



Side Hustle

Emily Goodwin

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When Scarlet Cooper takes a new job as a nanny, she assumes she's going to work for the rich couple who hired her. But instead of pulling up to their million-dollar estate, she finds herself on the front porch of a humble farmhouse, looking into the eyes of dark and brooding single dad, Weston Dawson.

It's bad enough that Weston doesn't have a fortune to charm out of him, but he's also a cop. After marrying his high school sweetheart only to have her up and leave weeks after their baby was born, Weston has sworn off women for life. All that matters now is taking care of his son, Jackson.

If anyone can break down the tough exterior of the former soldier, it's Scarlet. But just when she's close to getting exactly what she wants, she's faced with a whole new challenge, which just might be the biggest con she's ever pulled: pretending she doesn't love him.

***Side Hustle* is a standalone single dad romance and is the third book in the *Dawson Family* series.**

Side Hustle Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Emily Goodwin

Format :

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Side Hustle for online ebook

Rosa Sharon (iScream Books Blog) says

"Is the con artist getting conned? Is the universe finally catching up to me, and this is its way of giving me the middle finger while laughing out a big fuck you?"

It was that cover...sigh. Yeah, I admit I kind of have a thing for a man with a man bun. It got my attention and that's how I ended up reading my first Emily Goodwin book. Yes, I know it's the third in the series, but I read it as a standalone. And now, after meeting the **Dawson Family**, I want to read all of them.

Scarlet has the worst of intentions when she meets Weston, but I like her anyway. She's had a hard life and it's made her hard. Well, at least she thinks so. *"—when you have darkness inside of you, you have two choices: hate yourself for it or embrace it. I chose the later."* Myself, I don't think she is dark or hard, I think she is a survivor and she had to make decisions that no teenager should have to. Once you cross the line and have to look in the mirror afterward it becomes easier to forget your dreams and accept what you can't change. Love is a fairytale she no longer believes in. *"Being in love meant having a heart, and I convinced myself mine stopped working long ago."*

Weston is a **#SingleDad** and a **#HotCop**. As you can imagine the women of his small town were falling all over themselves to get his attention. But they are wasting their time because he has been burned too bad to consider trying again. If it wasn't for his job he would never have considered a nanny for his son. He put it off as long as he was able until his sister finally stepped in and took matters into her own hands. He had no idea what she looked like until she showed up, and then he couldn't forget.

I really enjoyed this story. The dual POV had me seeing things from both sides and I found myself tempted to turn the pages with crossed fingers. I was yearning for an HEA but worried about what would happen when the good guy discovered she was a bad girl. And wait until you meet Jackson. That boy will have you saying yes before you even hear the question, he's that cute. Did I mention that he has twin uncles? Imagine the fun stories we to look forward to. The line forms here...

Jos says

4.5 SEXY Stars

I FLOVED Wes and Scarlet, yep whole-heartedly loved them:) . The whole family was great and if I am being honest, I skipped ahead to this book in the series BUT plan to go back from the start.

The secondary characters were all as great as Wes and Scarlet and I know I am knew to this series BUT I am so super intrigued by Dean and most especially, Kara.....not sure wth is going on there and maybe because I skipped ahead I would have known but yeah those two as brief as they were in this book were an enigma of sorts.

OK, so why NOT 5 Stars, well for me, the whole con-artist thingy just didn't "work" for me or rather maybe if it had been written in a different way, I know sounds crazy BUT I wasn't onboard with her previous activities.

Anyhoo, loved this story and this whole family:) . Well ALL except for Daisy, lol!!

Sabrina says

NOW LIVE!

Amazon US * Amazon UK

Side Hustle brings readers back to the Dawson family with single father, Weston, and his new nanny, Scarlet. Scarlet is a down on her luck woman who tosses her morals out the window in order to make the money she needs to care for her father. While Weston is running for town Sheriff. An odd combination for sure, but one that had me intrigued.

Scarlet and Weston just clicked right away and it was clear that they belonged together. I loved the connection these two shared and how fascinating it was to watch the chemistry sizzle between them before they finally gave in to it. Scarlet was a flawed characters, there's no denying that, but that allowed a lot of room for her character to grow, and I thought the character development in this story was perfect.

The rest of the Dawson family also makes an appearance and we got to catch up with them. We got to see them bring Scarlet into their fold and it was amazing how accepting they were. I'm super excited to see what's next for this series.

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

Adriana Locke says

There are few things I like more than a well-written small town love story. There are few of those I like as much as *Side Hustle* by Emily Goodwin.

This story blew me away. The characters are so relatable. I was cheering for them from the moment they walked on the page. The setting is perfect (small town Indiana girl here!), the banter hilarious, and the feels on-point.

