



Out of My League (Hope Valley #1)

Jessica Prince

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After years of war, Lincoln Sheppard thought he'd left the violence and ugliness behind. He was content with the life he built for himself. Then the woman down the street came in and shook everything up.

All Eden Brenner ever wanted was to have a place to call home. She finally found that in Hope Valley. Then she went and fell in love with the man a few houses down the first time she laid eyes on him. There was just one problem. Women like her didn't catch the attention of men like him. He was totally and completely out of her league. And to make matters worse, when her past comes knocking, the beautiful world she's built for herself is at risk of crumbling to the ground.

When danger forces Eden into his arms, Lincoln begins to see her in a whole new light, and he suddenly finds himself wanting things he never expected. And he wants them all with the shy, clumsy woman from down the street. But when the truth comes out, that proves nearly impossible. Now he's fighting the hardest battle of his life, and the stakes are higher than ever. Protect the woman he's falling for while trying to win her heart at the same time.

Out of My League (Hope Valley #1) Details

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From Reader Review Out of My League (Hope Valley #1) for online ebook

Nicla says

[HEA (hide spoiler)]

Tracy C says

I really enjoyed this. Eden's first impression may be a shy, quiet mouse, but that is not the real her. She had such a fire inside. I loved her attitude when it came to her brother! I was cheering internally.

I will admit that Lincoln mad me a bit mad at the beginning. I knew it wasn't going to end well when Eden found out why he initially approached her. But I settled down because you could tell he was being genuine. Great romance and a little bit of intrigue. Can't wait for the rest in the series!

~Dawn~TUG says

Excited to have a new town and people from one of my favs!! Full review to come

Jessica Prince can add another check to ever growing list of things she has done so amazingly well, slow burn. With an alpha on top of it. This book did take me a minute to connect with, which isn't usual for me and Ms. Prince. But knowing one of my fav authors was in charge I did what I do best, sit back and let the story take me away. I am more than excited on where this is all going, who we get watch fall in love and where we see all of these amazing characters end up. A slow burn, alpha style romance that has a tough girl, not only starting over and finding herself along the way, but creates a family in doing so. Really enjoyed it.

Zilpha Owens says

Jessica Prince's new Hope Valley Series kicks off with the sweet, small town romance Out of My League. With that small town feel, tight knit community, swoony romance and a bit of suspense mixed in, its a perfect start and gets me excited for more.

Eden Brenner could be you or me. Insecurities plague her and her self confidence is lacking. She's had a rough life but she's resilient and strong.

Lincoln Sheppard is the ultimate guy - alpha, good looking, neighborly, chivalrous. He puts off that playboy vibe but deep down he's all heart and just needs the right woman to settle him down.

The easy pace, hilarious banter and sexy chemistry makes for a charming read. The story is full of heart, some complications, a group of friends and co-workers that everyone needs and that deserve their own stories too! And if we're lucky, we'll get one for every single one of them.

BookSmacked says

Loved ! Loved ! Loved !

Jessica Prince never fails in making me fall in love with her books. And I'm beyond excited for this series.

I found myself quickly engrossed in Out of My League from the get go. Eden was a character that I immediately loved. She's had a crappy life and she's trying to find her happy, she's definitely someone that I could see myself being great friends with.

Now Lincoln, well he's a whole other story. Hot, alpha and dang throughout this book I found myself heating up, literally.

I loved how this story developed and I shipped these two hard. They quickly become one of my fav couples and I definitely can see myself rereading this book over and over again.

With a bit of suspense, the right amount of angst and some seriously hot and sweet moments Out Of My League was quickly devoured. I need more immediately from this series.

Leo (Queen of the Rants and the Crazy) says

1 star for Rocky the rescued pup!

Not even him could save this for me. That's got to say something because I usually rated books higher because of the animals.

A pathetic, imbecile, weak with lack of brain cells heroine paired with a std walking manwhore. Really, why am I even surprised.? Why do authors keep continuing degrading women like this? I don't even know why I keep asking this question.

The book starts with heroine going to a block party, there she sees hero, she becomes a stupid brainless twat. Im sorry, I shouldn't call women, twats or twits but it just pisses me off that we're in 2019 and authors continue writing this crap. I get that some readers like this type of ~~garbage~~ trope but there's other readers like me that hate this type of books.

