



Between Us

Jen McLaughlin

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Between Us

Jen McLaughlin

Between Us Jen McLaughlin

I'm just a girl...

I'm a famous country star who's spent her life cultivating a good girl persona to avoid bad press, but I've reached my limit. I'm going away for spring break with my two best friends from college, and we've vowed to spend the vacation seeking out fun in the sun—along with some hot, no-strings-attached sex. The only thing I needed was the perfect guy, and then I met Austin Murphy. He might be totally wrong for me, but the tattooed bad boy is hard to resist. When I'm in his arms, everything just feels right.

And I'm just a guy...

I'm just a bartender who lives in Key West, stuck in an endless cycle of boredom. But then Mackenzie Forbes, America's Sweetheart herself, comes up to me and looks at me with those bright green eyes...and everything changes. She acts like she's just a normal girl and I'm just a normal guy, but that couldn't be further from the truth. My past isn't pretty, you know. I did what I had to do to survive, and she'd run if she learned the truth about my darkness. But with her, I'm finally realizing what it's like to be alive. To laugh, live, and be happy.

All good things must come to an end...

Between Us Details

Date : Published March 4th 2014 by Smashwords Edition (first published February 28th 2014)

ISBN : 9780989668422

Author : Jen McLaughlin

Format : ebook 160 pages

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

 [Download Between Us ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Between Us ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Between Us Jen McLaughlin

From Reader Review Between Us for online ebook

Sarah says

3.5 stars

Between Us by **Jen McLaughlin** is part of the Sex on the Beach multi-author series, the stories are linked by three main characters who have all gone on holiday together for spring break and who are looking for a little romance to go along with their sun, sand and cocktails. The characters spend most of their time apart going off and having their own adventures but they do meet up occasionally so you'll get glimpses of all three of them in each story. The books can be read in any order and they each work fine as a stand alone story so you can choose whether you want to read one, two or all three of them.

Mackenzie is a country superstar, she has lived most of her life under a spotlight and has been betrayed time and time again by people who are only interested in her for what she can give them. If they're not trying to use her to boost their music career then they're selling fake stories about her to the press just to earn a quick buck and she is sick of it. All she wants is one week away with her two best friends Quinn and Cassie, a week where she can kick back and relax somewhere that nobody will know who she is and where she'll just be a normal girl out having fun. Perhaps she can even have a fling and finally lose her virginity. It isn't easy going under the radar when you're America's sweetheart though and trouble has a way of catching up with her.

Austin is a bartender in Key West, he has enough responsibilities on his plate without adding a girl into the mix - especially one who could bring him all the wrong kind of attention - but Mackenzie is very hard to resist. He has no interest in her fame or fortune, in fact Austin wants nothing to do with her career and would rather stay out of the spotlight, he knows that dating her will probably end in disaster but he just can't help himself. The pair have fantastic chemistry but life is never easy if you're in the public eye. Can they manage to keep their fling secret or is Mackenzie's clean cut image about to come crashing down around her ears?

Between Us is a really sweet and enjoyable story and Mackenzie was nothing like I expected her to be - instead of being a spoilt and pampered princess she is really down to earth and generous. She's the kind of girl you can imagine being friends with and I enjoyed seeing the connection between her, Quinn and Cassie. Having read all three of the novellas it was fun to see each girl's opinions about the others and it really gives you an extra insight into the characters. If I had one complaint it was that the relationship between Mackenzie and Austin developed a little too quickly. Considering this is a fairly short novel and that the time line for their holiday in Key West is only a week I understand why things had to happen that way but I think I'd have enjoyed it even more if it had taken longer for them to fall completely in love. That's a minor irritation though because this was a great story and one I'd happily recommend. I think the whole series is perfect holiday reading material & I'd have really enjoyed reading it sitting on a beach somewhere drinking the series signature cocktail!