Goodwin outdid herself with this charming, witty romance. I finished hours ago and still find myself thinking of Wes and Scarlet and smiling. THAT is what you want out of a book like this. THAT is what you get. In spades.

Well done.

D.M. says

Scarlet Cooper likes the quick easy money. She's a professional hustler and her morals are tainted. Her father isn't well and she will do whatever she can to give him a comfortable life. Scarlet is from the wrong side of town, she has made some bad choices and her sister is currently in prison. She isn't a bad person. She's a survivor. It's time for Scarlet to find a new hustle. A rich family to exploit or a husband to blackmail, but this time she's about to find more than she bargained for. The job isn't what she expects. The mission needs to be

aborted.

Weston Dawson is a cop. He wants to be a county sheriff, but he has a young dependant. His son is 4 years old and his wife has run off. He loves his son, Jackson and wants to give him a good life. His family are close and his sister wants to help him land his dream job. She helps him find a Nanny. Scarlet has the experience. She's beautiful and fun. She's good with his kid. What Wes wasn't expecting was his feelings for her. He had given up on love a long time ago, but Scarlet re-awakens something he thought was long gone.

Scarlet knew she was in over her head the second she laid eyes on Weston. He's all man and she is struggling to resist. She should have turned and left the second she realised this wasn't the gig she signed up for, but now she has too much to lose.

Scarlet has always put her family first, even though her childhood was not the best. She cares for them. When she meets the Dawson family she wishes she could keep them, but she has a past and Wes is a cop. What starts as a hustle gone wrong turns into a family so right. Can scarlet find her happy ever after? She loves the kid and Wes, but can they truly love her back?

This is probably the best-hired nanny story I've read. The characters are well developed and the romance is heated. It's funny and heartwarming. This is my first book by Emily Goodwin and I hope it's not my last. I really enjoyed this story. The Side Hustle can be read as a stand-alone, however, it's part of the Dawson family series. This family is loveable. This is a great read.

It's intended for mature audiences.

*I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review. It's a thumbs up from me. 5 out of 5. Fabulous from beginning to end.

Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says

4 stars

Side Hustle is a cute, sweet, steamy and heartwarming story. Scarlet and Wes have a great relationship!

I loved the concept, it was one of my favorite and the characters nailed this story. Both of them have their faults and I loved seeing them together in the end.

Scarlet was a strong heroine and Wes was hot and protective.

Cristina | CristiinaReads says

⇒ *A single father and baby-sitter romance that takes the emotional aspect that makes your heart stop and then beat the fastest that it will ever do with such a compelling romance novel...*

⇒ When it comes down to single father and babysitter, I have such a weakness for them and there is no stopping me from requesting them. So when I see that a new author that I read this year has a single father romance up her sleeve, then you can sign me up! Scarlet and Weston are two individuals in which have emotional struggles behind the character that they both portray. My heart beats and beats, and stops whenever these two have those magical moments that are filled with harmony and passion.

⇒ You know how sometimes you encounter upon characters that instantly have a draw that is not just about lust, but also about the same interests when it comes down to family, life, and love? Yeah well, those type of characters are very hard to find in the romance world because everything is considered such a "cliche" to many outside romance readers. With Emily's novel, there is no denying that you will be captivated with wanting more of Scarlet and Weston. The Dawson family never stops amazing me as well, especially when we get snippets of Archer and Quinn having those lovey-dovey moments that I find so cheesy but absolutely ADORE!

⇒ Overall, Emily has astounded me once again when it comes down to surprising my heart for wanting more of Scarlet and Weston's story. I truly do want more for sure, so Emily? Please get on the writing game because there is no alternating your writing for something else.

⇒ ARC kindly provided by the publicist, in exchange for an honest review...

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NMmomof4 says

2.5 Stars

Overall Opinion: This book felt like too much and not enough at the same time. I felt like there was too much mushiness, too much "insta", too much drama (that felt instant), and (at the end) too much of a rush into a HEA. It also didn't feel like enough character development, or enough development of their connection (other than sex), or not enough resolution (for the big drama). I'm sure others will (and did) love this - but it just didn't work out for me. On a positive note: Jackson, the H's 4 year old son, made the book for me and was great!

