



## **Bad for the Boss**

*Talia Hibbert*

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**Bad for the Boss** Talia Hibbert  
**Nobody denies the boss. Until her.**

Theodore Chamberlain's known for his laser-sharp focus and blunt demands—in the boardroom and the bedroom. The anti-social millionaire has never mixed business with pleasure before... but for a fierce new employee with knockout curves, he'll make an exception.

Jennifer Johnson knows better than anyone that life is tough. Why complicate things by risking the job she loves for a lust that can't last? Her boss may be hotter than hell—but Jen's the one who'd end up burned. Trouble is, Theo's mightily persuasive, surprisingly sweet, and extremely difficult to resist.

When a threat from Jen's past resurfaces, her powerful boss becomes her unflinching protector. Can Theo save Jen from the evil that stalks her? And will Jen ever give in to her desires and dare to be bad for the boss?

## Bad for the Boss Details

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Author : Talia Hibbert

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## From Reader Review Bad for the Boss for online ebook

**Taryn (Taryn and Her Books) says**

2.5/5

Loved Talia's writing, as usual, but unfortunately I wasn't as invested in this pair as I have been in previous books of hers. Theo was bossy & controlling and I felt he didn't properly respect Jennifer the way she deserved. He rubbed me the wrong way right from the beginning when he wouldn't respect Jennifer's wishes to not be called "Jenny." The plot was kind of choppy at times, I didn't get a real feeling of the characters & their relationship was a little rushed. Feeling kind of meh about this one.

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**SheReadsALot says**

So me and reading books lately? It just hasn't been working. I've DNF'd too many to count and even thinking about going back to try to finish them gives me the eye squints...

Ex. the plot's too big for the writer to handle or I obviously see the plot points the author threw together to make a story (and I know I've read a better version somewhere) or the chemistry lacks or a combo of the aforementioned.

Which sucks when you love to read but the books you've tried ain't cutting it.

So what's a girl to do?

Well...other things. But anyway, I went on vacation and this book happened to my face and eyes. And it was **THE PERFECT FUCKING THING TO READ**. I finished it in under 24 hours I was so entertained. I still found time to party but when I got a break, I hopped my ass back to my Kindle to see what happened next.

Now before I get into why this book works and why I will make sure I clear out this author's back list, let's get the issues out first because I feel like I will gush and I don't want to get lost in the sauce.

This could have been a 5 but it's not because there were a few points in the story where something would happen between characters that sorta jumped ahead of the plot. Like ILYs or action (yes there is a spot of suspense where I sorta guess who was the culprit). The typos didn't bother me (they're there like a friendly bump in the road). But the minor plot jumps or shift where it could have been a touch smoother.

Oh, plus if the hero actually have ever talked to a problematic employee like that, he would have been sued like a motherfucker. Sometimes the characters' voices would switch and I felt like the author got a little lost in the plot.

But the tropes, the fun and the pluckiness is what wins in Bad for the Boss! Hm...plucky? Yeah, it's plucky as hell. The main characters make this story. But I have a soft spot for the heroine, 26 year old bi orphan virgin Jennifer Johnson, who on paper seems like a good girl.

Jennifer ends up sending an accidental email to her boss, Theodore Chamberlain (who she never met) and the two have a snarky camaraderie that pulls the reader in. Infectious!

Another reason why the book wins? A multicultural cast of characters! Asian-British male lead (let's hear it for a POC hero written well)! British BBW heroine (where the curves and insecurities are acknowledged without being overkill)! A very strong start with an engaging middle made for good times. Jennifer banter well. You can't help but be drawn to her. Theo couldn't resist.

Plus Theo wasn't a alpha-hole. Though it could be possessive at times, I'm not mad at him in the least.

The suspense bit? Wasn't bad, could've been smoother. Because the 'villain' had ample time to make a move, so looking back after reading and comparing it to the romance...not as solid.

100% ENTERTAINING though! This is mostly light with a heartwarming heroine, handsome and hot hero and good dialogue!

