



All Grown Up

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Believing Sam Ely was the only one for her, young Annalise Wolff threw herself at him. But he claimed he was too old for her...and that she was too forward. Seven years later, she's still reeling from his words, vowing never to forgive. Then she's offered a job she can't refuse.

Although it means working closely with Sam, Annalise is determined to ignore age-old feelings. But then a snowstorm strands them together...without power...without family interference...without inhibitions. And Annalise has to decide if falling for Sam again is worth the risk of a second broken heart.

All Grown Up Details

Date : Published January 1st 2013 by Harlequin

ISBN :

Author : Janice Maynard

Format : Kindle Edition 191 pages

Genre : Harlequin, Harlequin Desire, Romance, Category Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review All Grown Up for online ebook

Tanya Mayes says

Really enjoyed the story about Sam and Annalise. Even though Sam felt he was too old for her when she was twenty one. He knew he was attracted to her. He was afraid of what would happen if it didn't workout because of their family relationship. But now Annalise is all grown up she sets his world on fire. Does she have forgiveness in her heart. I love their interaction that love hate real love.

Holly says

What kind of "hero" is this?

He rejects her and tells her that she shouldn't tell guys she's into them b/c it's not feminine. Later he defends it by saying that guys can take advantage of forward women like her. WTH? She's known him for a long time and she's confessed her feelings. Ah well.

Flash forward. They're working on a house together, blah blah blah snowstorm, feelings, etc. And then they kind of decide to be together? But not. But then he's all "yes, let's be together" after she's said she doesn't want to. Annalise is afraid of children due to having an abusive mother, so she's not going to get married and have kids. All her sister in laws are "feminine and delicate" so it's ok for them to be parents, because somehow, they are real women. Honestly, part of me was convinced this book was written by a man who's using it as a secret way to tell women how to behave.

I'm not a mother, but would I leave my infant to be looked after by a near-stranger who admits to no childcare experience? Hell no. I think that scene was supposed to help Annalise realize that she's ok around kids, but it was a pretty stupid way of going about it.

Sam was an idiot, through and through. I can't think of a single scene I liked him in. He's not a bad person - but he's no hero. At the end, Annalise bakes him a cake (she's never cooked) and takes it to his place, where his mom has shown up with her latest fix-up for him. Said fix-up, Daphne, is baking him a major dinner complete with homemade rolls. They all look at Annalise's pathetic cake and does he say something to his mother and pseudo-date/chef for the evening about having feelings for another woman OR something to Annalise about the cake? NO. Annalise asks if she can see him later and he doesn't say a damn thing. He sticks around to eat dinner, tries a piece of the cake, and then goes to Annalise and tells her that her cake sucked and Daphne's dinner was awesome. This sounds like a metaphor, but it really was dinner and a cake.

Annalise is so glad she has an honest man (well, he was honest about the cake) who wants to marry her so she can be all he tells her to be. Oh, honey, no. RUN. Find a man who wants you for you and who is willing to grow with you. I think I only read this entire book because I had read good reviews on goodreads first, and kept thinking it would get better.

Cristina says

Ammetto che avevo qualche aspettativa in più del solito per questo libro. La protagonista Annelise molto mi era piaciuta nei precedenti volumetti: era anticonvenzionale, divertente e meno scontata delle altre

protagoniste.

Il libretto è carino, ma ridurmi una protagonista così promettente a donna disperata perchè non sa cucinare per il suo uomo di turno è non solo eccessivo, pure incredibile, imho. Poi è multimiliardaria pure lei, ma secondo voi quando mai avrà bisogno di cucinare? lo farà lo cheffone di turno no?

Comunque carino, anche se anche qui la protagonista viene ridotta rapidamente a incinta e scalza in cucina. Esagero, eh, ma mica tanto.

Harlequin Books says

Miniseries: The Men of Wolff Mountain

Category: Passion

Tia says

I really want to know why this novel is rated so high. I mean I found it long winded and boring. Some parts of the novel in itself were humorous or cute but overall I wasn't too impressed.

