



The Hotter You Burn

Gena Showalter

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New York Times *bestselling author* Gena Showalter is back with a sizzling Original Heartbreakers story featuring a troubled playboy and the woman he can't resist... Beck O'ckley is ruthless in the boardroom...and the bedroom. He's never been with the same woman twice, and vows he never will. With a past as twisted as his, meaningless sex keeps the demons at bay. His motto: One and done. No harm, no foul. Harlow Glass is the most hated girl in town. The beautiful artist is penniless, jobless and homeless. When she sneaks into Beck's home—her ancestral estate—for food, she's shocked by his early return...and her immediate, sizzling and intense attraction to him. For the first time in Beck's life, he can't get a woman out of his mind. All too soon, friendship blooms into obsession and he'll have to break her heart...or surrender his own. "Sassy, smart characters and an expertly woven, unconventional plot, *The Closer You Come* showcases Gena Showalter in all her shining talent. " —Kristan Higgins, *New York Times* bestselling author

The Hotter You Burn Details

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From Reader Review The Hotter You Burn for online ebook

♥?elody says

3-3.5-really want to give this 4 but the struggle is fierce stars

First, this was much better than Book 1. I did not have the urge to want to punch the hero and heroine (well *most* of the time at least). I actually loved the tension and angst that played out between playboy Beck and reformed bad girl Harlow. It seemed much more organic and they actually had great chemistry. I liked that they kept fighting their feelings but longed for each other at the same time. Beck thinking Harlow deserves better than him yet going unhinged at the idea of her with someone else was fun to watch. They were sweet, cute and hilarious together. I actually really liked Beck. Unlike Jase, he had some character depth and personality, and he stood out. But it all went to shit in the last quarter of the book for me. The last 80 pages just lost all steam and fun. My biggest issue: the ridiculously syrupy, cheesy, overdone dialogue.

Lincoln West stood beside him, slightly taller but just as well muscled—just as gorgeous—with the smoldering intensity of a man on death row, whose last meal would be the females he trapped in his sights.

“Favorite food.”

“You.”

Heat spilled over her cheeks. “Beck.”

“What? I said I’d be honest.”

“Then you should have gone with pie.”

“Baby, you’re sweeter than pie, and that’s a fact.”

Moving on, before she took his mouth with her own.

“What’s your favorite memory?”

“Being inside you.”

Seriously? Where does Gena get this inspiration from? **Nobody** talks this way. The number of *baby, baby* suddenly coming from Beck made me want to smack him. What happened to the special nicknames he kept giving her? I liked those more. The cornball lines he kept throwing out near the end came off like horrible pick up lines that I couldn't take seriously. This was reminding me a lot of those erotica novels where the heroes talk like bad stereotyped cartoons with the cutesy pet names every other line. Ick. It drives me fucking BONKERS. I'm sorry it's just trying too hard and not natural to me.

Second, the nonsensical back and forth getting together/breaking up/making up in a matter of a few days was stupid and a little juvenile for me. Our heroine believes in HEA and wants to find her forever guy who she can marry and have kids with. She's not willing to compromise on it. Ok fine. But asking a guy you've only known for 3 weeks and **just** gotten together with for a few *hours* if he feels trapped and what he sees in their future?

Cuckoo for cocoa puffs girlie. In no shape or form is this reasonable or normal behavior. Harlow could be filed under the 'crazy girlfriend' file because of this. I get what Gena was trying to do given her personal beliefs but trying to force feed it into here just didn't work for me. You can't expect readers to empathize with this logic when it makes zero sense in the context it's written. You CANNOT ask that of a guy you just got together with. It's the same as asking a guy on a blind date when he wants to get married. And yes Harlow really did obsessively harp on the marriage thing too like it was totally fair of her to ask. It made the heroine come off supremely crazy and unreasonable. I tried to cut Harlow some slack with her wishy washy attitude (by demanding for Beck to commit to a relationship then back peddling later saying she changed her mind) given her lack of experience with guys and relationships. But her behavior and knee jerk panicked OH NO! reactions to certain things without thinking things through like an adult made me want to slap her a few times.