Brief Summary of the Storyline: This is Scarlet and Weston's story. Scarlet is struggling to help support

her sick father and her sister that's in prison, so when she finds an opportunity to work a con in a nanny situation -- she takes it. Only when Scarlet arrives, she soon finds out that she won't be working for a couple that she can con but a single dad with the cutest four year old. Wes is upset that he even needs the help, but he finally gets to the point that he accepts his sister's help in getting a live-in nanny for him to free up his time in order to campaign for the local sheriff position. Sparks fly instantly, but both of them try to resist one another because of their circumstances. After more and more time spent together, they finally give in and fall in love. There are some big secrets revealed, some ex drama, some sexy times...and they get a HEA ending.

POV: This alternated between Scarlet and Weston's POV.

Overall Pace of Story: Okay. I did skim some of the sex scenes towards the end because I was anxious to just get through it all. I think their big conflict was resolved way too quickly (and easily) to be really believable.

Instalove: Yes. I didn't get their progression to stronger feelings. It might be that I didn't really connect with either characters or feel their connection to each other -- but it did feel a little too "insta" for my liking.

H rating: 3 stars. Weston. I thought he was okay. I didn't like what felt like inconsistency with his character and how he was this broody, hot, distrustful guy in the beginning and then seemed to flip a switch and become someone else. Maybe it was that darned golden hooaha sickness ?

h rating: 2.5 stars. Scarlet. I struggled with her a good bit from the beginning through to the end. I am not a huge fan of people lying, so this contributes a lot to how I felt about her character. I get that the message was that she decided to change, but to me it was a character flaw for her to be able to do those things in the first place ?????

Sadness level: Low, no tissues needed

Push/Pull: Yes (view spoiler)

Heat level: Good. They have some good tension, chemistry, and scenes -- but not so much it takes away from the story.

Descriptive sex: Yes

OW/OM drama: Yes (view spoiler)

Sex scene with OW or OM: No

Cheating: No (view spoiler)

Separation: Yes (view spoiler)

Possible Triggers: Yes (view spoiler)

Closure: This had a cute epilogue with a HEA ending (view spoiler)

Safety: This one is probably Safe with exception for most safety gang readers depending on personal preferences.

(view spoiler)

Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

Awesome love story.

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If you have a heart at all, you will completely fall for the characters in this book. Starting with Scarlet. She is the epitome of a down on your luck, hard life character who has a questionable past but truly wants to do the right thing.

Goodwin did a fabulous job with this character. Even though the intentions at the beginning were not right, the fact that she is so enamored with a regular life really struck a chord with me.

Then bring in Weston. Totally devoted to his son and the owner of a gorgeous body, sweet disposition, and a family who truly means well but is so very accepting too.

From the very beginning these two knew there was something hot and simmering and when it became something more, all bets are off. They were the perfect couple - even with her history, the HEA wins.

Goodwin is not afraid to write about flawed characters. After all, there's no such thing as perfect person, but there are people out there who are right just for you, who will love and support you no matter what, and this is the perfect story that showcases that belief.

Sweet and hot in so many ways, Side Hustle is a story that you will find yourself smiling and sniffing along to as you envelop yourself into the story!

Oh, and sign me up for Weston, please. Total yum!

\* copy received for review

full review - <https://amidlifewife.com/side-hustle-...>

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## **Mandy says**

I am a sucker for a good single dad romance. There is something so incredibly sexy about a man who loves and takes care of his child. Wes was an amazing father and the perfect hero. Non-manwhore who works hard and prefers to spend time with his son than chase women = perfection! I loved this book, the romance, the characters, the banter - everything! There was a kind of unique plot to this one with the heroine being a bit of a bad girl but she's just been trying to survive. This was a fantastic romance and I highly recommend it!



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## Book Maniac Forever says

?? 5 "Make A Wish" Stars ??

I was already charmed by the Dawson family after reading Quinn and Archer's duet, but with *Side Hustle* I developed an even stronger attachment to them. Emily Goodwin shows her genius with this heartfelt story I couldn't put down. Not only the romance is gorgeous and passionate, but the fact Weston is a single dad and a cop drawn to the new nanny made it so more alluring.

*"Sometimes you laugh so you don't cry."*

*"I think that's what I've been doing my whole life."*

Scarlett didn't have the best upbringing with her dysfunctional family leading her to make some questionable decisions over the years. When she's hired as a nanny by the Dawsons, she doesn't have the best intentions. She's cynic and jaded from all the letdowns she suffered through and her self-worth so low. Living with Weston and little Jackson slowly makes her realize fundamental values she had lost with time. She protected her heart from the pain by putting walls around it, but these boys slowly by surely are breaking them one by one. Discovering her several layers was so interesting and her character development was so well done. I grew to understand her decisions better and respect her determination. She's such a quirky, sweet and interesting heroine.