Wendy's Thoughts says

3.5 Country Star, Spring Break, Wish Fulfillment Stars

*** 1/2

Between Us by Jen McLaughlin is part of the Sex on the Beach group of quick novels which all reference each other. They follow 3 best friends; women who are in college, all searching to have some fun during

Spring Break in Key West. Each of these novells can be read alone, in different order or in the order with this being the first.

In this novella, we have a couple of situations to address. The first being a massive country star who started young; she was in the spotlight while growing up. She never had a chance to learn or experience anything without the eyes of the world watching her. Her parents divorced... it was ugly... she has secrets to hide from it... and she is hounded constantly.

In today's world... it isn't just gossip columns or some flash photographer getting a shot of you.... no now it is everywhere if you make an error in judgement... its everywhere ...Facebook, Websites, 250 TV channels... it goes on... and everyone has an agenda... cel phones are the tool of choice and no one but those who you met and vetted years ago can be trusted.

Mackenzie Forbes wants to have a moment... she has had it with being judged for things she hasn't done... she wants to experience the freedom of being just a college kid on Spring Break and she thinks she is going to do with her besties. They are in Key West with all the other thousands of kids... she has dyed her hair brown from her natural and famous blond; she is wear a huge hat which shields her face (she thinks) so perfect cover... right, hide in plain sight... well not maybe...

These gals are at the bar checking out all of the guys and they all have one main goal... they all want to hook up, have fantastic sex with a terrifically smokin' guy and then go home to Chicago and back to school. Shouldn't be difficult....

Mackenzie is checking out the scene, spots the a tattooed bad boy at the bar, decided he is the one and goes in for the kill. She has had a few too many drinks named Sex on the Beach... so all of her inhibitions are not reigned in... no, she is ready to go.... and flirts shamelessly with Austin Murphy. She practically throws herself at him because she is determined to get rid of that pesky VCard... and since he has not figured out who she is....ding ding ding... it is a go in her book...

Or has he...

Austin Murphy is hot.. he is the type you would go for... and he has deep dark secrets galore.... but he also seems to have a heart. Although he knows who little Mackenzie is... knows she would be a huge payday for him...and boy he could use it... he decides to take her back to the hotel and not cash in her card while she is drunk. He leaves her at the hotel; safe and sound with the option of tomorrow being their play time...

All the novellas cover the ways things can get crazy when you do not communicate with those you want to know. It also shows how hard it is to trust others today and not feel betrayed. This couple had complications which most never will... they were exaggerated because of her fame. Through this week,we went through all of the stages of their romance.

I know Spring Breaks happen all of the country and kids are out there spreading their wings. My wish for all of them is to please be careful... not just with their hearts but with their persons. These books do address this issue to a degree, and I think it is commendable.

The three books were very enjoyable... and Jen McLaughlin started this series on just the right note. She gave us characters which were appropriate for their ages... lifestyles and circumstances wrapped in the beauty of Key West and frenzy of Spring Break.... all with the refreshing zing of the famous drinks, Sex on the Beach.... I think I will have to try one.

We received this ARC in exchange for an honest review

For more reviews, Free E-books and Giveaways

Heidi McLaughlin says

The perfect Sunday morning read. Sweet, sassy & totally sexy. Mackenzie and Austin will burn up the pages, steam your window and melt your kindle.

Olivia at Fictionally Obsessed says

I have to say, I'm not the biggest fan of books that JUST focus on romance. It's boring and there's really no point in reading if the two characters are just going to have a fight, get mad and tell you how they feel broken, then kiss and make up. But Between Us is nothing like that. I received the book for an ARC review and here it is:

Between Us features a county rockstar, Mackenzie Forbes who's trying to lose her virginity while on vacation with her two best friends. She meets Austin, a guy who works at a bar and it really just goes on about their relationship and how they got it to work out. The plot actually isn't the most appealing, but other than the plot, I think the book wasn't as bad as I thought.

