



Claiming Bailey

Susan Stoker

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Opposites attract in the third Ace Security novel from *New York Times* bestselling author Susan Stoker.

Bailey Hampton will do whatever it takes to keep both herself and her little brother safe from the vicious Inca Boyz gang. Hiding out in Castle Rock, Colorado, is only a temporary solution until she can earn enough money to get out of the state altogether. But when she meets handsome security nerd Nathan Anderson, she discovers a reason to stay and fight for what she wants.

Ace Security's Nathan Anderson has always been the "numbers guy," not the man any of the firm's clients look to when their safety is threatened. But from the first time he ran into Bailey, she never made him feel like less of a protector than his brothers. Nathan was attracted to the petite, black-haired pixie with wild tattoos from the start, and by some miracle, she seems to return his interest.

But danger stalks Bailey and her brother, so it's up to Nathan to channel his inner alpha and find a way to end the threat to their lives once and for all—and he's not giving up Bailey without a fight.

Claiming Bailey Details

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Author : Susan Stoker

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From Reader Review Claiming Bailey for online ebook

Laurie Gyd says

Suspenseful & exciting romance

Wow!! 9 stars-watching Bailey & Nathan get to know each other, Nathan working on taking down Bailey's emotional walls, helping her brother Joel overcome the emotional abuse they both suffered at the hands of a gang member, protecting them from the ex who's out of prison and vowed to hunt her down to hurt her. I loved watching Bailey & Nathan build their relationship, becoming a family, and overcome the fear to love.

Skylar says

Anytime I read a series that has a detective, security, or some other agency, I'm expecting a lot of creative license, OTT alphaness, and hokey parts throughout. This book was so different. I was really surprised.

Nathan is the tall lanky Anderson brother. He didn't serve in the military. (I found this rather shocking, I expected the word "seal" written in all caps at least 15 times in the first chapter.) He's quite the self deprecating nerd. He's been searching for Bailey and just so happens to run into her when she offers him help while he's having car trouble. Bailey is a mechanic and former gang whore. She's self deprecating also. After running from the gang, she's hiding out with her brother.

Nathan was a considerate and loving guy. He waited because of the trauma Bailey had been through. She was tattooed with gang symbols and wasn't innocent. She had a little brother that she was raising. Nathan was patient with both of them. (He even tutored and played video games with him.)

As you can tell, this is so different than the usual premise. (Not that I'm dissing these types of books. I assure you, I enjoy the crack woven.) It was just cool to see a different type of H and h. I'd definitely recommend this if you enjoy a less alpha yet kinda alpha that is modern in his views and respectful.

The Romance Book Disciple (Samantha) says

A nerdy, sexually less experienced man and a former gang whore collide in Claiming Bailey. Nathan is the geekier Anderson brother, more content to stay at the office and crunch numbers and do tech things. Bailey got swept up into the gang life at 14, but when she saw the effect it was having on her young brother, she ran. Bailey's life with the gang is difficult to read about-she was, for all intents and purposes, raped and physically abused. Nathan's childhood wasn't a picnic, but nothing compared to what Bailey endured.

Nathan falls for Bailey almost instantly and is determined to save her from the gang. Its sweet and so unlike anything Bailey has ever experienced. Bailey has had a rough life, having been involved in the gang from a young age, but she was callous to Nathan frequently. I understand her distrust, but Nathan had not given her any reason to treat him poorly. It kind of got on my nerves. Also, and this is more of a social commentary on our world today and only tangentially related to this book, why is it when a woman has slept with LOTS of guys it is shameful but when its the guy who has slept with LOTS of girls, he never expresses shame? WTF is up with that and why do we still promulgate this view? Bailey's shame is not just about the number of guys

so this isn't exactly a commentary on her, but she is ashamed of the number of men she has been with (not even counting the ones she was forced to sleep with). However, you never read about a man being anything more than slightly uncomfortable with the number of women he has been with. This bothers me a great deal because I think it sends a really disjointed message, much like the confusing messages Joel gets from the gang members. And speaking of Joel...

I think my favorite ship of this book was Nathan and Joel! Joel is a seriously messed up 10 year old. He spent a lot of time with the gang leader before Bailey ran and it has seriously confused him and warped his thoughts. And he has been overexposed to so many mature things like sex and violence. Nathan has this way of talking to Joel that treats him like a mature adult while addressing the misbehaviors Joel exhibits due to his time with the gang. He never makes Joel feel bad and always encourages him to think about what he knows as opposed to what Donovan (the gang leader) said. He guides Joel to rediscovering things without forcing opinions on him. I would have loved the book to just be about Nathan and Joel!