**Solid 4 stars**

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### **Ivy Deluca says**

Jennifer Johnson, social media consultant, types a mocking email to her friend about the office Chester the Molester (y'all know the type), and sends it. Sounds funny...except her friend doesn't get it, but J Theo Chamberlain, one of the partners, gets it instead. Oops. As you may have guessed, one thing leads to another and romance happens.

**The Good.** Kickass prologue that immediately hooked me? Check. Diversity from leads to supporting characters (Jennifer is black, Theo is Asian), not just the random minor character for "color?" Check. BBW Heroine? Check. Protective, gamma hero? Check. Office romance that actually deals with that pesky power imbalance instead of completely ignoring it? Check, check, and check. I love the sex scenes (even the ones that have a strong FSOG vibe to them). I love that Theo revels in the realities of a BBW's body and he respects her feelings, doesn't take consent for granted and looks for ways to put them on equal footing when he can. The writing is strong, and it's reflected in alot of scenes that are realistic while still giving you those office romance fantasy feels. However....

**The Bad.** The love is pretty damn insta and made the overall story uneven. The moment that Theo sees Jennifer he is smitten. Super smitten. It's sweet, but when they hookup in literally their first physical scene together, I was a bit thrown off. I mean, there's alot of sex.

I know, I know. I never thought I'd say that. Unfortunately, it felt as if the sex took the place of some emotional development and it just depended on the insta-love to make up for it. Add that to the condensed timeline, and alot of drama happening in such a short period of time, that when the love declarations happen, it's a just a bit off. So much of the romance is handled in a realistic and responsible manner, that I wanted to see more from the ILUs.

**Everything in Between.** The suspense subplot was good. The prologue sets it up and it is woven through the story, so I appreciated the twist, even if I guessed part of it. I do take a bit of issue with one crucial tidbit. This is spoilerish, so if you're not interested in that, look away. (view spoiler)

Other than that one detail, I liked it.

I really liked Jennifer and Theo's romance and it was a refreshing change from the vanilla-tinged landscape that can be Romancelandia. The pros far outweigh any cons in my opinion and I don't hesitate to recommend this. I would definitely read more from Ms. Hibbert.

For more reviews, visit

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## **The FountainPenDiva, Old school geek chick and lover of teddy bears says**

Every so often I try to read a romance novel that is out of what I call my "feminist comfort zone". That zone is in place to keep my sanity intact and my hands from throwing said book against the wall in a rage-fest (something I never want to do to my poor Kindle) . It also keeps me from penning really snarky reviews.

This isn't snarky as much as it is what didn't work for me.

I've made no secret that boss/employee romances are one of those tropes that no matter how I try just never sat well with me. Even before all the fuckwittery going on in Hollywood, DC and Alabama, boss falls for sexy employee or vice versa never worked to the point where I could get over the obvious imbalance of power. Not sorry but I don't find such imbalance sexy.

Your mileage obviously varies.

With that said, Bad for the Boss: A BWAM Office Romance wasn't horrible. It's well-written with strong female friendships (very important). The heroine is a dark-skinned Black woman (so's the roommate). In fact, had there been no boss (or millionaire, another trope I dislike), I could see myself really loving this suspenseful romance. Firstly, it's an IR set in London and we don't get a lot of those. Second, the couple is BW/AM, and there certainly aren't enough of those. Third, the heroine is the kind of quirky Black woman that we don't see very often. Lastly, strong female friendships.

I mentioned that before, didn't I? Oh, I forgot to mention the diversity which is so mundane and effortless it

makes me wonder why too many authors just act like diversity is like pulling teeth with no novacaine. If you write human beings and not stereotypes, it's not hard.

Now for the save me from the bad tropes/other reasons I just couldn't finish this:

1) I am way past done with heroines whom - usually due to trauma or somehow being 'asexual' - are not given a sex life, especially a healthy one \*before\* they meet the hero. I just can't with this. It reinforces another trope that needs to die. Painfully. Upon a flaming Catherine Wheel. With me holding a torch singing "Ring of Fire" by Johnny Cash. And here we have Jennifer - twenty-six years old and ready to jump her boss' bones though she knows it's a bad idea (which yes sweetie it is, no matter how sweet and romantic one tries to make it).

