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Abby Niles

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Mac “The Snake” Hannon has spent years throwing himself into cage fighting as a way to lash back at the natural disaster that destroyed his future. A call for help has Mac returning to the one place he swore never to return: Kansas—in the height of tornado season.

There he meets free-spirited Gayle Andrews. At first he wants nothing to do with the infuriatingly, persistent woman, but the crazy challenges she tosses his way are impossible to resist. As she thaws years of bitterness, bringing back the Mac he believed long gone, he starts to make peace with the past and see the future again. Until he learns she chases his worst nightmare, then he can’t get away fast enough.

Meteorologist and storm chaser, Gayle Andrews is no stranger to being left behind and now believes in living in the moment. She wants to do just that with the handsome extreme fighter with the achingly sad eyes. As she works to replace the sorrow with desire, she finds herself breaking her one rule: have fun, but don’t fall in love. When he suddenly pushes her away and she discovers the horrifying reason why, she issues one more challenge: face his fear and come on a chase with her.

Will squaring off with the past lead to a victory for heartache or love?

Winning Love Details

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Author : Abby Niles

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From Reader Review Winning Love for online ebook

Heather says

In Winning Love, Mac travels back to his home state of Kansas, to help his friend Lance train. Enter Gayle. We know right away that Mac has some issues going on from the way he acts. He is not the nicest guy we have met in a romance novel. Gayle isn't put off by his attitude. She's rather forward and doesn't take no for an answer.

Gayle has her own history that is quite painful, it has been what turned her into who she is. While typically it is the guys we think of as the love em and leave em type, that's been Gayle's motto for quite awhile. Have fun, don't fall in love.

These two go through a lot and I learned more about tornadoes than I have after living in Iowa for 39 years. It was cool.

Abby Niles did an excellent job with writing their emotions, the fear, the heartbreak in different situations, I felt the same things that the characters were feeling. I don't want to give away too much detail because I hate spoilers, but the way the storms were written, and their reactions to them were amazing.

Then there was the mud run.

That was my favorite scene in the book. I have never done a mud run before, but Gayle's enthusiasm had me wanting to sign up for the Warrior Dash that is coming here soon. It sounded like so much fun.

All in all, great book! I really enjoyed it and would definitely pick up more books by Abby!

Thank you so much for my copy of Winning Love.

Dee says

Review Copy Provided by Publisher

It has been a while since i've read anything by Abby Niles, but after I started Winning Love, I remembered why I enjoyed her stuff. One of the things that I enjoy the most about her books is that the conflict that exists between the hero and heroine seems real, and not manufactured like other conflicts appear to be. In this instance, it was conflict between the survivor of a natural disaster and a researcher of said natural disaster (specifically tornado's). I also loved that Gayle wasn't the weak TSTL heroine that so many authors seem to rely on for their storyline to advance – in fact, I think at times, she was almost a stronger character than Mac.

I also liked the Mac being a MMA fighter didn't take over the story and that the way the story was developed, it allowed the reader to see his weaknesses as a human. But I will say, that his motivations for going that route weren't really explored – why MMA from his previous life? And then he basically takes a leave of absence to help his friend out (not saying there is anything wrong with that, just that part of the story needed more development).

The ending had a slightly sappy quality to it, but when taken in relation to the whole story, I could deal with

that. I thought that it was well-researched – you could tell the author had done a lot of reading/studying on storm chasers. I think the biggest weakness (to me) was that I wanted more of Lance’s story – it seemed like he started off as a strong character and then kind of fizzled out as the story progressed – maybe he’ll be featured in a later book – who knows...

Overall, I gave Winning Love a solid 3.5 stars (but rounded it up to 4 on Goodreads). I’m intrigued enough that I want to go back and read the previous 2 books in the series – since those characters appeared briefly in Winning Love (but it can function as a stand-alone as well).

[~Ami~]♥Sexy Dexy♥ says

4 stars

Returning to Kansas, Mac is only there temporarily. Mac has his baggage. Gayle doesn't make attachments. Are they willing to risk it all?

The start was shaky because I didn't like the way Mac (an MMA fighter) was intimidated by Gayle. When he came out his shell, it was much better. Gayle was very outgoing and her occupation is one I've not read in a book before.