I'm truly amazed at how Jen McLaughlin actually made me want to read a romance novel. A PURE-FOCUS-ON-ROMANCE-ROMANCE-ONLY NOVEL!! The story's writing style was terrific, and it never made you feel that it was too fast or too slow at times. I also loved how they switched POVs between the two characters, Austin and Mackenzie. It was so interesting to see the two character's personalities and they were distinguishable. Although I do know books that feature multiple POVs, I felt like the best one so far was Between Us. It was easy to recognize who's POV was featured at the time, so it made complete sense. (for example, a book like Allegiant by Veronica Roth had multiple POVs and I COULD NOT figure out who was saying what, since the characters were so similar)

I found the characters very likable as well. Although Mackenzie is a pop star, you'd expect her to be all snobby and spoiled, but she actually turned out to be so kind and generous. Austin was a really likable character as well. He was so honest with Mackenzie and I instantly LOVED Austin. Another guy added to my fictional hotties list.

There were a whole lot of feels for this one. I don't want to spoil anything, but BEWARE THE FEELS IN THIS BOOK. I can't believe I actually almost broke down over something that would obviously be 'fixed'.

Overall, I think that it was really unexpected for me to love Between Us. I think it's the best romance novel I've read so far. Will hopefully read the rest of the SOTB series! :)

My Ratings:

Cover: 9.5/10

Plot: 7/10

Originality: 6.5/10

Characters: 10/10

Pace: 10/10

Writing Style: 9.5/10

Feels: 8/10

~Olivia

Tracy~Bayou Book Junkie says

Mackenzie is a famous singer. Her and her 2 best friends decide to take a trip to Key West for spring break. Mackenzie wants a week full of fun in the sun and no strings attached sex.

What she gets is tattooed bad boy, bartender Austin. Can he give her the no strings attached sex she seeks or will it turn into more? Will his past get in the way of the future he could possibly have with Mackenzie?

This was a short novella. It was sweet and definitely sexy, as most of Jen's books are. Mackenzie gut in my nerves a bit, but I loved Austin's character. They make a cute couple. I enjoyed this book. It was a quick read and flowed well.

Now I just need "Out of my Mind" before I go out of my mind! :)

Nicola says

An incognito singing sensation. A tattooed bad-boy. And a week long holiday romance that neither will forget. If you have a couple of hours and have a penchant for NA, then this is definitely the book to fill your time with. It flows well, has a simple yet captivating storyline and I lost myself in this hot holiday fling. Jen McLaughlin has a gift in bringing you strong characters who you simply can't not fall in love with.

This was the first of the three *Sex on the Beach* books I have read (whilst linked they can be read as standalones and in any order) and I have to say she has really set the bar high with *Between Us*. Told from both their perspectives, Mackenzie and Austin have a perfect chemistry and go through all the emotions. Well worth reading and I'm off to read Jennifer Probst and Jenna Bennett's series offerings.

Sofia Lazaridou says

Between us is the only book in the series that is more focused on the romance side of the story than on any other side. That wasn't a bad thing. To make things even Before You had very little romance. Quinn and Cassy's stories are barely mentioned in this book. Mac's world is only intertwined with the other girls world just enough to give a glimpse of what's going on and to make the reader curious.

Having read all the three books I am imagining Jenna Bennett and Jennifer Probst chatting about their books and how their characters would catch up and Jen McLaughlin sitting on the corner trying to overhear what they were saying. Personally I didn't mind that but it seemed a little weird.

The book might be a novella but it had the whole package. Austin and Mac met, started to fall for the other, had a break up and then made up. Don't tell me that you considered the idea that the book might have something other than a happily ever after for an ending. All of Jen McLaughlin's books I have read ended with a HEA.

Chu says

Review Originally Posted at: Book Freak

Mackenzie Forbes just wanted to be NORMAL.

But how can you be when you're considered to be America's sweetheart and have all the paparazzi chasing after you wherever you go, trying to get you into compromising, or humiliating scenarios just for money?