While the heroine hijacking of Jennifer annoyed me, I absolutely ADORED her roommate Aria (and how I wish the book was about her). This passage is one of the reasons why:

*"Now, the third and final rule is this: nothing you do during sex is bad. As long as all involved are wholeheartedly up for it, don't ever let anyone make you feel bad for whatever it is you end up wanting."*

Oh. My. Goddess. Aria wins my "Feminist as Fuck" award. We need more Arias in romance.

2) The irony of this book being a case of Jennifer reporting an incident of sexual harassment to her manager Priyanka only to inadvertently send the email to the head of the company, Theo Chamberlain. I was like, what??? You just reported your obnoxious coworker for harassment and now here you go?

That. Yeah. Facepalm.

3) Never. Ever. Ever. Ever. Mention 50 Shades of Grey in a book unless the characters are dragging it. That book belongs on the dustbin of infamy.

4) Theo. I wanted to like him. In fact I did. Just not enough to overcome the whole "he's the boss" thing. I mean here was your employee who just reported an incident of harassment and accidentally sent it to you. Then you meet her in the flesh and you turn into a teenage lust-puppet. Granted, Theo was chivalrous enough to be willing to draw up a contract between them to protect Jennifer in case the whole thing went pear-shaped. She'd still have a job, but seriously, who'd want to work at the same company with the boss you had a torrid affair with? Even if it ended on a good note, other people in the company are eventually going to find out. If it continues, and people find out, her work would be tainted, especially if it appeared the boss was showing favors. And we all know how women get penalized for sleeping with the boss, especially when they're not.

So I'm sure I've probably bummed you out by bringing too much reality into what should be pure escapism. I'm not sorry. In order for me to enjoy a romance, I have to be able to not just lose myself in it, but I have to love the characters. I need that comfort zone of characters who compliment each other on a level playing field. If the hero is alpha, the heroine has to be alpha.

That's just how The Fountain Pen Diva rolls.

I do follow the author on Twitter and though this one didn't work for me, I definitely want to check out whatever else she writes. Which is me bribing her to give my girl Aria her own book.

## Meags says

### 4 Stars

Bad for the Boss: A BWAM Office Romance is fun, steamy, and plenty romantic, featuring a delicious cast of diverse characters and telling a simple yet highly engaging office romance story so moreish I literally couldn't put it down.

There are plenty of classic romance tropes being utilised here, and as far as I'm concerned they're all very well-executed. The story features everything from an **age gap** to a **work-place romance** between a **millionaire boss** and his **virginal employee**. Plus, there is also a dash of suspense and intrigue in this one, too, with a stalker element running throughout as a secondary story arc.

Primarily, the story follows curvy black heroine Jennifer Johnson who is just trying to make good in her new advertising job while dealing with the emotional effects of a past trauma. A few months into the job, Jennifer inadvertently meets one of the company heads – older, half-Chinese, publically reticent Theo Chamberlain – and the two hit it off in such a big way that they quickly begin an impassioned (and secretive) love affair.

Jennifer and Theo were both lovely and relatable characters and I thoroughly enjoyed the way their romance unfolded. I particularly liked the way they addressed the potential power imbalance as boss and employee and the way they dealt with the possible negative effects this could have on their working relationship as well as their personal one.

There was nothing particularly novel about their office romance, but Hibbert's exceptional writing, paired with her great character development and her ability to write dialogue and banter that is realistic and charming, really gave this story an original voice and made everything feel fresh and exciting.

I banged this baby out in one afternoon, which is a huge rarity for me these days and speaks highly of my overall enjoyment.

It has only taken me two books to consider Hibbert an easy and dependable one-click author, and I eagerly wait to read what she fancies up next.

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## Kiki says

I'm sure this is a wonderful book.

As a matter of fact I'm certain this is an exceptional book.

The characters are multicultural, and not one-dimensional, and the book really is quite brave and thinks outside the box.

However, I do have issues with experienced hero vs virgin/inexperienced heroine. And pairing that with a bossy hero, I don't feel this book has the power balance I seek in my reading.