Its not a new formula. You know, **two people with issues helping each other finding love**. Maybe a little forgettable but I liked it

ARC provided by NetGalley

Claire Robinson says

3 - **"We sure as hell aint in Kansas anymore."** Stars.

Winning Love by Abby Niles is the third book in the *Love in the Extreme* series. It follows the same easy-going romance themes as its predecessors, so if you are looking for a dark, dirty, gritty MMA fighter romance, I would probably say this isn't the book you are looking for.

"I'm not going to ask" ... "If or when you want to talk about it is up to you, but I'm a good listener, Mac... if you ever need an ear."

Although Mac 'The Snake' Hannon, is a MMA fighter this book doesn't really offer the reader much in the way of cage-fighting. He has travelled back to Kansas, to train his old friend Lance for his upcoming fights, his plan is to get-in, get the job done and get-out again, revisiting the past is not something he is looking to do, unfortunately it hits him head on in the form of Gayle Matthews.

"You haven't experienced the full Gayle yet. I'm all kinds of trouble."

This story is less about fighting and more about Mac dealing with his past, and trying to move on with a woman who in essence represents the thing that took everything good from his life 4 years previously. Gayle also has secrets, secrets that help Mac to try and understand why she does what she does, but it is a battle for him to see past the loss and pain he has already experienced, especially when he has to watch Gayle face that danger willingly on a regular basis.

I liked this book, I didn't love it... there is a lot of what I call action – reaction – response, going on in it, Mac is very much a 'react and respond' to Gayle's actions, and Gayle is usually the one 'acting and the responding' to Mac's reactions...

"For a man who can be so predictable, you keep surprising me."

I liked that this is a couple that are both in their thirties, they have life experience and the drama for the most part wasn't overplayed. I found warming to Gayle a little bit of a struggle; she is zesty, spunky and full of life, all good things but I also found her at times to be a little too pushy and aggressive as well. This did work with regards to her interactions with Mac though, I think he needed someone to push his buttons and pull him out of the rut that he had sunk into over the past four years.

"Even crazy Gayle knows when to back off."

If you liked the first two books in the *Love in the Extreme* series, I have no doubt you will enjoy this installment too. Looking forward to seeing where Abby takes this series next.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

?lleskelle - teamSøren? ?I like big b00ks? says

????????? 4.5 STARS ??????????

Amber says

Anyone know when this book is going to be released?

***kawehi.reviews says**

Ooh!! I want this!! ♥

Winning Love (Love to the Extreme #3) by Abby Niles

Expected publication: August 26th 2014 by Entangled: Select

Mac “The Snake” Hannon has spent years throwing himself into cage fighting as a way to lash back at the natural disaster that destroyed his future. A call for help has Mac returning to the one place he swore never to return: Kansas—in the height of tornado season.

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Farrah says

A thrilling, emotional romance, *Winning Love* was a wonderful read. I really liked this book. From the dark pasts of the characters, to the danger of the tornadoes, there was never a dull moment with this book and I enjoyed it.

Gayle and Mac were both great. Gayle was strong and determined to live life to the fullest. But, after being burned by love more than once, she kept a part of herself hidden from her vivacious lifestyle. Mac, on the other hand, was up front about the walls he constructed for himself. And, it was a formidable one. But, beyond it, he was a sweet and intensely loyal man who felt everything deeply. When he loved, he loved all the way. I thought they were both excellent characters.

The romance was wonderful. I liked how they both helped each other move on, not by trying to change each other, but by each accepting the other entirely. And, they definitely had a lot of steamy chemistry. I thought they were a lovely couple.

The plot was well paced and I was kept interested the entire way through. The deep emotions and threat of danger from the tornadoes kept the story engaging. I enjoyed the story and the ending was perfect.

Winning Love was a wonderful contemporary romance that I really enjoyed reading. Romance lovers, this is a book worth checking out.

*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Shannon Gorilla McGee Winston says

FIVE-PLUS-STARS FOR WINNING LOVE

Sometimes a book comes along that just gets you to *feel* so much that it makes you want to go back and re-

rate all of the other books-- Knock them down a score or two, because they really can't be in the same category as the this one. Seriously. If I could give this more than 5-stars, I would.