It's no question why TRUST was an issue for Mackenzie. She had been betrayed several times, even by someone she trusted the most. So, armed with subtle disguise, she is off with two of her college best friends on a spring break. She wanted to enjoy the sun, the beach, the party and probably some no-strings attached sex without the media trying to expose her. She wanted the perfect guy – she wanted Austin Murphy. But Austin was far from perfect -

“I don't tell people about myself, and I don't bond. I don't ever want more than a quick fuck and a goodbye.”

Tattooed, bad boy with a lot of secrets hidden beneath him – he may not be the perfect guy, but he was perfect for her.

Austin Murphy didn't have the perfect past, heck, his present and his future was even uncertain. He had a lot of issues and responsibilities on his shoulders. But when Mackenzie Forbes sat in front of him, his dull, boring life suddenly became different. She tried to act like she was just a nobody, but he thought differently. Even in disguise, she still stood out.

It was all for the spring break – there was an expiration date. They were perfect for each other. Mackenzie was comfortable with him, he was creeping into her heart, and it was something both of them didn't see coming. But when trust was questioned, betrayal was accused and the dark past were uncovered - what happens next?

You get to fall in love with these two amazing characters who shared almost the same painful past. Mackenzie just wanted to experience normalcy in her life for once, she deserved it after everything that she had been through. She just wanted someone who wouldn't sell her to the tabloids. Austin – he had a dark past he wasn't really proud of – but what he's doing right now made up for every past mistake he has done. He would put everything, and anything, (even Mackenzie) behind his responsibility, and it was noble of him.

BETWEEN US is a short and sexy read. I loved the characters, and enjoyed the fast-paced plot. I did not dare put it down, I was hooked to my Kindle until the last page, with my heart on my throat, wondering when this was all going – hoping that both of them would get their HEA. The anticipation, and sleeping in the wee hours of the morning was totally worth it.

★ARC Copy was given in exchange for an honest review.★

Michelle says

4 Sweet Austin Stars

Sex on the Beach series consist of 3 novellas that ties together with 3 best friends vacationing to the Key West on Spring Break. Between Us by Jen McLaughlin focuses on Mackenzie Forbes, a famous country singer also known as "America's Sweetheart."

Mackenzie and her two best friends are off to the Key West for some casual fun and no-strings attached sex. Well for Mackenzie, this trip is not all about the beach and sun but also she wants to cash in her V-card. She just wants to have fun and be normal. Although she's a famous celebrity, Mackenzie is very down to earth. She is fun, kind, sweet, trusting, and generous. On her first night in Key West, she and her two best friends, Cassie and Quinn heads to a local bar in search for guys. Fully disguised with a big floppy hat and newly dyed hair, she spots a tattoo bartender. Mackenzie wants Austin and she figures he would be the perfect guy for a no-strings attached spring fling. Well as Austin and Mackenzie spends more time together, they realized that they don't want this spring break to come to an end. As love blooms and their week comes to an end, they must say the hardest goodbye. Will they get their HEA?

I really enjoyed Between Us. It was a fun and sweet read. Austin and Mackenzie were just too freaking cute and adorable. They just complemented and completed each other. It was refreshing to see two individuals find love when they least expected it.

Jen McLaughlin Diane Alberts

Allison Rivera says

More reviews at: [Book Fixation](#)

Between Us is a novella that is part of the Sex on the Beach series and while I haven't read the other two I've got to say that since reading this one I'm curious as to what happens in the other two!

So we have Mackenzie who is full of surprises. She's super famous and is trying to have a low key vacation while having some no strings attached fun. So she meets Austin and he decides to jump in and be part of her plans. From the beginning you see sparks fly between these two. They have immediate connection. The adventures that these two have together were fun, adorable and hot. And soon everything turns from flirtatious to tender, sweet and real.

I loved Austin. Not only because he was sexy as hell but because he's trust worthy and understanding. Mackenzie's past attempts at sex escapades haven't gone over so well since some guys suck, want to take advantage of her fame and want a story to sell. So I loved that Mackenzie could trust him with that and he didn't take advantage of her.