However I do have respect for this author, she has gone out of usual trope of breathtaking beauty and Anglo-saxon/European/sheikh billionaire trope. A British-Chinese hero seems awesome!

Just the content is not for me.

Read The FountainPenDiva, Old school geek chick and lover of teddy bears's 3-star review of Bad for the Boss: A BWAM Office Romance by Talia Hibbert

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Check out this review of Bad for the Boss: A BWAM Office Romance by Talia Hibbert  
<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

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### **retro says**

The first half of the book had a lot of potential. Jennifer is an atypical heroine (big, black girls can be sexy and fall in love, too? stop the presses!) and Theo, her boss and love interest, is a half-Chinese Brit who is both antisocial and anxious and sexy.

There's a tragic backstory, okay, but for once the office romance didn't irk me and I loved that we got to see Jennifer doing actual work at her actual job. The power imbalance is addressed, as too-wealthy boss Theo is aware of his privilege and tries to put contingencies in place so Jennifer can feel safe with him, rather than simply telling her to trust him/just accept his gifts/quit defying him.

Unfortunately, there's also a helicopter ride (and assorted wealth porn), playing dress-up in perfectly-sized clothes your boyfriend just bought you, a contract (that mercifully never gets finalized) and a car chase/kidnapping subplot, all of which shift the focus away from what could've made this story unique and shove it back into the realm of your typical Fifty Shades-inspired romance.

I found half the sex scenes to be introduced at odd moments. The first time they have sex, Jennifer has just taken Theo to visit her sick grandmother in a nursing home and he's confessed to looking into her past (the one where her parents were murdered when she was eleven and she helped put away their killer). The preceding scene is very poignant; it's written from grandma's perspective and she thinks it's five years ago. I was really impressed at the gentleness with which the author handled this topic. But then it's followed by Theo pushing Jennifer against his front door and ripping her skirt off. Apparently sick grandma + traumatic loss of one's parents spurs them to have raunchy sex.

The second time, despite Jennifer's repeated requests that they not have sex in the office, Theo summons her because he's so riled up after firing her harasser and proceeds to screw her against the desk, with the secretary on the other side of the door. To make matters worse, Jennifer gets annoyed about the firing (it's not clear why, to be honest) and the sex scene is bookended by an angry sacking and a semi-public argument/flounce.

I found the blackmail B-plot and the stalking/kidnapping thing rushed and utterly unnecessary. There's enough drama and conflict to mine from a boss/employee interracial relationship, particularly when the characters are willing to do more than have kinky sex. It's a shame that the story had to get derailed. What little saving grace there is in Theo being brilliant and researching how to help Jennifer take care of her hair once she gets out of hospital is also completely squandered on a cookie-cutter epilogue in which the happily ever after is guaranteed with a marriage proposal.

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### **ambreads says**

I mean I love Talia's work but this one wasn't for me. I like workplace romances but I feel that maybe the boss/employee trope wasn't for me. I really just felt uncomfortable by it. There was also a fourteen year age gap between the characters that rubbed me a little the wrong way, I always get a bit uncomfortable by age gaps, I just feel as if two people are at two different places (especially when it's 26 & 40).

My main issue was that the whole encounter started due to the main character joking about sexual harassment in an email that she mistakingly sent to a boss. It just didn't work for me. This could be because of all the research I've been doing into the 'Me Too' campaign for a research paper but it just felt off.

To be honest, I skimmed this book from around 20% through as well.

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### **Amanda says**

I really wanted to like this more than I did! And I do want to highlight what I enjoyed:

This is a black English author writing diverse English characters that really reflect the multicultural England I know and love. Jennifer is black and Theo is half-Chinese. They live in Nottingham. That's right—NOT LONDON! I have nothing against London but I sometimes wonder if American authors who set books in the UK realize there's more than London and small villages with castles. I would love more contemporary romance set in the UK by British writers (the only other one whose books I read is Alexis Hall, I think?). Especially authors of color.