I kind of think I need someone to hold me right now.

Winning Love is the 3rd book in the Love to the Extreme series, but it absolutely can be read as a standalone. Dante and Tommy (from books 1 & 2) make a brief appearance near the end of this book, but that's really all that ties them all together. I remember reading book 2 and thinking Mac must have one doozy of a story, but I really wasn't prepared to get so swept up in the pain and anguish that he's gone through.

When the book opens, Mac Hannon is going to Kansas to help his friend, Lance train for an upcoming amateur fight. Lance has hopes of making it to a professional level and Mac feels like he owes his friend a debt for saving him when tragedy struck four years earlier. Mac isn't happy about returning to the state that holds such extremely painful memories. All those years ago he lost his wife and unborn child when an EF-5 tornado raged through their town.

Mac is nearly completely devoid of spark. He seems to only feel anger and guilt and torment. He doesn't allow himself to enjoy much from life. But then, he meets Gayle.

Gayle is the yin to Mac's yang. She's the other side of the coin. She too has lost everyone she loved because of a tornado. But she lives her life to the fullest each day, and has dove head-first into researching weather patterns and tornadic activity to help others avoid the same horrible fate as her family.

Gayle pushes all of Mac's buttons. Annoys him, amuses him and arouses him when the last thing he wants is to *feel* anything. But her humor and her patience and persistence starts to create chinks in his armor. Needless to say, Mac thinks Fate is a cruel bitch when he discovers that the one person in the world who has been able to stir feelings in him in four years spends months of every year looking into the eye of the beast that torments his dreams each night. How can he let himself care for another wonderful woman who could very well be taken from him? Can he take that risk for love?

I know what you are thinking: Tortured hero starts really living after vivacious, hot chick shows him how fun life can be. Been there, read that.

But, NO. There was the real possibility of this becoming a cliched story, but Abby Niles made these characters and their struggles and their devastation so completely realistic and heartfelt. Her research and portrayal of tornado victims was moving and gut-wrenching.

Though there was plenty of HEAVY in this book, there was a good amount of funny and sexy scattered in there--thanks to Gayle and her indubitably sunny and mischievous personality.

"And my abs are on fire. I will never speak ill of Zumba again. It's a thorough workout."

"For your first time, you're doing pretty well."

"Seriously?" Skepticism rang clear in his voice.

"No." She shook her head, laughing at his mock-hurt expression. "You look like a deranged animal."

I have to say that I LOVED that Mac couldn't Zumba. Not only could he not Zumba, but he could cook. Boy, could he cook. Pre-tornado Mac had been a 5-star chef, and when he donned the chef's jacket for Gayle, she was impressed.

"Damn, Baby, we need to do a little roleplaying." She motioned up and down with a finger. "You wear that, and I'll be the disgruntled customer, and you're willing to do whatever the customer wants to make her happy. Mmm-hmmm That'll be fun. That jacket is rrawr." She made a feline motion with her fingers.

I've always enjoyed Abby Niles' stories, but I think this one has caused me to reset my standards and raise the bar. I loved the emotion this book pulled from me and I appreciate the work she has put into it to bring it to us. Also, if you are reading this review during release week: 8/25/14 bear in mind that a portion of the proceeds will go to the American Red Cross. So, go one-click today!

Jessica A. says

Simplesmente apaixonada!

Aiiiiii ♥ *suspiros eternos*

É sério que só posso dar 5 estrelinhas?!

Que livro lindo, que história linda, que personagens lindos... aiiii amei demais!

Gostaria de saber onde estava a minha sanidade e dignidade por não ter lido este livro antes, pq às vezes eu faço cada idiotice que só gzuís na causa!

Desde quando eu realizei a leitura dos dois primeiros livros dessa série no comecinho do ano passado eu queria muito pegar no livro do Mac. Sabe quando um personagem te seduz só nas raras aparições dele?! É sempre fiquei doida pra pegar de vez nessa gostosura e eis que finalmente me rendi (já estava mais do que na hora). Como nesses dias li o livro FENOMENAL da Andy Collins e minha vontade de ler apenas um livro de lutador não foi o suficiente, tive que pegar mais um.