Anyway she fell in love with him at first sight. She becomes this pathetic, what am I saying? She was already a pathetic woman, after seeing him kissed another woman and coping a feel in front of everyone, he didn't even cared that everyone saw him do this. He takes this woman to his house where they don't resurfaced until the next day, from that day on, she keeps continuing watching him take OWs to his house, in case this is not clear enough for you, they're neighbors! She salivates after this std walking whore. You would think after meeting and him not even looking at her, she would get the hint that this whore is not for her, who would want a std this bad?

At this point he hasn't even notice the brainless twit because by heroine's description she's not beautiful as the women he has sex with.

The heroine vows to herself that she'll change her appearance so he can notice her.

And did he, you ask? Sure he did but not because she changed her hair color and got a haircut or because she changed clothes, none of those things did it for him, he noticed her because the lead cops/ detectives

investigating the robberies told him to try and get close in to her life. They think because her brother is behind the robberies so they want to catch him. He went out of his way of dating her because of this and he even told his buddy that she wasn't memorable that she was plain. But of course after spending time with the goody, plain girl he started to fall.

What you consider plain, most men around here would give their left nut for a taste of. And something tells me you won't have any problems getting in there." It wasn't getting in there that bothered me. I'd seen the way Eden's cheeks burned red and heard the uncontrollable stutter whenever I was around. I was far from a choir boy, had been with more than enough women to be able to read them like a book. I was well aware of the fact that Eden had a thing for me. Problem was I enjoyed variety, and having to pretend to date Eden would put a huge fucking damper on that. But a marker was a marker, and I'd have helped Hayes even if it was just a favor between friends. "I'll get close. Don't worry about it."

I was like downright swooning (being sarcastic here) when he said that after having sex with all those bag of bones (all the skinny bitches) (his words, not mine) all this time he was missing having a real woman in his bed.

Let's not forget the women he has had sex with coming around the corner being catty to the heroine because heaven forbid the author writes a woman who doesn't want to put the heroine down because she's the new flavor of the month.

The men in this series are a piece of crap and actually crap it's too good of a word to describe them. They bashed, they call the women they had sex with, bitches. They called them a bad lay, let me tell you, no one put a gun to these assholes head to make them have sex with them, why do they have to treat women like this? They were good enough to take them to bed but once they meet the heroine they have the need to bashed them right along with the heroine. This heroine called the OW brainless when she was the one who was the brainless twit. Who would find this hero or any hero like him a specimen of a man? A real gem? I'll tell you who, a brainless twit.

I only finish it because of the dog. And like I said not even him could save this.

Kim says

WOW!! Jessica Prince has stepped up her game for 2019! Out of My League is simply fantastic!

I could see the entire book playing out in front of my eyes like a Netflix series! I LOVED everything about this story and was hooked instantly. The characters, the witty banter, an alpha male, a heroine that feels less than...everything about this book was a WIN for me. I truly enjoyed everything about Eden and Lincoln and I like the fact that they are in their 30's which makes this story so much more relatable to me as a reader. I read this story, cover to cover, in one afternoon.

This is by FAR my favorite Jessica Prince book to date! I look forward to more in the series and I highly recommend getting on board with Out of My League now!

Lu Bielefeld *read.laugh.love* says

3 ??? - OK decent reads.

=====
Ladies, it's just me or seemed written by Kristen Ashley in the early years?
I liked the story, but it looked like KA, I think that's why I ended up enjoying it so much.

A Klue says

Rating: 3.5 stars

My curiosity got the better of me, folks. I decided, for better or worse, to go on a fact finding mission to see if this book was worth putting up with Lincoln, a manho hero I usually try to avoid, and Eden, the pining after him from afar plain Jane to pretty heroine. I must say the reviews I read were spot on. Oddly enough even those which left polar opposite ratings/opinions. They all piqued my interest to the point I just had to see for myself if this book was out of my league of acceptable romantic reads.

What you get here is a "Hey, no one hates me cause I'm so beautiful" hero. He's portrayed as an all around white knight when it comes to helping old ladies cross the street, plays with the neighborhood children like he's their long lost uncle, but don't be fooled. At first, he is shallow and a Dark Vader when it comes to his womanizing ways. He has every lady in the land swooning after him, all without even trying. At the crook of a finger, they wind up in his bed. He's like the Piped Piper of Hope Valley. You just can't say no to him, but obviously he only says "yes" to the strikingly beautiful ones, even though they are mean girls to everyone else. Except for references to a one night drunken mistake when he was off his game and got busy with a skank everyone still teases him about. But, not to worry. His mere presence still makes the world a more beautiful place. Even after that slip-up. Yeah, I'm being sarcastic here, folks.