*"You stop being afraid of the dark when you learn to make your own light."*

Weston also suffered his fair share of disappointments and sorrows over the years. He lives for his son Jackson, sharing with him an endearing bond! Jackson, with his four-year-old innocence had me swooning from his overload of cuteness. His connection with Scarlett is lovely and his relationship with his dad remarkable.

By hiring Scarlett, Wes needs to learn to trust her with the most important person in his life. He also has to fight his intoxicating attraction to her which is not an easy feat.

Their romance is simply so perfect with the slow built of their feelings and the sparks soaring from every interaction. They not only have a physical compatibility, but the way they act together in every action is so effortless. The flirty and funny banters made me sigh in awe at their emotional intimacy.

*"I wish I could see myself the way you see me."*

*"You'd see how incredible you are."*

I can't forget to tell you about the whole Dawson family. They're such a great group! Quinn is just so genuine and friendly with Scarlett. Logan is such an understanding and helpful brother while his twin Owen is the buffoon. Dean while more serious than the other siblings, still has his moments of teasing. The Dawson

parents are also such a welcoming pair. It was nice diving back into their clan and see the love and support flowing through them.

***"I came here with the intentions of taking from him, and instead he took the one thing I lost years ago: my heart."***

*Side Hustle* is a truly enjoyable story that contains a lot of feels, a fabulous couple, a sweet little dude, a protective and funny family and intensely hot scenes. Emily Goodwin unquestionably pleased me with her latest installment in the *Dawson Family Series*!

***\*\* ARC received in exchange for an honest review \*\****

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### **Lisa (Two Bookish Brits) says**

Gah wow. This was an amazing read!

#### **ARC received in exchange for an honest review**

I'm a sucker for a good romance, I swear I really am. Romance books are my absolutely weakness, any kind tbh but damn I love them so much and *Side Hustle*, it's everything I love about a romance. It's fun, witty and gives you feels, all the feels.

Wes and Scarlet are two characters you won't go forgetting anytime soon.

Scarlet hasn't had an easy life, with her family scattered she's alone in love and in need of money for medical bills. Have that pressure added on to her shoulders she'll do anything to get some extra cash including becoming a nanny.

Weston also hasn't had it easy. After the mother of his son ran as soon as he was born he's been left to pick up the pieces. He's completely devoted to his so but won't accept help until his sister butts in and hired a nanny, just what Wes needs.

Each character has their flaws and traits. They're both beautiful and down on luck, they're both working for a better future and watching them interact has been a great time. From the very beginning when they met I knew these two were gonna hit it off.

Emily Goodwin did amazing with this book. It's fun, witty and super fucking sexy. Wes and Scarlet will have you heating up in 0.5 seconds. 5 freaking massive stars for this beauty!

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### **Sissy's Romance Book Review says**

*Side Hustle* by Emily Goodwin is book Three in the Dawson Family series. This is the story of Scarlet Cooper and Weston Dawson. I haven't yet read the previous books, so for me this was a standalone book. Scarlet has to walk on the wrong side and do some hustling to get money to take care of her dad. Thinking

her next job will be for a rich family she ends up with the totally opposite of that. Weston is a single father who wife up and left him and his son. Now working towards running for sheriffs and trying to make a better life for his family. Scarlet is finding that she is the one getting taken but having her heart given to Weston and Jackson.

Really enjoyed their story!

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## **Elsa Gomes (BookishAurora) says**

⇒ *Rate: 5 / 5 stars*

Emily did it again! Boy do I love the Dawson gene, not only did I completely swoon over Weston but Jackson completely stole my heart, that kid omg!! He is so special. He and his daddy are the perfect little duo and honestly, there is just no way anyone is able to be around them and not fall madly in love with them both. Well... there is one person but she's wacko so it's explained.

I'd been so excited for this book since Quinn's duet ended and it did not disappoint one bit, it was actually way better than I had expected. Not only was it amazing to get to know Weston and have more of Jackson's sweetness but we also got to know more of the Dawson twins and their potential love interests. I'm so beyond excited and anxious for all the Dawson books to come.

But getting back to the one at hand... with Weston being a cop, the sweet and good guy, it is Scarlett that plays the bad girl in this one. Except she isn't really a bad girl; she was forced to do illegal things in order to survive and take care of her screw-up family but deep down her heart is in the right place. And as soon as she meets the Dawson's, she sees that she doesn't have to keep living like she has been until that point, she can leave that person behind and be the Scarlett she always wanted to be. She finds the home and family she always wanted in the Dawson family but her past follows her and so does Weston's and when the two meet... well things might blow up in all their faces and ruin the perfect happy family these 3 are.

