



When It Hooks You

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Three dates. It was only supposed to be three dates—he was only meant to be a fling. I didn't want to feel all of this for him. And I certainly hadn't counted on him keeping such a deal-breaking secret from me.

Till death is too long for Trish Cerise. The twenty-seven year old receptionist is tired of men asking for her forever when she just wants to keep things light and fun. World-traveling businessman Adam Helms steps off the elevator and into her life with his own reasons for keeping relationships at a safe distance. Together, they're destined for the most glorious short-term romance in history...until they break their own rules and Trish learns something about Adam she wishes she never knew.

I know a future with him is impossible, but how do you break away from such an intense, consuming, heart-crushing love when it hooks you? ~Trish

When It Hooks You Details

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From Reader Review When It Hooks You for online ebook

Maha Erwin says

The contemporary romance novel - When It Hooks You - hooked me from page one. Instead of getting hitched with her long-term boyfriend, Chicagoan Trish is dumped on her proverbial ass. Ironically, Trish is happy as can be. It's time to "chill" out with men; they'll date no more than 3 times, and they'll definitely have NO sex. Not until she gets her act together. Then when things are "A-Ok", all hell breaks loose. The dashing and sophisticated Adam blazes into her office and makes her ache for something genuine – a solid relationship. But Trish keeps mum; she committed to revirginizing herself. And Adam plays games with her; of course, his past is dark and complicated. As they get together and break up, Trish grows up. She's no longer satisfied with her receptionist job; she wants a management career, preferably one in which she can travel to the most amazing corners of the world. Although Trish is spunky and silly at first, and rather upbeat, despite her self-imposed ascetic lifestyle, she turns bitter. I was afraid that she wouldn't change as dramatically as she did. I'm glad she did. No longer a sheltered "chick," she pushes herself to improve, to be the best version of herself. It made me sooo freakin' happy. Of course, this is a HFN novel. In the end, Trish succeeds in winning back Adam's heart, and vice-versa.

Adam is honestly my favorite character, I related to him more than Trish and all of the other secondary characters. Men who are complex and thoughtful make you think, rather than just swoon. They make you judge your partner against them; and want to change your partner without him knowing it. ;-) And oh, the romance between Trish and Adam is steamy hot, which is always a plus in romance.

Ms. Elson is, hands down, one of my favorite romance authors. Her writing is smooth, her description poetic, her dialogue snappy; she's a thoughtful observer of the seen and unseen; what I most enjoy is how she manages to make her men sound like men, and women sound like women. Not an easy feat.

I look forward to experiencing the same up-and-down moods when I read her next novel – When It Holds You.

Eden Finley says

3.5

I enjoyed this one. But the characters were a bit flat, Trish was pretty much a selfish bitch (why is Joanne friends with her?), and Adam wasn't anything special. She decides she's in love with him after four dates. They definitely had a connection but it was nowhere deep enough for that kind of declaration so soon.

But there were some funny quips, the writing was decent, and it entertained me for half a day.

Good beach read.

Norma Reasor says

Good,light read. Recommend.

Trish was determined not to get involved again in a long term relationship. After she and her longtime boyfriend broke up, she decided to limit any future involvement with the opposite sex to three dates, no sex. That worked kind of okay until a beautiful, sexy client walked into her life, in the middle of a phone conversation she shouldn't have been having at work. Even though she opted out of a real relationship, she determined to make the most of three dates. No chance of heartbreak, huh?

Although I received a free copy of this book, at the present time, July, 2016, it is available on Kindle Unlimited. I'm really looking forward to the next book in this series. October?? Really???

Paula D says

Trish got cheated on by her last boyfriend so now she set up rules 1) no sex 2) only 3 dates nothing serious ever unless the guy can change her mind. Trish has a friend Cliff he is interested in her and won't give up trying. Trish meets a guy named Adam and he has his secrets and is the same way no relationships. Will Trish give up the rules? Will Cliff win her over? Adam does he finally open up to Trish? I loved this book so much I can't wait to read what happens next! But Trish needs to WAKE up she has a great guy at her feet and is so blind!! 5/5 stars I got to reviewed this book for my unbiased opinion

Heather andrews says

Adam could be sweet, I liked him sweet, "I'm saying you're an exceptional woman, and I'm tired of traveling this world alone. I want you with me everywhere I go. You and I could be a team. No— you and I should be a team." I liked this book I thought Adam was a good guy, perfect for Trish.