Ai ai Mac... que tal casarmos e termos vários mini Mac's lutando pela a casa?! Vc fazendo essas comidas bláh-blee-blue bem gastronômicas, andando pela a casa sem camisa, sensualizando e eu só apreciando a vista (não sou boba nem nada), que tal?! Super topo! Ai ai Jessica, vc caiu da cama e acordou :(triste!

Perae, 1 min para admirar essa capa, benzadeus! Calor senhor... ow calor...

Enfim... voltando ao livro, nos livros anteriores a autora dá umas dicas de como o Mac é, que ele saiu do Kansas e se mudou para Atlanta sem nenhuma explicação, que sofreu algum trauma bem pesado no passado e que desistiu da sua carreira de chef para virar o Mac "The Snake" Hannon, um lutador de MMA. Nas suas breves aparições vc fica curioso para saber o que aconteceu realmente com ele.

Já nesse livro Mac retorna para Kansas depois de 4 anos para ajudar o seu amigo de infância Lance a treinar para uma luta. Ele ainda não superou toda a sua dor e culpa pela a morte de sua esposa e filho, levando-o a manter todas as pessoas à distância. Porém, ele não esperava que com esse retorno, Lance teria uma vizinha bem danada, atrevida, divertida, inteligente e determinada. Gayle é uma meteorologista e caçadora de

tempestades, ela não dá ponto sem nó, tem espírito livre e é tudo que o grande lutador precisa para a sua vida. Ambos têm muito em comum, sofreram uma grande perda no passado, e ela vê isso como um desafio para ajuda-lo e trazer a vida de volta para o lutador, tirando da sua concha. E Mac fica assustado com os sentimentos que a Gayle traz de volta a ele.

Gayle vive a sua vida ao máximo cada dia, e trabalhando arduamente nas pesquisas dos tornados ajudando outras pessoas para que não sofram a mesma perda que ela. A descrição que a autora faz nos momentos das caças aos tornados é uma coisa de louco, parece que vc está ali do lado dos personagens e sentindo tudo que eles estavam sentindo naquele exato momento.

Nesse livro o romance não surgiu do nada, foi aparecendo aos poucos com a amizade entre eles, como a forma que ela entende o que Mac está passando, mostrando compaixão, paciência e forças para continuar. Eu amei que ambos tinham tragédias bem complicadas em comum, porém um lidando de maneiras tão diferentes. Fora que os desafios e as camaradagens entre eles que eram sensacionais.

O que eu mais gosto nesses livros da Abby Niles é que as mocinhas não são sonsas, tapadas e chatas, elas são fortes, determinadas, independentes, destemidas, divertidas e com um leve toque de sarcasmo. Que fazem o que elas quiserem, sem nenhum idiota tentar muda-las. Fora que os mocinhos não são aqueles chatos mandões, que se acham os melhores fodões da galáxia.

Esse livro tinha de tudo para se tornar uma história clichê, mas a autora fez um trabalho extraordinário com esses personagens, suas lutas e perdas sendo tão sinceras e reais. O livro é muito bem escrito, tendo descrições nos momentos necessários e certos. Com uma química maravilhosa entre eles, enredo fofo e intenso, sendo uma das melhores leituras de 2016.

Correndo pra pegar no livro do Lance *_*

Se recomendo?! ÓBVIO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Livro emocionante, divertido, que faz jus aos sentimentos de confiança, perdão e superação. ♥

Nota: 5 ?????? favoritaço!

Kara says

It was a'right. Beginning was familiar. Middlish was good. End was skippy. Just a'right overall.

Dr. Bronwyn Ph.D of Smutology says

Pretty good. Characters were truly likeable and their hang ups were realistic. Their responses to anything that challenged their 'walls' was really interesting and almost polar opposites. What I liked is that neither tried to delude themselves of their feelings or turn to a-hole behaviour just to protect themselves.

I will say, that I doubt I'll find this particularly memorable. I know this won't be a book I think about much longer than it takes to write this review. It's not that it was badly written, or the characters weren't interesting. I just don't think the book set itself apart other than the unique careers.