The book cover fits this story. The goofy grin like she's getting away with something (sneaking in a hug or coping a quick feel she hopes her shirtless crush doesn't notice) certainly reminded me of Eden. It seems fitting Linc lost his shirt in this photo since it saves him time getting naked with the revolving door of women Eden's seen him with since moving to town.

Eden's hard luck life is what kept me reading. I wanted her to find happiness. I just found it sad she pathetically panted after a guy who only started being attracted to her after she had a makeover. Equally surprising is all the sudden she's the only woman he wants to be with. Well, that is after pursuing her for another completely different reason that infuriated me. Honestly, I almost stopped reading this book more than once because of how it all began.

Eden is such a nice person all the normal people in town love her on sight, well before her transformation. Including another gorgeous guy Linc chases off because he's jealous. It's pretty sad when I found myself wondering "what if" Linc was left out of the picture from then on. I could easily see Eden ending up with this other guy, and I barely knew him.

As much as I liked Eden's strength and perseverance to not let her family's past determine her future, she was an embarrassment to the sisterhood for quite awhile. Thankfully, she did grow a backbone and had a verbal smackdown with Linc that put him in his place.

Yes, I saw some of the similarities of Kristen Ashley type storylines/writing, but, IMHO, imitation is often a form of flattery. I can't begin to name how many romance books I've read with similar themes/styles that reminded me of other books. So I'm shrugging that off. This world is plenty big enough for tons of old school KA type reads. In fact, I can't get enough of them. The explosive, dramatic ending definitely was an

improvement over the issues I struggled with at first.

Overall, I surprisingly am glad I pushed through the parts I seriously objected to. Sure, I'd like to have seen it scripted differently in certain aspects, but this is not my rodeo, folks. I'm up to giving the rest of this series a chance. I'm even really looking forward to it. I certainly understand why some have decided this type of setup is just not their cup of tea. Thanks to all of you who post reviews. I always appreciate reading differing opinions. Here's to hoping I have helped you in some way, as well.

(These comments are based on a Kindle Unlimited version. This is not an ARC review.)

Kahea says

*****5 'Monster' Stars*****

This book was all KINDS of goodness and quite possibly one of the most enjoyable 1st in series I've read in awhile. Once I dove in, it was really, really hard to put it down. It was all kinds of sweet, swoony, smexy and adorable and with a heavy dose of heart, a nice splash of suspense and with a whole slew of characters I ended up adoring and needing to spend more time with so I can get to know them all better!

I adored Eden. Seriously adored her. She's had a rough life, which is an understatement, but it's molded her into a woman who is slightly adorkable and yet filled with a lot more moxie than even she sometimes realizes. She had a good heart and has no issue standing up for what she believes in and I loved watching her evolve as the book progressed. Lincoln is a good man, and it's hard not to love him. He's all kinds of alpha AF and definitely has his moments where it rushes to the forefront, but it's always for a good reason. Honorable, loyal and with a good heart, the man is deliciously lethal.

Eden and Lincoln's journey to their HEA was a lot of fun. I loved how they got to know each other and found, through their actions, that they really liked each other and were perfectly matched in more ways than one. The sexual chemistry between them was hot and their bantering a lot of fun. But, unfortunately, there is a little...hitch in the road, one that wasn't a surprise, but man when it is exposed, it is pretty intense. I didn't actually pick a side in this one because it was just hard to, though I did empathize with both sides. But I have to say, the push that got Eden and Lincoln back on track was absolutely awesome and I loved how everything worked out for them.