I swooned so hard during this book. Weston was so romantic, and sexy oh lord when that man decided to go for it... lordie. Weston and Scarlett's chemistry sparked right from the moment they laid eyes on each other and it only grew from there. The connection they had was impossible to deny, and boy those netflix sessions had me burning up too. And all those moments under the stars had my heart going - in all the fanfics/little stories I've ever written, I write a similar scene, so seeing that in this book made me so happy, specially with these two. Weston and Scarlett were perfect for each other and Scarlett fit so well in the family, and was the greatest mother figure for Jackson. Their relationship was so cute. I loved their little moments.

Side Hustle was one of the best nanny romances I have ever read and I loved it beyond words. Give me all the Dawson books!! I cannot wait to see what Emily comes up with next!

⇒ ARC kindly provided by author, in exchange for an honest review.

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## Suey\_Library says

Insert screaming face here - seriously, wam-bam thank you ma'am, please give me some more! Emily, you did again, just spectacular. Take all the damn stars and give me more!

Right off the bat, something I wasn't expecting was to actually enjoy reading a nanny-single dad romance trope. I have read them before, they are cute, but nothing ever strikes me as a WOW factor in these types of dynamics, but Emily just shattered this utterly and completely. Honestly I think the biggest issues I have with my more least favorite tropes is that the characters have to have a built in dynamic that as a reader, easy to relate for starters and secondly, the build of the romance has to be believable, if I can't see the characters in my mind, then there is no connection. I am more prone to liking these types of tropes because I have a fetish of that boss-employee authority figure romances; there is this forbidden, tension filled and always delicious chemistry, this is what I need! So when I say Emily took the cake, this woman flipping baked it, wrapped it up nicely and fed it to me in the most scrumptious of ways, Side Hustle is untouchable in so many aspects as it delivered.

And speaking of characters, oh my lanta, I loved Wes. As I read Side Hustle I could actually imagine him sitting in my circle of friends, he was that believable. He had this understanding type of personality with a stern presence. It is hard to describe without some spoilage, but honestly when it came to his family and son, no question about it, Wes was a momma bear with the biggest heart. He encompasses all delicious things that wet dreams are made of - simple as that. And Scarlet, just wow. I really enjoyed her personality, and I honestly was not expecting to, I know, insane right? But she truly grows on you, as a reader you cannot help but show a level of sympathy towards her, but she was just so strong willed, something I personally enjoy most about contemporary romance females. She doesn't allow herself to be weak nor inferior, instead she is incredibly empowering. No, she isn't the most legal of means in situations, but she doesn't let things bring her down, she is calm, collective and downright passionate.

Because their personalities had such a straight and narrow mindset, they just meshed, I felt they were so similar. Both had this protective bubble for their worlds, they were guarded yet had this softness about them while building a sort of respect between them as nanny verses employer. I liked how it was slow, yet tension filled between them. They grew to laugh and enjoy their company which really made their chemistry real. As the romance developed into the direction we all know is happening, the chemistry was so hot, it was steaming up my room. Their scenes together were either cute, adorable or beyond panty-dropping sexy. And can we just take a moment to say WHEW, let me fan my lower region for a smidge because those sex scenes were downright hot... yeah I am still fanning myself. Even after the drama unfolded, the web of lies Scarlet was harboring really surprised me, after admitting her faults, the lies, her situation, Wes honestly thought of her as the same Scarlet who undoubtedly stole his heart, beautiful and very much his family.

Jackson, Wes's son, was also an interesting treat. He was definitely a secondary character that was very believable. Yet another aspect that surprised me, I don't even know if I could consider him secondary because he was so built into Scarlet and Wes that he was basically a main character. I suppose Jackson almost acted like a medium between Wes and Scarlet's romance, giving a little break between the tension chemistry and helped focus on the factor that this is a nanny-single dad romance.

Overall, wow. I said it before and I will say it over and over, Emily Goodwin has created a stalker. Cannot get enough of her writing style, she absolutely blows me away! From her heartwarming romantic

entanglements, to the deliciously heated couples, right down to the twist of believable situations that either brings tears to my eyes or a smile to my lips. Just perfection. Side Hustle was absolutely phenomenal, Emily has given me hope that there are actually amazing nanny-single dad romances. This romance made my heart swoon, I felt so much of a connection towards both Wes and Scarlet that I had nothing but happy thoughts, one that left such a cheesy feel good smile plastered on my face even after hours of finishing.

Now, who is ready for Logan? I have a feeling it is a 'Best Friends to Lovers', and I am dying to see if Emily can continue to make me a believer, we all know that is my absolute least favorite trope and I am gushing at the anticipation.

\*\*\*Received an Advanced Readers Copy from Emily Goodwin in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*

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