Jennifer Lane says

Hooked on Nicki Elson's Books!

At age 27, law firm receptionist Trish is tired of the dating scene. She'd turned down a marriage proposal from her boyfriend Kurt, but when she thinks he'll ask again, this time she plans to say yes.

When Kurt instead dumps her, Trish comes up with a new idea: she'll only go on three dates with any guy. After three dates is where the heartache starts. What could possibly go wrong?

Cliff is a college friend who's also an attorney at her law firm. (I happen to love Cliff and can't wait for his story, coming next.) Trish mistakenly thinks Cliff is gay and tries to set him up with a guy. The gay guy is suspicious about Trish matching up with a lesbian on their double-date.

"You've got 'I love dick' written all over you. You might as well wear a T-shirt proclaiming it."

Trish's mouth opened wide in a silent gasp.

"See?" James pointed at her lips, his finger rotating. "The perfect shape and size. You know what you want in there."

Cliff has the hots for Trish, but she's more intrigued by stylish businessman Adam, a client at the firm. Adam overhears Trish's three date max plan and their flirtation begins.

When Adam takes her on a dreamboat third date, including a surprise candlelit dinner on a yacht on the Chicago River, she's definitely impressed.

"Does this look like a good spot to drop anchor?"

"Perfect. You seriously should get a job planning dates for The Bachelor."

Trish and Adam develop feelings for each other that transcend the three-date limit. She wants to make an exception for him, but he may be unable to veer off their careful plan due to his secret past.

I definitely enjoyed this contemporary romance, and can't wait for the next book in the series.

Robin Morgan says

Almost any woman who has been madly in love someone, anticipating the day when her HEA is about to happen, but then getting the rug pulled from under her when the guy suddenly dumps her totally relate to what's happening Trish Cerise. She should have accepted his marriage proposal when he had asked.

Not wanting to be hurt again you, like Trish, would set up some sort of mechanism designed to prevent history from repeating itself so tragically. In her case, she decides to limited dating any guy for more than three times, because statistically this is when relationship begin to take a nosedive, slowly at first, but then why wait for the inevitability to happen.

We both know, deep down inside, that this is merely a charade because what woman can go without getting her HEA before her biological clock stops. There's always some guy who will cause the best laid plan to go awry. This is what happens when Adam Helms steps into her life at work. Adam is a guy who like Trish wants to keep any relationship from getting too serious. However a KISMET steps in and all of their held-fast rules get thrown out of the window because of how intense their relationship has become.

Is there a HEA for these two forlorn lovers? This is something I'm not going to say.

The story itself is well written with a good characterization of its two protagonists which made for an enjoyable reading experience for me.

One way I know has touched me is when I start hearing a song in my mind, which is what happened here. There are several songs which deal with topic of someone making someone else fall in love with them. But the song which I'm referring to goes all the way back to 1913, and has been sung by scores of singers, first of who was Al Jolson. If you read the lyrics for the song you might feel the same way I do in regards to this book's storyline

You made me love you
I didn't want to do it, I didn't want to do it
You made me love you
And all the time you knew it
I guess you always knew it.
You made me happy sometimes, you made me glad
But there were times, Dear, you made me feel so bad

You made me sigh for, I didn't want to tell you
I didn't want to tell you
I want some love that's true, yes I do, deed I do, you know I do

Give me, give me, give me what I cry for
You know you got the brand of kisses that I'd die for
You know you made me love you.

For giving her readers a romance novel which really represents a real life scenario I'm giving Ms. Elson 5 STARS.

I had received a mobi.file copy for this book through the author's recent giveaway on LibraryThing and the above has been my honest opinion.