Part of the reason I loved this story was that even though there was drama in it, it was really light. Sometimes I just want a cute and sexy read without much angst and I got just that with this novella.

Between Us was great and it has everything you could be looking for in a quick romantic but equally sexy read!

Note: Thanks to the author and InkSlinger PR for providing me an ARC for review.

Samantha ? Sam's Book Basket says

??? 4 STARS!!! ???

→ FULL REVIEW: *Clickety click ;)*

****ARC PROVIDED BY AUTHOR IN EXCHANGE FOR AN HONEST REVIEW****

AAAH!!! A simple and sweet story about a young, famous country artist with a guy who wants to keep his past and secrets buried. The characters were captivating and I especially loved the storyline and *angst!* Although it was slightly too fast, but this is a novella so it's understandable. I was definitely so into the storyline and the characters!

Mackenzie is definitely one of my favorites out of the three. She's so unselfish and sweet and thoughtful. She's a victim of Hollywood, of always being caught in the midst of fame and fortune.

AUSTIN THOUGH OHMYGOOOD. *Dream man, much?* He's such a cutie. He's sexy and smoking. He's tough and controlling. HOT DAMN! And towards the end when he kind of breaks down:

"I know thinking we can make this work is fucking stupid and impetuous—some might even call it a daydream. But I can't let you go without a fight. I think, if you let me, I could love you so damn good. I could make you happy."

Officially in love with him. 'Nuff said.

Addicted to Mackenzie and Austin, that's for sure ;)

Review by Samantha on Sam's Book Basket ;)

?Julalicious Book Paradise? says

Original review on Julalicious Book Paradise

So this was really a cute story. It was a quick read and quite entertaining. Was it predictable? Yes. Do we care? No.

I won't lie, when I first started this book, I really thought that Mackenzie would get on my nerves and I was surprised that she didn't. I really liked her personality; she was so full of life. I was also expecting something wilder because of the title, but it wasn't and I was quite happy with it. She wanted some fun, but she didn't need to become the wildest girl to accomplish that. Does it make sense?

Austin... Austin... Austin... Oh he sounds dreamy, but I will admit that I didn't know where to stand with him. I liked him, but sometimes, I felt like he was overthinking things. I understood where he was coming from, but I was like... Go with the flow, man. But when he did let himself go, it was awesome.

Him and Mackenzie had this chemistry that you just want to squeeze them together. It wasn't explosive, but I wanted them together. I felt like they were really good together. They each had something the other needed.

Overall, it was really a cute and sexy story. I liked it from the beginning to the end. It wasn't long, but it was just the perfect length to enjoy a good summer reading.

Guia says

**Thank you to the author for providing the ebook in exchange for an honest review.*

If you're looking for a quick, fun read with just the right amount of drama and a whole lot of sexiness on the side, then don't miss out on Jen McLaughlin's BETWEEN US. It's part of the three book novella series called SEX ON THE BEACH. Each novella is a standalone but all three books are set in the same world and are centered on the spring break escapades of three friends.

My rating: **4 out of 5 stars**

If you're looking for a quick, fun read with just the right amount of drama and a whole lot of sexiness on the side, then don't miss out on Jen McLaughlin's BETWEEN US. It's part of the three book novella series called SEX ON THE BEACH. Each novella is a standalone but all three books are set in the same world and are centered on the spring break escapades of three friends.

BETWEEN US tells the story of Mackenzie Forbes, otherwise known as America's Sweetheart, the hottest young star in the country music biz. Desperate for a break from the A-list lifestyle and the way her name is splashed across every tabloid in the nation, Mac and her two friends set out to Key West, Florida to spend a week of pure unadulterated fun under the sun. Of course, FUN also meant meeting some hot guys while they're at it.