There is a little 'easter egg' type shout out to Stoker's other series, Delta Force Heroes. There is a game Joel loves called 'This is War' and he describes the new mission about this team of Deltas who have to save another Delta from dying after he loses his arm! Loved that little nugget!

While this series hasn't been my favorite of Stoker's, I can appreciate different things about it. The Anderson boys are different, even in a trope that could be trite. Bailey is very different than any character Stoker has written. While personally I struggled with her character, I think that many people will love the kind of anti-heroine vibe Bailey has in the story.

POV: 3rd

Tears: no

Trope: nerdy guy

Triggers: (view spoiler)

Series/Standalone: stand alone within an interconnected series

Cliffhanger: (view spoiler)

HEA: (view spoiler)

Thin Ice by Maryann Jordan, Lights to my Siren by Lani Lynn Vale, Undeniable by Kristen Hope Mazzola...then you will probably like Claiming Bailey!

Claiming Bailey

See full review on The Book Disciple

Sofia Lazaridou says

First of all, you should be warned about some possible triggers. This book touches the subject of rape and we have an almost rape in the story. If you don't want to read about that, don't touch this book.

I decided to change my original 4 star rating to a three because when the time came to write this review the first thing that popped into my mind was Joel and how much I disliked his character. I also didn't like the back and forth in some aspects of the book. For example, Nathan and Bailey start as friends, then they go on a date, the decision to stay friends for whatever reason and then they become a couple again. The reason I disliked Joel so much was his attitude. I felt like he was only acting because Nathan told him so. All the other times Nathan wasn't in the picture, Joel was acting very abusive towards his sister. I get that he grew up with the worst gang members he could and they brainwashed him, but Nathan kept telling him how he should really act and he was "getting it", but every single time he was proving himself wrong. I wanted to read a scene (even a tiny one) where he did something good for his sister. Something nice, like making her breakfast or something. He wasn't seeing all the sacrifices his sister made for him (which were a lot) even when Nathan pointed them out. I am disappointed. The secondary characters can also mature and develop in a story that isn't about them.

It was weird to have the inexperienced geeky Nathan and the way more experienced Bailey. The roles for once were reversed and I was happy for that. Finally some change from the "norm". I liked their characters. I liked Bailey more because she was doing so much for her brother. I have to admit, that the events of her past are a little hazy to me. She had a father who warned her not to join the gang, but she did and took her brother with him? Or did her father die? If someone can answer that please do. I am asking you to do it because I don't see myself re-reading the book. I definitely plan on reading Felicity's book though.

Kahea says

4.5 *'#TeamNathan' Stars*

Claiming Bailey was filled with all kinds of swoon worthy moments, not that I'm all that surprised considering we are talking about a Susan Stoker novel, but this one had more aww moments than the previous two novels and the dopey happy sigh happened many, many times. Add in a good dose of suspense and it made for a page turning read right up until the very end.

Oh Nathan. I swear I fell in love with the man in the first chapter. He's honest to a fault about how he sees the world and how he see himself, even if it is a bit harsh at times. He has a huge and compassionate heart and way more patience than is probably humanly possible. And for all of his adorkable-ness, he has this alpha side that comes out and makes him absolutely irresistible.

Bailey absolutely blew me away, in a good way. This woman made some bad choices as a teenager, but once she got a huge reality check, she made a vow to get out and do everything in her power to ensure that she and her brother never went back. Her guilt at all she'd done was huge, but watching as she worked to create a better life for herself and her brother had me admiring and adoring her.

If you love slow build/burn romances, then you are going to love Nathan and Bailey's journey. While, on the outside they appear to be absolute opposites, they have more in common than either of them could ever

imagine. I'll admit that there were a few too good to be true moments between Nathan, Bailey and Joel, Bailey's brother, but regardless, each moment brought out their true personalities and why they were all perfect for each other.

As typically happens with a Susan Stoker novel, my interest in Claiming Bailey was peaked at the end of Claiming Alexis and I was hooked from the first chapter and thoroughly enjoyed how everything played out with Nathan and Bailey as well as the Inca Boyz/Donovan storyline. There were a few moments that had me going 'Hhhhhmmmm' but they didn't take away from my enjoyment of the book. And that ending definitely has me wanting to get my hands on Claiming Felicity sooner rather than later.

~ Copy provided by the publisher via NetGalley & voluntarily reviewed ~

Marie Brown (Marie's Tempting Reads) says

Marie's Tempting Reads ARC Review:

Claiming Bailey was WONDERFUL! Nathan our hero, is completely different than his brothers but his differences were something that I found pretty...HOT! He is soft spoken, sweet, not as muscular as his brothers, but smart and just as protective and wonderfully caring. He fit Bailey who is beautiful, tattooed, and who is determined to protect her brother from her mistakes that she made in the past. I found her to be such a lovable character. She and Nathan were SO meant to be together and I really loved their story!

