't be interested in her because he's gorgeous, in command, etc. Then she realizes that all isn't what it seems and she begins a friendship with him.

The Good

There was good chemistry between the H/h. I liked that time was taken to let them get to know each other outside of their work environment. Their love scenes were hot and I definitely felt badly for Reed and his sister and the aftermath of his sister's rape. Finding out about Reed and what happened to him when he was a kid was tragic and telegraphed early, yet when it came out it made me completely sympathetic to him.

The Not-So-Good

There are some serious issues in this book that are handled in a superficial way which detracts from the overall story. There were some continuity issues that pulled me out of the moment (view spoiler). The secondary story of Reed's sister relationship with Reed's best friend was very shallow. Sophia's doubt about Reed being attracted to her seemed ridiculous since of course she's a stunner.

The Bottom Line

This is a hard book to rate for me because some of the problems I had with the story, but I ultimately liked Reed and Sophia enough that I still enjoyed reading it.

Shelly says

I'm a big fan of this author's work, I think her 'Forbidden Men' series is brilliant - she's the first author who steered me into reading the YA category. It's with that faith that I read Kiss It Better.

While at work one day, Reed Walker gets a call that changes his life. His sister, Danni's been the victim of an assault. He knows it's bad but he doesn't understand how bad it really is nor how bad it's going to get. Rushing to his sister's side starts a chain of events that will forever change him - for the better. Sophia Eschell works for the same company as Reed. She actually works in the same accounting department and has always had a bit of crush on Reed even while she's going out with loser after loser. Sophia's love life has always been a bit of a mess, she seems to find and attach herself to the guy who's a fixer upper - every single time. I was really worried about Reed falling into this 'loser' category because there were signs.

Reed and Danielle Walker's childhood left a lot to be desired. They never knew their father(s) and their mother was, the best word I can use in polite company is, absent. She had some tendencies that suggest that she should never have had children, or if she does, give them up because there's a chance that someone would actually want the children she gave birth to - she didn't.

The siblings have moved on from their childhood circumstances, which I was very happy to read. There's no blame game here, they're doing the best they can. Reed's a relatively successful accountant and Danni's a writer of children's book along with being a college student. So these two are doing fine or they were until someone attacked Danni. That's the part of the story that I wish I knew more about, Danni's story. I didn't get anywhere close enough of that.

Reed's suffering from a strong case of guilt. He can't help his sister because he's caught up in his own personal memories *spoiler alert* (view spoiler) I'm not convinced the way that Reed handled his personal

feelings about his secret were actually productive to him. I'm not saying therapy was the only other option but I'm not convinced that holding all that so close to the vest was the right thing to do. And his hands off approach with helping Danni didn't seem right. I mean his sister who he loves from one side of the moon and back just had something terrible happen and he can't even look her in the eyes, hug her and let her know that he's got her back and everything will be alright. That didn't feel right or flow that well for me.

Sophia...Sophia...Sophia...I couldn't have liked this heroine any less. There's no way on God's green earth I would have kept after Reed the way that Sophia kept going after him. For the amount of time from when they became friends to their romance, she became vested very very quickly. I actually thought the first time she went to his house, it was a bit stalkerish. She showed up without an invitation, he didn't even give her his address. That smells like stalker behavior to me.

As persistent as Sophia was to fix Reed, I didn't feel the romance between these two. There were moments when Reed would proclaim that Sophia is his forever woman and in the next scene he would push her away but Sophia wouldn't allow him to say no, she just kept coming back. She just kept taking all the crap Reed would say and do, I was ready for her to stand up to him so much more than she did. This was a relatively short read and I think it would have been better, for me anyway, if the story was longer and the characters were much more developed. But then again, maybe it's just me because I've read some really amazing things by this author and this wasn't one of them.

Happy reading folks!

Rating: C-/D+

Also posted at www.redhotbooks.com

Jo Smith says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book that centres around the very difficult subject of rape. Reed is a successful unattainable 2nd in command. Shona is his ideal woman, she flushes every time she sees him with want. Reeds sister Danni is raped & Reed spirals, Shona wants to help & gradually they begin seeing each other but Reed has a secret that he's not willing to share - something so dark he cannot bring himself to recall.

The main four characters in this book interact beautifully, although Shona's business in her pursuit of Reed is occasionally irritating. You have the male friend bond with Nic which tests all limits of friendship. the roles of big brother protector, a woman trying to overcome rape & start trusting a man again.

lots to get get your teeth into!

Brandy Dorsch says

Oh, Linda. You have managed to make me love again.

Sophia is a wonderful character and is one of those compassionate women that sees the good in people and wants to be the one that saves them. She knows that there is more to Reed than the persona that he displays to the office.

I loved seeing the dynamics of this couple and the way their relationship grows. Reed has never had it easy and I think when you have had that kind of life it can be difficult to believe in the good things that come into your life.