With her hair dyed and not a dash of make-up on her face, Mackenzie is barely recognizable as a national singing sensation and is determined to find a guy who would take her up on her offer of no-strings attached week of fun. She does not have the greatest track record when it comes to men so finding a spring fling seemed like a daunting order. She's been burned before and she's confident she won't get burned again... after all, what's a week of no strings attached fun in the life of Mackenzie Forbes?

From the very beginning, I loved how Mac and Austin come from very different walks of life. It made me

wonder how something between them can actually work. I think Jen McLaughlin handled the story well without making the characters come off as naïve and disillusioned. She was able to inject into her characters just the right hint of cynicism, making the story more believable. Readers can relate to the characters. I totally identified with Mackenzie. I may not be a national singing sensation but I've had my share of failures when it comes to matters of the heart. Like Mac, I can't help but be skeptical of my future relationships. I admired Mac for throwing caution to the wind and taking a chance on Austin. The fact that the characters found their happy ending despite of all the shit in their lives made BETWEEN US an absolute must read for hopeless romantic schmucks like me.

Even though the general feel of the book is lighthearted, breezy, and fun, there were still some really steamy scenes. The chemistry between them is delicious! I also liked how both main characters were walking contradictions. Who would've thought that Mac, America's Sweetheart, had an inner vixen just itching to come out? And Austin, this tatted up bad boy with a criminal record? Behind the tough exterior he wears is a good man just forced to deal with a lot of shit in his young life and he dealt with it the best he can.

BETWEEN US spices things up with just the right amount of drama to make things interesting. But generally, it's an enjoyable book that will leave you with all the feels of a love gone so damn right. After reading BETWEEN US, I can definitely say that I'll be reading the other two books in the series.

Check out this review and many more at

- Between the Pages Book Blog
- Like Between the Pages Book Blog on Facebook
- Follow Between the Pages Book Blog on Twitter

Maria's Book Blog says

Between Us by Jen McLaughlin is a great fast-paced, fun novella that you can finish in one sitting...which I did.

While I couldn't exactly get on board with the idea of Mackenzie and her friends going on vacation together and then splitting up to go their separate ways to "get laid", I went along with the story anyway. Honestly, I just kept thinking "How is that safe?!". Maybe that's just the parent in me talking. At the same time I admired their freedom and youthful mentality, I mean you only live once right? So why not be young and carefree & experience life?!

So Mac goes for the first sexy tatted up bad boy she can find who actually happens to be... not such a bad boy. Austin is sexy as sin and has his own secrets to protect so a "spring-fling" is perfect for him. Until of course they start spending more time together and begin to wonder if saying goodbye will be as easy as they had originally thought. I loved their chemistry & how quickly they hit it off. They actually have quite a bit in common so for me they were a perfect match.

What I absolutely LOVED and appreciated about this story is that they didn't claim to be in love after just a couple days of crazy hot sex. Nothing irritates me more than when it's insta-love and they can't live without each other. It's just not believable or realistic. So kudos to Ms. McLaughlin for straying from the "norm", this avid reader couldn't be happier! My favorite line which may be a potential ****SPOILER**** is when Austin

says "I think, if you let me, I could love you so damn good. I could make you happy, and you'll save me from myself." Swoon!!! There's no talk of "I love you", but there is "I could love you" which may just be my new favorite phrase.

I would definitely recommend this novella! For a "short" story the characters were well developed and relatable. The story line kept me interested and flowed without any hiccups. I'm actually curious now to read the other novellas in the Sex On The Beach Series.

Sharon says

Between Us by Jen McLaughlin is one of three book in the Sex on the Beach Series. Mackenzie Forbes has taken her two friends to Key West for Spring Break. She want all of them to have fun and a fling. Austin Murphy is the tattooed bartender she meets.

Mackenzie is a famous country singer who is looking to have a little vacation from bad press she has received.. Austin doesn't have pretty past and is hoping to keep it in the past.

I love how Jen McLaughlin tells the story for both Mackenzie and Austin points of view. You can to see both characters hopes and fears. As the story goes on you can't to see how there relationship builds.

This book was hard to put down. I highly recommend this book.