Claiming Bailey had some breathtaking, heart-attack inducing suspense that certainly had me on my toes! Its exactly what I have come to expect and LOOOOOVE with Susan Stoker! This book was unique and sexy, suspenseful and full of romance and sigh and drool worthy hero. I TREASURE this unique and brilliant romantic suspense!

Claiming Bailey gets a STUNNINGLY SWEET AND HEART THUMPING FIVE SHOOTING STARS! Every time I think Susan Stoker's stories can't get better, she proves me wrong...EVERY TIME!

Pelusa Rivera says

This was the third book in this series..Aaand I have to say I was a little let down, maybe it was that I was excited and probably set myself up expecting more. I had liked Claiming Alexis and was intrigued by Nathan actually all the brothers but, since he was the quiet one ad not a fighter as the other two I wanted to see how he would be able to take care of someone, especially with her background. So as I mentioned I set myself up. I didn't get the insta love Nathan had for Bailey, I didn't feel, and Bailey kind of annoyed me..What saved it for me was reading about the others.

Alison says

5 Holding your breath until the end stars!!!

I was given this book in turn for an honest review.

Bailey was a mystery, and Nathan was determined to breakdown her walls. Given the looming threat of the Inca Boyz, Bailey must keep herself and her brother safe. Will she let Nathan in? Will they ever break free from the imminent threat of the Inca Boyz?

Susan Stoker has brought us an array of characters, characters we love from the moment we meet them. She has yet again shown her talent for diversity and brought us an alpha male, nerd. What a beautifully talented, sexy, strong, determined and amazing man he is. Nathan Anderson is my favourite of the Anderson brothers. From the first book, I knew he would be. There was just something about his character that pulled me to him, had me begging to know more about him.

The plot element to this story is also quite different, and I really liked it. Susan Stoker had me sat on the edge of my seat waiting for that moment, when things would get dangerous, frightening, the moment you question will the characters get the happy ever after they deserve.

The Anderson brothers are amazing, they are a united front and will go to great lengths to protect each other and those they love or care about. If lines need to be crossed, they will cross them, and they won't let anything stop them or bring them down.

The strength that both Bailey and her brother showed was outstanding. Their lives were in danger and in the most frightening moment of their life, they managed to find strength to fight, and not crumble.

The Ace security series has been an exciting and fascinating series. If you enjoy romantic suspense, this series for you.

Julie says

3.5 stars

I found this book difficult to get into. Bailey and Nathan's past abuse was..intense is the only word I can think of. There is dark subject matter Stoker handles with aplomb, yet I struggled to connect to the story. The romance was understandably slow-paced, yet written with enough nuances for Nathan and Bailey to bare themselves to the other literally- and figuratively speaking-later on in the book.

Although the heaviness of the topics bogged me under, the story itself turned out better than I expected. I liked the glimpses of the Anderson brothers and their families. The new bundles of joy-aren't babies great!- always bring out the smiles, and of course, the ending tied up the loose threads in an unconventional way.

Book three in the Ace Security series, Claiming Bailey can easily read as a stand-alone.

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced copy of this book that I received from the author.

Christina says

3.5 Stars - 3 Flames

I feel like I've been waiting a while to read this third installment. I mean, we've all been wondering where Donovan's ex-girlfriend was and what she was like, right? Well...we certainly find out.

Nathan is the last of the triplets we get to read about. He's the self proclaimed nerd who has always felt as though he was the third wheel or the one who always needed saving. Now that his brothers have found their soulmates and are happy, he can't help but feel as though he wants that too. Especially since he's been searching for Donovan's ex-girlfriend obsessively. By chance, they meet. And now that he's laid eyes on her, he's not letting her go. At least not without a fight.

Bailey is Donovan's ex-girlfriend. Why ex? Because she couldn't stand around and watch Donovan corrupt her little brother anymore. But being on the run from the leader of a gang member isn't just scary, it's dangerous. And now that she knows Donovan is out of jail and looking for her and her brother, she wants to run again. But there's something about Nathan that keeps her in place. He's not the typical guy she goes for, but he's absolutely a keeper.

Although I've been waiting for this book for a while, I'm almost a little disappointed. Yes, the anticipation was well worth it. Yes, both Nathan and Bailey have some serious self esteem issues that need to be sorted through. But I felt like we spent the entire book working on self esteem more than the danger aspect. Maybe it's because there was so much danger in the other two books, I was expecting more? I'm not sure. I can't quite put my finger on it. But all in all...I'm happy there was a HEA. And now I'm even more intrigued with that cliffhanger. Yep, you heard me right. If you think this is the last of this series, you're wrong.