Paranormal Kiss says

4.5 Stars

Winning Love by Abby Niles is the third book in her Love to the Extreme series but it can easily be read as a stand-alone novel. I haven't read the previous books but I can tell you that after reading this one I want to. I really liked Winning Love. It drew me in completely until I was immersed in the story, the characters and the romance. I enjoyed every minute of it. It made me laugh. At one point, the visual in my head of a dare that Gayle had proposed was so hilarious, that I had to stop reading for a minute until I quit laughing. I felt the choke of tears more than once. This novel dug deep with the emotion. The scenes of the aftermath of a tornado were particularly poignant.

I loved the romance between Gayle and Mac. Gayle is such a vibrant, lively and vivacious character. She's a meteorologist and is working to research and document tornados. Mac is an MMA fighter and has returned to Kansas after being gone for 4 years, to help his friend train for a fight. He hasn't gotten over the pain or guilt from the death of his wife and it has driven him to shut out emotions and keep people at a distance. Gayle and Mac become temporary neighbors and Gayle makes it her mission to bring a spark of life back to Mac.

Gayle was tenacious and managed to pull Mac from the dark, angry and depressing funk he had been wallowing in. I liked them both and I loved seeing them come together. It was sexy with moments of affection and tenderness. Their romance wasn't without bumps along the way but they handled them well. They discussed problems and tried to work through them as opposed to ignoring them or brushing them aside.

The story is quite interesting and told in a way that compels you to keep reading. I found Gayle's job and storm chasing trips to be an exciting, emotionally driven aspect to the story. The tornado portions of the book are skillfully written and intense. I felt as if I was there, seeing what the characters were seeing.

Winning Love is very well done. There is fun, laughter, anger and heartache. The romance felt genuine and I cared about the characters. I wouldn't change a thing about it.

I highly recommend Winning Love to fans of contemporary romance.

**ARC (Advanced Review Copy) received from Entangled Publishing LLC - Select via NetGalley.*

Wminbc says

Hmmm...gonna have to think on this review...

◆*Arianna◆* says

3.75 STARS

Mac Hannon is going to Kansas from Atlanta to help his friend Lance with his training. Four years ago he lost his pregnant wife when a tornado destroyed their home. He is still struggling with his feelings and he practically doesn't have a life. Now he's a different man and he's coping fighting as a MMA fighter. He feels guilty for his wife and child's death, feeling angry all the time. The pain is still there.

Gayle knows what means to lose someone you love. Years ago she lost her family and her boyfriend because of a tornado. Now, she's living in the moment. She is a meteorologist, researching tornados and helping others.

Gayle is determined to help Mac, to forget his past, to heal.

“Come on, handsome. Pick the present. If I can do it, so can you.”

Mac is determined also to not get attached because he doesn't want to feel anymore. All he wants is to be left alone, he wants his privacy.

They are attracted with each other, but Mac tries to fight his attraction. He doesn't want this attraction, he wants to be just friends, but she manages to get under his skin.

Gayle help him be in the moment, with her he start to feel, he start to smile and laugh again. Soon he doesn't want to fight he's attraction anymore, so he decides to have some fun, but keeping the distance emotionally. “Some fun” becomes more and they start to have feelings for each other.

“Gayle was good for him. Not only for letting go of the past, but also thinking of a future...with her.”

Everything changes when Mac finds out what Gayle do for a living...

I liked both main characters. Gayle is tenacious, she doesn't hold back and she knows what she wants. She's anything but predictable and very bold in every way. I really felt for Mac, but he needed someone to push his boundaries.

At some point I really got frustrated with Gayle. She says in the past she'd hated being ask questions about her drama and her pain, but she does the exactly same thing with Mac. Sometimes she was too pushy. What I really liked is the fact they actually know how to communicate with each other. They open about their past and about their fears. I liked how they help each other heal.

I like that Gayle has an unusual job, it wasn't something new, but it was interesting. The storyline was predictable, of course, but still I wanted to continue with this story. I also enjoyed the chase in the beginning and the banter between Mac and Gayle.

All in all I liked *Winning Love*. Emotional and funny at times, it was a good read about love, loss and moving on.