And the typical Gena brand of humor with the adults acting like OTT silly cartoons hissing and skipping away was a little too much. Given the genre, it's really hard to swallow a small town full of adults acting like this. Everyone and their mother and grandmother in here holds a grudge of some sort against Harlow for something she did as a teenage bully. Even going so far as wishing her dead, pulling nasty public pranks, name calling, turning her into an indentured maid for sport (are you serious?!), not giving her any job or food etc, etc. You even have former teachers hissing at her (what's with all the hissing?) for something she did as a kid. SHE WAS A KID. From a broken home. I found it all utterly ridiculous and pushing it. These are supposedly grown ass adults. Note to Gena: This is not the LOTU world where anything and everything can be taken to extremes. Cut it out. I beg you.

All in all, I did enjoy this up until the 300 page mark. I really struggled to rate this because of that. I enjoyed the slow build up between the hero and heroine. Gena does good angst when she decides not to go the insta-lust/love route. Beck trying to make Harlow comfortable and put her at ease around him was sweet and endearing. I love how natural and playful they were around each other. Really great chemistry and sexual tension that slowly built up. If it wasn't for the silly nonsense after they finally hooked up I would have given this a 4 stars without hesitation.

And after reading this I went back and changed my rating for Book 1. Yes I took a star off. Just because Jase and Brook Lynn were disgustingly cutesy and cloying-to-the-max in here it should be illegal. Lord I don't know if it's my hormones or what, but they made me want to go stab stab stabby on them. *eye twitch* He's a complete brainless puppy dog around her and nothing more. I swear I'm expecting her to put a leash on him and take him for walks. It's just gag worthy. It's too damn much and hard to get into. I like my alpha men a little more realistic and understated. *shrugs*

Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says

5 Stars

He couldn't have her without committing to her. He had to have her, but he couldn't commit to her. It was the surest way to lose her forever.

I'll admit, I was a little apprehensive reading this book after not quite loving the first book in this series. But then Beck O'ckley was the hero that really captivated me in The Closer You Come with his one-and-done

policy with women. Who doesn't love an unrepentant manwhore? I certainly do. Then you have the heroine, Harlow Glass, as the most hated girl in town that's still paying for her high school bullying days all those years ago. Add in some sizzling sexual chemistry with a dash of humor and you have the recipe for the perfect contemporary romance. I loved this book!

Just then she was a woman who'd stepped straight from his sweetest dreams- and his worst nightmares. Someone who changed the rules of the game.

First of all, if you haven't read the first book in the series, don't worry, because you can easily read this one as a standalone. However, *The Closer You Come* does give the background to the three men and helps set up each of their individual books, so it does help to read the series in order.

Beck is the most easy going of his three friends. But beneath his take-nothing-too-seriously demeanor, is the broken soul of a man that's been through hell and back. Abandoned as a child and going through the system as a foster kid solidified his belief that nothing is permanent. When his friend spent 9 years behind bars for a crime all three of them committed, it also gave him a good dose of guilt that he still can't shake. Beck has a one night only policy with women. That's all he has to give them, one sweaty passionate night spent between the sheets and that's it. No repeats. He's not lacking for female attention, so imagine his surprise when one particular woman won't leave his mind and tempts him beyond reason. She's also the woman that won't give him the time of day.

The day my panties drop for you," she said without any sharpness, "is the day I want to be taken behind one of the sheds and shot."

"Because you'll know you'll never have me again and you won't be able to live with the pain?"

Harlow Glass is the town's pariah. Her vicious bullying back in high school made her persona non grata in her small town, and the town residents are not quick to forget. But she's so much more than she made people believe. This is a woman that's suffered her own pain and in high school her way of dealing with a verbally abusive father at home is to project that hate outward to hide her pain and powerlessness. Now with the recent passing of her mother, Harlow is down on her luck; penniless, jobless and homeless. On top of it, her beloved childhood home is now occupied by someone else, and one of them is Beck. When she sneaks into the house to steal a pie, she gets more than she bargained for.

Do you know how painful it is to crave something with every fiber of your being? To want it more than you want water to drink?"

The Hotter You Burn had that signature Gena Showalter snarky humor that I've come to know and love. The banter between Harlow and Beck had me grinning like a fool for a good portion of the book.

For all you know, my ANYTHING is better than any other you've seen."

"You thinks so?" His gaze dropped to her chest. "Show me." A croak. But was it a demand- or a plea?

Desire mingled with panic, and she gulped. "Not even if you begged me."

"I've never begged before. But there's a first time for everything, isn't there?"