*I was gifted this book from the Jeep Diva in exchange for my honest opinion.

Emily says

Bailey Hampton didn't have the best teen years, she made a ton of mistakes but once her father died she realized the life she had built for herself was destructive and she needed to get her brother away from the Inca Boyz gang before it was too late. The problem is though the head of the gang wants Bailey back and he is intent on finding her.

Ace Security number man, Nathan Anderson is used to being alone. He has his family but he has a hard time connecting with people. When Bailey helps him with his car, he feels something and wants to know more about the beautiful woman with a chip on her shoulder. He quickly realizes that this is the Bailey that they have been looking for though trying to find information on the man they helped put away. Can Nathan show Bailey that he can be relied on and that if given the chance he can be the one she can lean on?

This was one of those books that you begin and don't realize you are at the end until the end. Fast paced and I liked that the story came off as realistic. Nathan is a man who is blunt and yet he is understanding about what haunts Bailey. I thought this was a fantastic read, looking for a good book you can lose yourself in. This is one to pick up.

Arzu says

3,5 stars

Carvanz says

Bailey's past will never let her go. Its horror is deeper than her inked skin. She's hiding from that past and the leader of the gang that will one day come for her. Her deepest desire is to keep her brother safe from that life. But when she helps a nerdy geek with his car she finds herself longing for the friendship he offers her and her sibling.

Nathan has always been the brother his stronger, larger brothers protected. Now he's in a position of offering protection to the most important person in his life and he won't screw it up. Bailey is everything he's ever wanted and despite what she thinks of herself, he intends to remain a part of her life in any capacity he can.

This couple initially seemed a little mismatched. I'm so used to the hero being the tough guy and the heroine being weak. What I loved about this story was that they were both weak and strong in their own unique ways but together they found the perfect balance that opened up their hearts for the future.

This is a fast paced read that didn't kick into high drama and action until it neared the end. However, everything prior to that was a beautiful story of two people each growing and moving into a place in their lives where they found themselves content with who and what they were individually as well as together.

This is an honest review of an advanced copy provided by NetGalley and Montlake.

Dual POV

Safety – H is an almost virgin; no ow drama; h's ex is a threat but no relationship drama regarding him

Possible triggers (view spoiler)

Reading In Pajamas says

Review: CLAIMING BAILEY (Ace Security Book 3) by Susan Stoker <https://wp.me/p3d0RZ-awj>

Publication Date: December 5, 2017

Genre: Romantic Suspense

Reviewed by: Reading in Pajamas/ Donna

Rated 4.5 Stars

I loved this installment in the Ace Security series. Bailey was reeling from bad life decisions that seemed insurmountable until she meets Nathan. I liked that he wasn't some musclebound Adonis, but rather a geeky math whiz. It made him so appealing and loveable. It was smooth and fast-paced, and ended before I wanted it to. Tense, heartwarming and sexy – all in a nice package. I cannot wait until the next one!

*Review copy provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

~*~*~*~

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◆Ace Security Series by Susan Stoker◆

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Kimberly / Love Notes Book Blog says

2.75 stars. This book did not really work for me. This is Nathan and Bailey's story. Bailey is on the run from her ex-boyfriend, the leader of a dangerous gang. He abused her and, when he started to do the same to her younger brother, who she has guardianship of, she took him and ran. Now she is hiding out in a small town, hoping her past doesn't catch up to her. Nathan runs a security company with his triplet brothers. They are big, strong men, but Nathan is a computer geek who does the accounting for the company. Nathan and his brothers have been investigating a case about the gang and have been looking for Bailey. She practically falls in their lap when she meets Nathan in a parking lot. Nathan is immediately interested in her, but Bailey is in no place to start a relationship. So the two become friends and Nathan helps her get on her feet. The friendship leads to a relationship after a while. Nathan helps protect Bailey when her past comes back to haunt her.

The writing in the book isn't bad. The characters were only okay though. Nathan is described as being a nerd. That would have been okay if it was mentioned a few times, but it is repeated and harped on so often in the book that it made him unattractive to me. He also has very low self esteem and that was not sexy either. His personality was okay, and so was Bailey's, but they had zero chemistry. None. Most of the book dealt with their very heavy, depressing pasts and them overcoming them. Which is fine, but it was not romantic at all. The whole book was a downer. There is also some violence and a near-rape scene. The story was very slow moving and, at times, boring. Examples: (view spoiler) Overall, while the story was interesting, there were just too many negatives for me to enjoy this book.

arc provided in exchange for an honest review