With each book I've gotten to read by this author, I've found myself loving her words more and more and I after finishing this baby, I can say with much certainty that I am now a true #fangirl. The writing was engaging, the pacing done very well and I loved the dual 1st person POV's. The suspense aspect was done well, it didn't take over the story, but definitely helped to give more depth to the characters. And as for the characters in this one, I simply want more of ALL of them...okay, not ALL, there are about three I'd love to gut with a spoon, you can't win 'em all, but the supporting cast of characters were all very well written and I'm crossing my toes that they all get their own HEA's down the road. Gypsy and Nona were my favs, Cord isn't too far behind, but Rocky was kind of everything! This was a great start to a new series, so if you're looking for a good contemporary romance that's low on angst, but has just enough drama to keep things interesting and is filled with a lot of heart, then this is a definite must read for you!

~ Copy provided by Love Affair With Fiction & voluntarily reviewed ~

Jessica Prince says

Out of My League is LIVE!
Grab your copy right here

April Symes says

This book was just TONS of sexiness, heat, deliciousness and goodness wrapped up in a book; This is , in my opinion, one of the most best 1st in series I've read in quite some time. Once I started, it was really, really hard to stop reading for it was really good. Lincoln and Eden are my favourite couple and thats hard to say because I love every couple of Ms. Prince's books but Lincoln and Eden really seem to top them. Eden finds this amazing town, after a bad upbringing she decides to make herself the priority and put herself 1st for once! She's sweet, strong, loving, honest, caring and wants to make honest and real connections with people in life.

Lincoln is this hot and sexy alpha who everyone adores because he is loyal and sort of a manwhore but the women still love him yet he's never wanted or needed anything serious with any woman...until he connects with Eden. There are twists and turns in their story that will keep the reader on their toes.

Theirs was a sort of slow buildup in their romance but it wasn't an insta-love relationship. Eden thought things were too good to be true and balked at talking about her past. Unfortunately for her, her past collided with her rosy future and things turned sour. Then the secrets that Lincoln was hiding from her was ripped out into the open, leaving a shattered hole in their relationship. This happens at a time when Eden's experiencing some danger in her life caused by her past. I really loved the bit of drama and small romantic suspense that was wove into this beautiful and emotional love story. The epic final chapters had me on the edge of my couch, dying to find out what happened next. The ending is amazing and the secondary characters just hooked me further into this new series. From Eden's newly made friends and Lincoln's "brothers", I am dying to read more on them, especially Cord!!

My Rating: 4.8 stars *****

Fiona Fog says

Second Chances

Edens first glimpse of Hope Valley has her captivated, she's finally found a place to call home. After years of moving around and existing she knows this town is her forever home.

She didn't come from the best of homes her childhood was dismal and with a family like hers it's a wonder she survived. Her parent and her brother were drunks if it wasn't booze it was drugs. They moved constantly never staying in any place to long because they'd either ripped someone off or owed money. There was no love, care or hugs in this environment. All Eden knew was that she didn't want that to be her life.

Lincoln ex-veteran has established himself within the sleepy little town. His roots are solid running a successful security business along with his friends who also served.

When Eden first sees Lincoln at a street party her first thought is WOW he's absolutely beautiful. And second no way would he ever look at someone like her. Third the sexy blonde that jumps into his arms cements that.

When their sleepy town is rocked by a series of break and enters Lincoln's best friend who is also a detective on Hope Valleys force asks for his help Lincoln says yes. His help? Get close to Eden. He's noticed his neighbor but thought nothing more of her. She's not someone he'd ever go for.

He's in for a surprise though, what Lincoln sees as plain everyone else sees the stunning beauty that Eden is. In Lincoln's defence I suppose a steady stream of barbie look a likes would blind anyone.

The first initial meeting is hilarious and embarrassing but Linc's dog breaks the ice.

She's mortified and from that first meeting it's time to makeover Eden. This woman does not need it but after years of being belittled and made to feel not good enough or worthy it has to take a toll on you.

Where Lincoln saw only plain and a woman who blushed and was a stammering mess when they'd meet he now sees the the true beauty that she is. Not just her looks but her heart. Eden truly is a beautiful soul. What started out as a favour to a friend has developed into something he thought he'd never have.

When her past comes back into her life in the way of her brother things go from bad to explosive. There's no love their at all. The memories that still haunt her are there. But as always when you think your life is going perfectly well there's always something to screw it up.

When it's revealed about Lincoln's initial interest in Eden is revealed she's devastated. Her growing attraction to this man the feelings that she thought they were both developing for each other comes crashing down to earth. All her old insecurities come bubbling to the surface.

It's going to take more than I'm sorry to fix this up.