I was afraid that the situation that Harlow is now facing would make her a shy little mouse, but she wasn't that at all. Beyond her terrible situation, this was a woman that had a backbone. Even if that backbone allowed the town people to shit on her, because she thinks she deserves it after what she'd done. She views it as her atonement.

The push and pull between her and Beck had me going back and forth between wanting to pull my hair out and icing my ovaries, because holy lady blue balls! The tension was almost unbearable at times. But at the same time it was oh so delicious.

Harlow was a sickness, and bedding her was the only cure.

As much as I loved the tension between them, I have to admit that at times it was so frustrating, I wanted to scream. Beck's inability to believe he can give Harlow anything beyond one night, trying to set her up with her dream man, going on double dates, I wanted to shake the ever loving stubbornness out of the man! Luckily there were the secondary characters that provided the comedic relief this book surely needed to lighten the weight of it.

Trouser snake? Really? "What about man meat? Or even the middle snake?" Harlow suggested.

Jessie Kay nodded thoughtfully. "Or we could go with something simple like the peen. If we wanted to get technical, we'd have to go with the meatsicle. Or the anaconda, but that's on a case-by-case basis."

Daphne tried for a stern expression, only to ruin it with a snort. "I am not playing this game. But if I were, I'd suggest we call it the weenie wonka."

I even found myself warming up to Jessie Kay in this book, which I never and I mean EVER thought would happen.

At the end of it, I loved every part of this book, even the frustrating ones. I loved the snarky, sarcastic humor. I loved the banter. I loved the MCs and all the secondary characters. I loved the story and the romance.

"What do you need me to do?" she asked breathily. "Whatever it is, I'll do it."
"Just keep breathing, baby."

This was the perfect contemporary romance to spend a weekend with. It had it all; the laughs, the swoons, the sexy...did I mention the laughs?

Careful. You keep that up, and you'll find yourself flat on your back, Beck Jr. deep inside you."

"You mean the Baconator?"

He barked out a laugh. "You've named my penis the Baconator?"

"What? I like bacon."

If you're like me and didn't love the first book, trust me and give this book a chance. It had everything I've come to love in Gena's writing. It even has me wanting to read Jessie Kay's book now, which as much as I hated her in book 1 is saying a hell of a lot.

ARC courtesy of publisher in exchange for an honest review

For more reviews visit

Claire Robinson says

5 - "Give me forever, or give me nothing." Stars!

It has been a few years since I last read a book by Gena Showalter, and reading *The Hotter You Burn* brought back all-sorts of good memories for me. In relation to how entertaining this authors writing is, and how enjoyable her stories and characters are.

Being the second book in *The Original Heartbreakers* series, and having not read the previous books, had absolutely no impact on my enjoyment, and I cannot recommend it highly enough whether you have or haven't read its predecessors.

Beck Ockley and Harlow Glass were the perfect mix of snark, sass, sexual tension, one-liners, drama and back-story. Both of them are dealing with their own sets of baggage, not to mention the feelings and emotions that they start to provoke in each other the more time they spend together.

"Stay close. I'll be coming for you."

One thing you pick up on pretty quickly is that *Mr. One-and-Done* is really not looking to put himself between the folk of *Strawberry Valley, Oklahoma* and the towns pariah, but Harlow for all her bristle and bluster, brings out a protectiveness in him he has never experienced or felt for a woman before, especially when he realizes that having bought her family home out from under her, with his friends Jase Hollister and Lincoln West, she is essentially penniless, jobless and homeless.

You can't help but fall in love with this story, Gena has put a little of everything in it, and the recipe is definitely a success. The sexual tension between these two in the first half of the book had me biting my nails and chewing on my bottom lip, when they get down to it, you know it is just the beginning of their ride into the unknown together. One wants everything, the other is used to giving nothing, can they together reach the happy medium of a healthy relationship?

She wanted affection and love, the kind she'd read about in books and seen in movies. The kind where couples fought to stay together, even during the worst of times. The kind that protected. Defended. Cherished.

I certainly won't be leaving it so long in the future before picking up another book by this wonderful author, *The Harder You Fall* West and Jessie Kay's story is due December 2015, but I also have the enviable treat of having the first two books of the series lined up on my Kindle to read very soon too!

"That was..."

"Only the beginning."

ARC generously provided via *Rock Star PR*, and it was my absolute pleasure to provide the above honest review.

L*Take Me To My HEA* says

I enjoyed this one thoroughly!