I also love that Jennifer is plus size and this is something Theo DROOLS over. There's one scene where he touches her stretch marks and compares them to raw silk and the idea that romantic hero LOVES A HEROINE'S STRETCH MARKS was so wonderful.

Having said all that, this particular story didn't really work for me. It didn't make me rage-y like the previous boss/employee romance I read, but it's still not a trope I like. And this book had soooooo much going on, including some really traumatic events, that the short length of this did not allow the author to flesh out. I will say, I got to a point reading this near the end where I wondered if she was making fun of some of the tropes, not in a mean-spirited way. Some of it was so cliché it almost felt satirical at times. But I don't think it's that deep. I think it's more that this book is a big dose of bananas and it was actually pretty fun at times. Too bad it was all over the place (seriously what's with the random POV shift with secondary characters?).

I think she's got talent, and I'm interested enough to read her again.

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### **K.J. Charles says**

Not my usual romance reading (I'm not much into contemporary and really not into the boss trope) but I picked it up on a freebie whim and I'm very pleased I did because it was huge fun.

It's a massively tropetastic romance (older man, virgin heroine, boss/employee, millionaire-Cinderella) which rejoices gleefully in the tropes. There's a 50 Shades shape to the setup, even down to a contract, but this is 50 Shades if Christian wasn't an abusive tool and Ana wasn't a pathetic cipher, because these characters are lovely.

We have Theo, half-Chinese silver fox, who is actually slightly insecure and totally adorable (except, for me, in the 'bossy BDSM-lite telling Jennifer what to do' bits, but others may love that and it's well handled, in that she makes it clear he doesn't get to do that outside bed). He's good; Jennifer is bloody brilliant. She's proper fat, a really big curvy girl who if anything puts on weight during the book, and is completely happy with herself. She's got a lot of courage and a wonderful sense of humour and good friends. And she's black, because this is an actual modern multicultural British romance (and it's set in Nottingham! Not London!

Other places exist!!!) and it is all just such a massive breath of fresh air. Oh, and the contract? Is drawn up by Theo to specify that if anything goes bad between them Jennifer won't lose her job or suffer for it. It is literally a "here is all the evidence you would need to sue me" contract attempting to redress the power imbalance in their relationship. Screw you, Christian Grey.

The writing is light, funny and vivid. It's an erotic romance with quite a few explicit sex scenes but tbh I pretty much just wanted more of Jen and Theo and their entourages bantering, because the ensemble was so enjoyable. There were a few daft bits, mostly around a cartoonish work harasser, but that's what tropetastic romance is \*for\*. For me the standout scene was when Jen gets out of a week in hospital. Theo, in the meantime, has asked her friend for advice, learned she will want to wash her hair, learned her hair type, watched YouTube videos on caring for black hair, and bought a shop's worth of the appropriate products to be sure he gets her favourite. That is what I call a hero. /melts/

Contemporary romance having a blast. What fun.

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## **Fangirl Musings says**

DOWN & DIRTY QUICKIE REVIEW!

### **One Sentence Summary:**

She's his 26-year-old, curvalicious, black employee & he's her 40-year-old betatastic Asian boss who plays Hero-In-Pursuit.

### **Name That Trope:**

- \* Black Girl Magic
- \* Consent for DAYYYYYYS!
- \* I'll take, *'Books That Subtly Shade Institutional Racism, Sexism, & Fatphobia'* for 200, Alex.
- \* "Hey, I just met you, and this is crazy, but my penis likes you, so call me baby."
- \* Psycho Crazy Stalker = Protective Hero
- \* Accidental-Email Epistolary Meet-Cute
- \* Curvy Heroine & Stretch Marks & Dimpled Thighs, Oh My!

### **What part made you fangirl squeal:**

- 1) A lone drunk bar gal hits on our guy. After brushing her off he puts her with a group of sober women. HIS HEROIC HEROTASTIC HERO-NESS IS REAL, YALL!
- 2) The sex talk our heroine's friend gives???? God ding dang that needs to be taught in every school, everywhere!
- 3) When hero hottie insisted on paying for the heroine's therapy; THIS IS WHAT HEAs ARE MADE OF, PEOPLE!
- 4) Our gal lowkey tosses out that she's bi & it ain't no big thing! Hollywood, take fucking note.