Rumer Haven says

Such a fun and fast read that WILL hook you! The likeable characters have realistic motivations and reactions that you don't find often enough in romances. A Chicago gal myself, I loved touring the city settings and laughed and pined along with Trish as she navigates her emotional terrain as well. Her rules of dating are a nice compliment to her friend Lyssa's--whose own alternative to love ("Vibrizzio") is the basis of Elson's previous book--and the "sh***y drinks" metaphor is now an official favorite. :) In the author's true fashion, the romance feels real, balancing the "aw" with the angst in an authentic and witty way. The bonus teaser at the end for *When it Holds You* sets up such a great premise, too; I can't wait for that next installment!

Claire - The Coffeeholic Bookworm says

This is surprisingly good! I thought at first this was going to be like those typical stories about lovers expecting proposals but instead getting cheated on and exacting revenge in return. I was totally wrong. I was blown-away by the twists and turns of events, I was at a loss for words. The guy with impeccable taste in suits proved that looks can be deceiving.

Let me tell you how I got hooked with Nicki Elson's *When It Hooks You*..I swear this was a beautiful story about a woman who got her heart broken when her boyfriend admitted he's in love with someone else. Trish Cerise formulated the three dates only rule, to steer clear of serious relationships, stop believing in promises and prevent her heart from shattering again. And when she met Adam Helms, she couldn't believe her luck. This guy with tailored suits agreed with her rules wholeheartedly, as he himself wasn't looking for long-term commitments, so to speak.

But their three dates gave way to a fourth, in another country with a promising scenery. Things started getting serious and Trish thought she was falling for Adam. But her bestfriend told her to talk to her guy and have him admit about himself. When Trish learned the truth, that's when the floodgates opened and I felt really bad for her. Glad that there was Cliff Walsh, though. Who was he? Ahh, you'd better read the book to get the full intriguing story. Cliff was way too delightful and chummy as a friend, I had the same thoughts as Trish about him.

I love that this wasn't a case of insta-love. Trish wasn't instantly attracted to Adam, and vice versa. They started with the wrong foot, and an embarrassing one at that. Imagine a guy accidentally listening to a lady's unconventional dating habit up to the point of learning her lack of sex life. Oh I'd give a thousand bucks just to be able to see Adam's face. Ha haha..

I really liked how I fell in love with this book in the end. Like I said, I wasn't really into it at first, I had already set my expectations and was prepared to hate Trish, only to have my eyes go round like saucers as the pages flew by. I must say, Trish may have got the guts to pursue her rules, but she wasn't always a bitch about it. I liked her vulnerable side, too. I think that was what made me like her in the end. Adam, hmm, yes, I do like him too, but not as much as Cliff! I can't wait to get to know more about him in the next book. Yay!

'Tis my first Nicki Elson book and I believe I'll be looking out to her next books and I'm happy to say, she already got me hooked!

Coco.V says

?FREE on Amazon today (5/11/2018)!?

Julie says

I haven't put a book in my DNF pile in a LOOOONG time. Unfortunately, this one is at the top of the pile of those few books. Here's the thing, everyone has books that they don't enjoy. It happens to us bloggers also. But not too often. And usually, even if I don't like a book, I'll still finish it because you never know ... sometimes, just sometimes, a book will redeem itself. This book just didn't have that potential for me. Reading this was almost like nails scratching a chalkboard. That's not a good sign.

I don't think that it was the writing but it WAS the characters. So I guess it was the writing. Trish was absolutely infuriating. She thought that she was a gift to mankind and let me tell you ... she most certainly was NOT. She was annoying and irritating and I've never hated a character that I was supposed to love before. You don't go into a book thinking that you'll hate the main heroine. That shouldn't happen. Don't get me wrong ... there are heroines within literature that you're supposed to not like. Trish wasn't one of those. I think that readers are supposed to love her or at least understand her a little bit but negative. Did not happen.