Ann says

This will be my first and probably last Gena Showalter contemporary book (I will attempt her paranormal). These characters live in a small town where at least once everyone has slept/been in a relationship with their neighbor... Not sure if I'd like to know my bestfriend once slept with my future husband..

Laura says

"I won't allow fear to lead me anymore. I won't push you away, won't let you push me away. I am happy now, and I see happiness in the future. I'm holding on tight to you, baby, and I'm never letting go."

Blurb: Beck O'ckley is ruthless in the boardroom...and the bedroom. He's never been with the same woman twice, and vows he never will. With a past as twisted as his, meaningless sex keeps the demons at bay. His motto: One and done. No harm, no foul.

Harlow Glass is the most hated girl in town. The beautiful artist is penniless, jobless and homeless. When she sneaks into Beck's home—her ancestral estate—for food, she's shocked by his early return...and her immediate, sizzling and intense attraction to him.

For the first time in Beck's life, he can't get a woman out of his mind. All too soon, friendship blooms into obsession and he'll have to break her heart...or surrender his own.

Now, this is what I'm talking about.

I waited, Gena delivered and it was *oh* so great.

After my not loving so much the first book in this series thing, I wasn't sure how I was going to deal with this one because I really liked all the characters but yeah, the first book didn't do much for me.

Anyhow, this story was a really different thing and it made me appreciate more the good things in book one.

As always I fell in love with Gena's storytelling. She knows when let her characters shine and when to detail, it was to-the-point and I'm happy she's exploring the contemporary world. All my love for that woman.

Now, let's start!

First we have Harlow Glass, ex-bully, most hated woman in town, absolutely funny and such a sweetheart. Harlow used to be the mean queen b in high school but when she had to drop out and get homeschooled, everything changed.

As a character, Harlow is really versatile and she has many layers.

I don't know if I could say she has a complicated personality because she wants very simple things and she does all she can to change the image people have of her. She's not that person anymore, realization and suffering made her become someone else but at the time that happened, it was already too late. Now, years later, she's hated by everyone. She's homeless, jobless and eating whatever she can find. I didn't know if her determination on staying in town, *where she's obviously more than miserable*, is honorable or plain stupid.

Granted, things paid off and everything went well in the end but still, she took so much crap from everyone. She had this "I deserve it" attitude and I got it, she was paying penitence for her past sins but two wrongs don't make one right. It was a joy reading her, truly. Reading how she grows in the book and how she gives everything and gets nothing in return.

She's so adorable and funny and smart and challenging and so cute.

As she fell, the pie went flying.

"Noooo!" she shouted.

Impact emptied her lungs. Tears welled in her eyes, but she wiped the droplets away with a shaky hand, a whimper escaping when she spotted the dark blueberry splatters now streaming across rock and dirt, the crust now sprinkled with dirt.

"Pie killer!" Hello, dark side. "If there's any justice in the world, you will fry for this."

She's constantly battling her demons and trying to stay firm on the purpose of being nice and not giving up.

I have to be honest, I didn't know how much I could take from the whole "*be nice to people even if they're rude to you*" mantra, it was, at times, a bit too much for me but leaving that aside, I really liked Harlow. She overcomes her issues, she works her ass off, she makes friends and she's real honest about what she wants. And she's so kind. I mean, it may be because of the person she used to be but that doesn't take away the fact that if she had just a slice of bread, she'd give it away if someone else need it.

*The fridge was fully stocked, even though she'd devoured enough food to feed an army.
She lacked only one thing. Someone to share her good fortune.*

And then there's Beck.

He's the one I'd been waiting for the most, to be honest. I was really intrigued by him and I find his relationship with Harlow the ideal one.

I understood his reasons to be the way he was, and that fear of not being enough. If you don't give yourself to a person, they can't reject you. That's how Beck thinks and how he lives his life.

He fights and fights to not give in and claim Harlow but everything fails. He wants her, she wants him. As simple as that. Now, I really loved they got to know each other before they started trying to be together. Emphasis in *trying*.

"I've never offered anyone more than a single night. There will never be an exception."

Beck is a contradiction because, even though he doesn't give himself to people, he gave himself to his friends. His friendship with Jase and West is beyond a simple friendship, they're brothers and they got each other's back. *That's* something I absolutely loved and I'm happy Harlow can get to be part of their family.

Now, Beck's issues needed real work and by work I mean love, trust and constancy and Harlow can give him that.