### **Favorite Character:**

Picking between Jen & Theo is sacrilege but if forced, TOTES JEN! This book is 100000% hers in a way that gave me oxygen, free money, and french fries.

### How smexy was the smex?

The OTP's 2nd scene! Mutually clothed humpity-hump on a desk was a thing. Even better? When they go to Pound Town there ain't no bullshit virgin vjayjay pain!

### Whose Line Is It Anyway:

*"Let me play with you, Jenny. Can I?"*

\*\*\*\*\*

*"Previously, lust had been a vodka shot; with him, it was a pill."*

\*\*\*\*\*

[heroine got them lust feels'] *"She felt like a storm cloud, swollen, heavy, but floating nonetheless."*

\*\*\*\*\*

*"The balance of society is weighted unfairly in favor of men, so anything they might give me in return for the blessing of my time is nothing less than what I deserve."*

### Got any bitching to do?

Only 2 ittttty-bitty complaints.

1) The hero rocks insta-lust/insta-like that pops off with early intimacy. But the book's still a slow burn because our OTP mess around before they Pound Town around.

2) The couple's emotional conflict resolves quickly after the psycho stalker climax goes down. This fix feels fast, but it's true to the characters.

### Visually Depict Yo Book Feels:

### Famous last words:

Yes, the book's got some flaws. Yes, I still crack read it in 4 days while nightly rocking the "*Just 1 More Chapter*" lie. This is only the author's 2nd book & holy SHIT did it say and do lots! I want more heroes like Theo, and more heroines like Jen with her realistic personality and body! The writing was just epic ass beautiful, yall. I GOT FEELS OKAY?!

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For a more in depth, LOL-fest discussion on romance novels, **HERE BE MY YOUTUBE CHANNEL:**

<https://www.youtube.com/fangirlmusings>

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## **Tori says**

Pretty disappointing.

This boss trope is already a hard sell for me, as is the billionaire one. The characters and the relationships felt very flat. The dialogue was forced. Not at all like the other Hibbert I read, which was immensely enjoyable.

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## **Tina says**

This is actually a low three stars -- more like a 2.5.

In my mind this book is a text book case in the divide between the writing versus the story.

The writing was very good. I actually enjoyed it. The dialogue was mostly great. The main character Jennifer had a fun inner voice. She also had a great personality. In fact a lot of the characters had personalities that I really enjoyed, especially her roommate Aria. The hero Theo was, imo, the only real personality casualty because to me it felt like he inhabited a character type rather than being a real character.

However the storytelling frustrated me beyond everything. It starts out great with Jennifer (mis)sending an email to her boss complaining about a lecherous co-worker. The email was intended to go to her immediate supervisor who is also something of a friend. But the email mistakenly goes to the head-guy, Theo. The email exchange is rather fun and a little flirty. As meet-cutes go, it is really cute. But then the rest is downhill from there.

Theo insists she comes to his office to meet in person. Whereupon his dick gets hard and falls immediately in lust with her. Second meeting they are dry humping on his desk. Soon after he is buying her clothes and whisking her away on a magical date complete with helicopter rides and private menus at swanky restaurants. He basically pervs on her like her co worker did. But he is allowed because she likes him. He wants her and basically falls into insta love with her.

I don't feel like we actually watched them have a relationship. I don't think they earned their HEA. It was just insta-love + sexy Times + some good dialogue with the book working overtime to let us know what a good guy Theo is.

There is also a secondary romance plot and a stalker plot. The secondary romance plot just felt like it took up page space. It could have been interesting but the author really didn't do anything with it. The stalker plot also could have been interesting. The set up was good but then it was just a few incidents and blam! Everything really just skimmed the surface.

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## **Coco.V says**

? FREE on Amazon today (1/9/2018)! ?

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## **Adele Buck says**

This book was tons of fun. I don't know how she managed to write a romantic thriller with so much humor, but Talia did it. I especially loved the email interchange between the two protagonists at the beginning. So much humor and heart!

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