I don't think Edie realised the lengths that Lincoln would go to to get her back and he's relentless. When she finally lets him back in it seems like she'll finally get her happily ever after.

But when her life hangs in the balance due to her brother and his mistakes it's going to take an expected turn but in a good way.

All I can say is Lincoln is your next book boyfriend! He's swoon worthy and the way he speaks to Eden will have you reaching for a fan to cool down. The story flowed continually it didn't pause. I loved the characters as in all of them. I can't wait to see where this goes. A fantastic read.

Bookgasms Book Blog says

Ooh, who doesn't love a growly alpha male with a soft and goeey underbelly he doesn't expose to just anyone? Hmm? I see no hands raised, which means you're going to love Lincoln Sheppard just as much as I

do. He's a retired military man who's opened up a private security company in Hope Valley and he loves his job and his town. He doesn't need anyone or anything else. Especially not the pretty, new, slightly mysterious resident of Hope Valley.

Eden Brenner has fought all her life for the quiet, peace and the home she's found in Hope Valley. And she's somehow caught the eye of her handsome next door neighbor. The man she's had a massive crush on since moving in. A man she'd never thought would look twice at her.

But between Eden's beauty and charm, Lincoln can't help but notice her. And so help him when feeling start getting involved. And just when their romance is taking off, the past rears it's ugly head.

Man, I wanted to love *Out of My League*. On paper, it seemed like sheer perfection: small town romance with a bit of heat and a crazy fun cast of characters. Don't get me wrong, *Out of My League* is that but I struggled a bit connecting to Eden and the pace of the romance with Lincoln.

It happened really quickly and it seemed like Lincoln was just way too smooth with his initial wooing. After all he'd lived next door for several months and never paid Eden a bit of attention. However, once I warmed up and bought into their relationship, I was hooked.

And don't even get me started on the rest of the secondary characters! I am greatly looking forward to more from them and this series. ~ Missy, 4 stars

If you like your alpha hero's extra protective and filled with a heart of gold? You probably want to take some time to meet Lincoln Sheppard.

Seriously. This hero is *delicious*. He's growly and stoic, sexy and - once that soft underbelly is exposed - charming as all get-out. I loved him. And I loved the evolution of his relationship with Eden.

Eden took a bit longer for me to warm up to. I struggle sometimes with heroines who struggle with themselves. It detracted from the romance for me a little bit and actually made it a little difficult for me to connect with the pacing of the love story. It moved faster than my heart did, in this case. And it felt just a tiny bit insta to me, which isn't a bad thing necessarily, it just means that I didn't always *feel* it the way I wanted to feel it.

I did, however, completely adore that little scene-stealer, Rocky, and the role he played in Eden and Lincoln's relationship. I was also delighted with the secondary characters and the added depth and humor they brought to the story. Ultimately, it was well worth the read and I can't wait to see where this series goes from here! ~ Shelly, 3.5 Stars

Somia says

After a lifetime of moving to one place and then another, due to the trouble her family caused in each town they found themselves in, Eden finally finds a place where she feels she can truly belong - Hope Valley. It's here she meets Lincoln, an ex-veteran, who has a successful security business.

In their first meeting Lincoln really leaves an impression on Eden, for Lincoln well that's not the case, and he seems to only really straighten up and notice her when she's wearing more fitted clothing and makeup (which

really impressed me - not).

There have been a series of home break-ins, and the police aware of Eden's family and their history feel she may know something and/or be involved, and so Lincoln is asked to get close to Eden and find out if she is in anyway involved.

Initially I wasn't very keen on Lincoln and there's a moment when his thoughts make me think douche, but his character did get better, as the book progressed, although he isn't a main character/hero I feel I will remember, nor is he one that had me sighing in pleasure as I read the book.

I also wasn't really happy with the way in which Eden seemed to always put herself down, especially at the onset when she was comparing herself to Lincoln's bedmates.

Nonetheless despite this there were moments of amusement and enjoyment, particularly when Eden was peeved off at someone, like when she gave a much deserved telling of to the town's wealthy spoilt brat. Eden as a character was much stronger towards the end, her initial salivating over Lincoln just didn't always work for me, but she had moments of being full of fire and strength. She was much better as a character.

I've read books with very similar plots before, here the execution didn't always work for me. Nevertheless, overall, this was a not bad, one time, quick read.