They make it work, yes, and I loved the snarky comebacks and flirting.

Really?? Good luck resisting THIS.

A picture accompanied the text, and a blush crept over her cheeks. He'd actually sent her a picture of his bare butt. Except another picture came in a few seconds later, only it was panned farther out, revealing the "crack" she'd previously seen was actually the line between his pressed-together knees.

His next text read, Dirty minded girl.

[...] she texted Beck.

Her: This toilet is so big...so hard...

Beck: Yeah, baby. Yeah. Tell me more.

Her: It's so wet.

Beck: Now UR just being cruel. What's it wearing? Describe in minute detail.

They're funny and wonderful together and now they both have a big family and they're surrounded by love,

something they needed when they were children but they're also sexy and hot as fuck. The sexual chemistry they have is really palpable and amazing.

He removed his fingers, the moisture she surrendered nearly his undoing.

"Beck."

With his gaze locked on hers, he licked his flesh clean.

Fire blazed in her heavy-lidded eyes. She trailed her hands up her stomach, kneaded her breasts, pinched her nipples, then burrowed through her mass of hair to remove her ponytail band.

Could come just watching her.

The ending was a rushed, that's my only complaint (view spoiler) and though the coma situation was a little out of the blue, it gave a nice dramatic touch I just wish it was presented sooner in the story.

Overall this is a really good romance story with sexy scenes, lovable characters and cool story. Next is West and Jessie's book and I can't wait!

◆◆ Naomi says

GENA SHOWALTER IS THE BOMB DIGGITY!

I seriously loved THE HOTTER YOU BURN, it was amazing. Gena, once again, worked her magic and she wrote a super showaltery book.

« What do you need me to do? » she asked breathily. « Whatever it is, I'll do it. »

« Just keep breathing, baby. »

Beck Ockley is a wham-bam, out-the-door-the-moment-the-sex-ends-without-a-thank-you-ma'am kind of guy. Harlow's words, not mine. He hates change and because of his past in foster care and his family abandoning him, he's secretly afraid of people giving up on him, so to remind himself that he is important he sleeps with women, makes them feel good and leaves them, no harm, no foul. He works with his best friend West and lives in the Glass house with West and his other best friend, Jase.

Harlow Glass is the former town bully. Even 10 years later, the people of Strawberry Valley still resent her for all the hurt she caused. She had her reasons for being a mean bitch, even if there are no good reasons for being a bully, at the time, it seemed right. But Harlow has changed, she isn't the same person she was as a teenager but no one seem to understand that. She has no home, no job, no money, nothing. She lives in a tent just outside her former childhood home. No one wants to give her a job and she's just not ready to leave Strawberry Valley.

She misses her childhood home and just wants to see what the new owners have done with it, so, one day,

thinking the house empty, she goes in...and smells pie. But Beck chooses that moment to come home with his newest conquest. Here starts the story of Beck and Harlow.

« I'm crazy, sick, devastatingly in love with you. »

Beck was a great character. He's loyal, funny, smart, very hot, kind, charming, he found his way into my heart right away. I just knew I was going to love him and I did. I so did. He's such a good guy who had a shitty childhood and who did some shitty things but he changed and became this amazing, strong but vulnerable man.

Harlow was amazing. Gena writes the best heroines! I loved her, how she changed, how she didn't make any excuses for her behavior when she was younger, how brave she was. Harlow, like Beck, did not have an easy start in life but she made it. Her vulnerability touched me and I just wanted to hug her at times because she definitely needed a big, sisterly hug.

Both of them were amazing. Individually and as a couple. They were so much alike and I thought it was good. Both have a very-hard-to-overcome past, both are scarred inside and out, both are vulnerable and both of them just want to feel loved and cherished. And they worked together, they truly did. From the moment they met, they clicked. Best chemistry ever. I could not get enough of them!

« You mean the Baconator? »

He barked out a laugh. « You've named my penis the Baconator? »

« What? I like bacon. »

« Well, I'm naming your breasts Strawberry Pie and Strawberry Shortcake. »

Ms. Showalter did a wonderful job with their relationship. I loved that they became kind-of friends at first, even if they were attracted to each other, big time. Their relationship was perfectly developed. But, I must say, it was a bit frustrating. I wanted to shake some sense into both of them at times because they were being babies, but it didn't last and I think it worked with the story and with their personalities.