And then there were the dudes in the story. I couldn't keep track of them at first! Holy crap!! Slow the hell down, woman! There's nothing wrong with dating around but this lady was a serial dater. And a tease. Again, infuriating. See ... I was talking about the abundance of dudes and I was brought back to Trish again. Damn. I hated her character. And honestly, I don't really care about any of the other characters either. Her besties are non-entities basically, they just take up space and I couldn't tell you one thing about any of them and the same goes with the dudes. Thank goodness I'm not being quizzed on them because I would totally fail.

I don't know if this is how all of Elson's characters are written but I'm okay with never finding out. I will not be reading another book by her. She's just not the author for me. But she is for some other readers. Sometimes you just don't click. And we didn't click. No where near clicking.

** I received this novel in exchange for an honest review **

Check out more of my reviews at Little Miss Bookmark!

Keep Calm Novel On says

The author provided an ePub in exchange for an honest review.

When It Hooks You by Nicki Elson is a refreshing Contemporary Romance. It is the second instalment in The It Series and does not disappoint. Trish Cerise thought that her night out would be special and her expectations were crushed when her boyfriend broke up with her at her special place. She is recovering from the shock and is determined to move forward and decides on three dates only rule. She will never be caught off guard again. Until she meets Adam Helms. Adam appears to be upfront and honest until secrets are revealed. The twists and turns make this a page-turner.

The novel introduces the reader to Trish's world. She has a strong support system. She is focused, confident and comfortable in her own skin. She is likeable and real. The short chapters move the story along quickly and the author draws the reader into her world.

When It Hooks You is a truly delightful read. The characters are well developed with strong and identifiable personalities. Their friendships and personal lives drive the novel. This well-written series is character driven.

Looking forward to the next instalment.

***Avonna says**

Nicki Elson's When It Hooks You is one of the best contemporary romances I have read in a long time!

This book gives you believable characters, a plot that flows over a well-paced time period and dialogue that is very realistic. It is so nice to read a contemporary romance that is so true to life AND gives me my HEA.

Trish Cerise is a receptionist at a prestigious law firm in Chicago. She thought her long term boyfriend was about to propose again, she turned him down last year, but she is ready now to accept. Instead of a proposal, she gets dumped. This brings about Trish's new rules for dating: she will only go out with a guy for three dates because after three dates is when complications and heartache starts and no sex.

Adam Helms is a businessman, who has interests all over the world. When he overhears an embarrassing conversation between Trish and her friend in the law firm lobby, they strike up a conversation and mild flirtation. He is interested in Trish's rules of dating and has a few of his own as they get to know each other on their dates. Trish and Adam both have trouble keeping to their own rules as their feelings grow. When Trish is ready to make an exception to her rules, huge plot twist surprise involving Adam's past.

This story is so well written. I was especially happy that the author had Trish move forward with her life and career after the plot twist and not just continually mope around until Adam's return. She also didn't just jump back into his arms and give up everything she has changed and worked towards to be back with him.

Trish and Adam are wonderful characters that I cheered for throughout the romance. Sexual heat is high, but it is not overly explicit. There are fun and strongly written secondary characters that will make for excellent follow-up stories. I highly recommend this book and author!

Written for and posted first on The Romance Reviews.com.

Don says

Arc received from NetGalley

Amber says

Wow, When It Hooks You is the perfect title for this book because I was definitely hooked straight from the beginning. Totally fell in love with the characters, although I was really liking Josh from the bar before Adam popped up, he was the hot bad boy every girl wants, well except Trish. She only wants fun, no relationship, no strings, nothing. That is til Adam comes along. Adam had some secrets and mystery to him from the beginning, it took me a minute to like his character, maybe because I liked Cliff too and was hoping there would be something there (BTW Nicki Elson, I want Cliffs story next). Trish was a kinda of no bull shit, still hilarious kind of character, I really liked her but although she put up this front that she couldnt be hurt, we still were able to see her vulnerable side, which I liked. Nicki Elson created a captivating story of long distance lovers with a passion for one another that was so unexpected they didnt even see it coming themselves. Adam and Trish are both wanting what they can't obtain or so Trish believes.