The secondary characters rocked! Of course, we see more of Kenna and Dane and Brook Lynn and Jase. But also West and Jessie Kay, I actually am excited to read their story, I love West and I did warm up to Jessie Kay a little so I'm very anxious to see what Gena has in store for them! We also meet new characters like, Daniel and Dottie (potential new story?) and Dorian! Holy hotness, I definitely want to know more about Dorian. Gimme, gimme, gimme!

And, finally, I loved the plot. THE HOTTER YOU BURN was very centered on the romance and I adored that but I really enjoyed reading about Beck's past and especially about Harlow's. The residents of Strawberry Valley really pissed me off at times, okay, Harlow did some bad things when she was a teenager but she was a damn teenager with a bad situation at home, the fact that almost all of them were still enraged with her 10 years later really didn't sit well with me. But it made for a very good story so I forgive them. Mostly.

THE HOTTER YOU BURN was a fantastic, steamy, beautiful, heartwarming book that you need to read because you just do. I loved this book so much. Gena can write absolutely anything and she proved it with this new contemporary series.

« She'd become his new normal. »

Laura the Highland Hussy says

So so good!

Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

"It's so easy to fall in love with Showalter's writing and her characters."

Read this review in its entirety at Fresh Fiction

Lynsey A says

****Note, I ordered the paperback book but the library had it and no one had requested it, so since it is easier to read on my Kindle than a paperback, I read the Kindle version. I am keeping the paperback since I collect the paperbacks for my fave authors!****

This one was a very good read! I loved Beck and his personality, despite his "he-slut" ways, as Harlow described him. He had his reasons. Harlow was actually a very sweet girl and had good reason for her behavior as a teen. Although, it is completely unacceptable, I can understand why she did it.

Their story starts with the two of them as friends. Beck has found pictures of Harlow as a young girl and has in a word, become obsessed with her. I like when they first meet and he says "You".

I liked how their story evolved. The ending scene was cute but way too abrupt. I wanted an epilogue!

The reference to LOTU was entertaining as well.

While I still do not like Jessie Kay's heroine got around behavior, and the skeevyness of her sleeping with both Beck and Jase, I do plan to read her book. I really liked her in this book. She was so funny in this book.

Lover of Romance says

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance

Summary

Harlow Glass, is a outcast from Strawberry Valley. She is considered to be the most hated and despised of anyone living there. Harlow lives in a tent, looking for scraps of food where she can find them. She breaks into the home of Beck O'ckley and his friends, to take what little food she can, knowing that they won't miss it. Upon entering the kitchen, she spies a beautiful berry pie. She takes it and will defend it with her life. Just as she is about to leave, Beck arrives with his latest "conquest". When he sees her she flees and he chases after her and catches her. Thus begins the dawn of a beautiful friendship and seduction. Beck O'ckley is a

bad boy...he loves women, and brings home a different female every night. He loves sex and the female body and isn't ashamed. But upon meeting Harlow...he is fascinated by this secretive woman he wants to know more of. At first when it becomes apparent that Harlow isn't going to be easy to seduce, he has her work for him in payment of trespassing and thievery. Chemistry rises between the two, and as they get closer to each other....so do their emotions. But due to his past, Beck refuses to let love get in the way, but Harlow refuses to accept anything less than full commitment from him or no sex. And here begins the battle of wills and true love.

Plot and Story Line

oh my goodness, I loved this one way more than I was expecting. We get a teaser about Harlow in the first book, but not much all I knew was that she was a bit of a bully in school and likes to play tricks on the other students. She has definitely developed a certain reputation. Harlow was a character of facets but we see how sometimes it can be near impossible to overcome the mistakes of the past. But Harlow tries her hardest to succeed. I grew to really like Harlow and her character cracked me up in every way. She was so different, but was quite charming at times. I loved how honest with herself she is. She knows what she wants and is willing to fight for it. She wants to be in love, get married and have some kids. She wants her own happily ever after and wants to live in Strawberry Valley. The man she wants doesn't do relationships, or commitment or marriage in any sense. Beck hasn't had a easy upbringing. He grew up in foster care and everyone he has cared about has left him except his closest friends.

There was so much fun moments that develop between these two and I fell in love with Beck and Harlow together. We see how they work through personal issues to find a common ground. There is some painful heartbreaking moments, as they discover what they have together. Gena Showalter has done wonders with this story, and won my heart little by little. It was also great to see certain friendships develop between Harlow and the other women in the series.

Narration

Savannah Burns is brilliant, and I just loved the way she portrayed this story. She made this come alive with the various array of emotions and moments that make you want more of her. And I loved her voice, it was engaging and likable.

The Cover

What a gorgeous cover, first off I love the pose here. Its sexy and romantic and the colors are so vibrant and cheerful.

Overall View

The Hotter You Burn is a stimulating and emotionally driven romance that will keep you entranced from beginning to end. Full of bad boys and high spirited women....and a rough road to true love!! A SMART AND SEXY ROMANCE!

[foogallery id="18238"]

Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

The Hotter You Burn is book two in The Original Heartbreakers series by Gena Showalter. From the prequel

on, I have loved this series, and this book was no different. I have grown to love these characters of Strawberry Valley, Oklahoma. Individually, they each have damaged souls, darkness in their pasts, but together, they are becoming a family to each other. These books are full of snark, humor, steam, but mostly, lots and lots of heart.

Beck O'ckley moved, along with his two best friends, Jase and West, to Strawberry Valley to start fresh. They bought a beautiful ranch and it has become home. Beck, as were his two friends, was raised in foster homes, being shuffled from one to another, never knowing the sense of belonging or love. He only knew loss and abandonment. So now as an adult, other than his two friends, he will never tie himself to another person which would allow them the opportunity to hurt him. He is known as Beck, One and Done. He is a beautiful and sexy man and women flock around him. But he will never spend more than one night with a woman. He makes it the best night of their lives but there will never be a second time.

Harlow Glass grew up in the house Beck and his friends now live in. But after her mother died, she lost the house to bank foreclosure. She is now homeless and living in a tent way back on the property she once called her own. No one in Strawberry Valley will hire her because when Harlow was a teenager, she was the town bully. Her words were worse than any weapon and no one walked away unscathed. She's different now, changed, but the people of the town haven't forgotten, and it's payback time. So without money, she is hungry. She's sure everyone is gone from the house she loves to watch late at night, her old home, so she sneaks inside to steal something to eat, and to see what sort of changes they have made. But surprise, Beck comes home early.

“So sure of yourself.” She tscked despite her breathlessness. “I was an ice queen. I would have ignored you.”

“I was a blowtorch. I would have melted you.”

There is an instant spark, a connection, between Beck and Harlow. Eventually Beck figures out that she is homeless and starving and vows that she will never go hungry again. He provides her with a safe place to live, and gives her a job at his company. The chemistry between them is constantly sparking but Harlow knows that if she gives in, one night will be all she'll get, and that could never be enough. So she will have to settle for friendship.

“Beck might be gorgeous and nice, and gorgeous, and charismatic, and gorgeous, but he still wasn't the man for Harlow. He would never be the man for her. Even temporarily. Especially temporarily. Learn the bliss of being his woman, only to lose him? No thanks.”

Beck can't fight the attraction he feels towards Harlow. But to give in to it would give her the power to hurt him, to leave him. Her happiness, though, is as important to him as breathing. Harlow wants a forever kind of guy and he can't be that for her. So what should he do? He'll find her someone else. He'll find her a perfect guy. Then he'll stop wanting her, won't he?

This book, as the others are before it, is fantastic. Only Gena Showalter can have you laughing out loud one second, and your heart breaking the next. I love the snarky humor, the sigh worthy sexy scenes, but mostly, I just love the characters. All of them. If I had one complaint, it just takes too long to get the the good stuff. I think I was feeling as frustrated as the characters were. Seriously, this is a fantastic series. To really enjoy it, I would suggest starting at the beginning prequel. It's not required to enjoy this book but you would enjoy it more if you get to know all the characters in the order they are introduced. I am so excited for book three, *The Harder You Fall*, which will be West and Jessie Kay's story. It is due out late November.

***“Do you know what I remember about those women? Nothing. And do you know what I’ll always remember about you?
Absolutely everything.”***

Geri Reads says

Whew! This book. *The Hotter You Burn*, indeed. Full disclosure: I was bit apprehensive starting this book because I wasn't a big fan of the first book. It was an okay read for me but I struggled connecting with Jase and Brook Lynn. BUT I didn't have the same problem with this book. From the onset, I was able to relate to its main female character, Harlow. I loved her character.

We all know from the first book that Beck brought the Harlow's farmhouse. Harlow was the infamous high school bully. Everyone in town hated her, and with good reason. She used to terrorize her school with her brand of mean. She was so mean, she made Regina George look like a cute puppy. Behind that though, Harlow was hiding a deep insecurity caused by her own father.

Fast-forward to years later, Harlow had lost everything. And when I say everything, I meant EVERYTHING. She had no shelter, no food, no job...no family. And worst of all, the town still hates her and no one was kind enough to give her the most menial job. Harlow was homeless and hungry when she entered her old house, wanting to pilfer food from its pantries. After a botch attempt at kidnapping Beck's pie, Harlow and Beck formed a sort of uneasy relationship. They're not really friends but they're not really enemies either. One thing is for sure, they are crazy attracted to each other and their chemistry is off the charts.

Problem is they both want different things. Because Harlow suffered losses in her life, she wants stability. She wants a relationship with a guy who is willing to take her and make a life with her. And she wasn't willing to settle for less. Beck is the exact opposite. He doesn't want to give anyone much more than one night. As much as he's attracted to Harlow, he's afraid of getting seriously involved because of his history.

I loved the push and pull between Beck and Harlow. I ain't gonna lie, there came a point in the book where Beck frustrated me. He wasn't giving an inch. And while Harlow was also being stubborn, I understood her reasons for not giving in. I admired her for not settling even though she was clearly attracted to Beck. It was frustrating but because I liked both characters, I didn't mind it. I was 100% rooting for them to GET IT TOGETHER!! **yes, I am using shouty caps!!* Fortunately for me, they were able to get their act together, which made it all worth it in the end.

Joy (joyous reads) says

As you can tell, I've been on a romance kick lately. I tend to read these books quickly, because they're not really the type of books where you need to pull a muscle so you can enjoy them. And if you're lucky enough to find the right ones, some books has the uncanny ability to poke you right in the sternum. Suffice it to say, this book really got to me.

This is the story of Beck, the unapologetic playa of the Original Heartbreakers. His mantra has always been give them what they want, but be honest about what you can give. Commitment is the one thing he's unable to give. But if there's anything he's committed to, is solving the puzzle that is, Harlow Glass. She doesn't know this though. They haven't even met. Beck found a box of pictures belonging to the former owner of the Glass House. As soon as he saw the echoing longing, pain and loneliness in her eyes, he couldn't stop obsessing about her.

Harlow Glass is as poor as a mouse. The fall from grace was not well, *graceful*. She's homeless, jobless and the town of Strawberry Valley would rather see her die than help her - or employ her, even. The once owner of *the Glass mansion* is as destitute as they come. She lives in a tent in the woods living off the land, as it were. When she breaks into her former house to steal food, Beck caught her and decided that it was his chance to keep an eye on her. So he employed her to do the artistic work for the gaming company he's a partner of. Their interaction is hilarious; complete with sassy banters and awkward one-sided flirtation (Beck).

I think the toughest thing to read about this book was Harlow's abject poverty. The townspeople laughed and ridicule her with every misfortunes that befall her. She was a former bully who has had a rough life, and while she's learned from her mistakes, the people of SV weren't so quick to forgive her. It hit me time and again how she was so willing to accept her 'punishments', and that she's quick to tell herself that she deserves every bit of bad luck that comes her way. As much as I dislike books that feature damsels being saved by knights, I was glad when Beck stepped into the picture to give her a job, a home and some semblance of stability. I mean, Harlow was a pretty strong woman determined to live her life according to her rules, but it's pretty tough when the girl can't catch a break.

Beck is far from the white knight hero, though. Events from his past made him wary of love, feelings and commitments. He fears taking a chance at being happy with another person and considers love a crutch he'd rather not depend on. I still like him as a hero, though. He's a loyal friend, he's kind to all his 'lady loves', and generous at that.

These books offer more than your typical romance novels. I like that Gena is able to dig deeper and give us a bit more than the usual fares. This is a fantastic series if you're looking for a mental break.

Spoiler Whore-Momoka rounds down on her reviews so fuck off says

2.5 stars

Maaaaaaan, was this book a disappointment. I really enjoyed the previous two stories in this series but this one was not enjoyable. The two main characters were beyond immature. I get that they didn't have good childhoods but their actions as adults were to the point of annoying. And there was too much repetitiveness with the feelings of said characters.

Hopefully the next installment will make up for book two.

ARC provided by publisher