Debbie says

Read on Kindle.

Julia - The Romance Bibliophile says

"All Grown Up" was absolutely extraordinary and it has been my favorite in The Men of Wolff Mountain series thus far! Janice Maynard once again hit it out of the ball park with this novel. The storyline was just amazing and the characters were even better. I loved both Sam and Annalise. They were entertaining until the very end. What really sold it for me was the perfect conclusion; I truly couldn't have asked or imagined a better ending. It was the icing on the cake!

? ?randi says

Solid ♥♥♥♥♥

This was a really impressive little book and a satisfying redemption for the Wolff Mountain series. A series that in my opinion started strong but hasn't maintained steam. This one blows the others to bits though. I didn't expect to like it so imagine how surprised I was to love it. I should clarify that this little book isn't going to go changing the world so its *greatness* is relative but I enjoyed it for what it is. And now it graces my "favorites" shelf which is quite an achievement since out of 425 books read, only 11 have ever made it

there. But then again the 11 that are there are either remarkable books or books that touched me in some way. This one is well written with not one superfluous sentence. The dialogue is eloquent and effective. The hero and heroine are complementary and extremely likable. You root for their romance and a story that is engaging. I felt an instant connection to Annalise because, for better or worse we are very similar.

Janice Maynard mentions in the foreword that she and the heroine, Annalise Wolff, have very little in common, thus challenging her imagination to understand and write this character. She did a great job and I think that half of my enjoyment of the book is due to the fact that I relate to Annalise on many levels. The other half of my enjoyment came straight out of the mouth and mind of our hero, Sam Ely. He's a pretty great, normal guy. The book is nearly 100% devoted to Sam and Annalise's growing relationship, which takes place at Sam's grandparent's farm house. Interior Designer, Annalise is there on assignment, to restore period appropriate decor while architect, Sam is there to acquaint her with the house and its plans since his grandparents are out of town. When a snow storm strands them together, these two highly driven professionals and half a decades old nemeses deal with regret, forgiveness, love and a host of other emotions.

One thing I really liked is that we get to hear Sam's thoughts most vividly. We know when he's excited to be with Annalise or happy or frustrated and even disappointed. And we know why. Either he tells her or we get to read his mind a little. Sometimes authors go to one of two extremes. Either they reveal every single internal thought, depriving the character of mystery, or they tell the reader nothing, causing boredom or confusion about character reactions. This story simply did everything right. I wanted to know what they were both thinking that first night in front of the fire. Annalise is very happy at that moment but sneaks away from a sleeping Sam because she's not sure what happens next with a man who wants more than she can offer. Sam's actually awake and perceives her leaving as a crushing disappointment. He doesn't just wake up surly or aloof while the reader is left wondering why. He tells us he's hurt and we know he has decided to try again and more determinedly to win over Annalise.

The sex in this book is what you'd expect in a Harlequin with a bit of kink I suppose. One ironic scene has Sam bending Annalise over the arm of the sofa. What's ironic is that this exact scene occurs in a BDSM book I finished just before this one. I didn't like it in the other book. It felt degrading and detached. Sam tells us he's *not sure if this moment was for him or for her but she's bewitched, seduced and destroyed him* and somehow this same scene is so much more powerful, mutual and emotional in this case. Amazing what a little sentimentality can do.

I liked reading from Sam's perspective. He was honest about his feelings (at least to the reader) and knows that sometimes he needs to be a caveman and sometimes he needs a different approach with Annalise. Often times, regardless of what he does, they end up in a fantastic altercation. They are amusing and effective and genuine all at the same time. For example when Annalise excuses herself to go to her room for the night Sam tells her she's staying with him, he has plans and she can cooperate or be persuaded. She responds,

"My God, you're an arrogant ass."

"And you're an aggravating shrew," he says, his gaze on her parted lips. "Lord knows why I want you."

I just loved their banter. Later in that same scene Sam backs her against a wall and reminds her,

"A truce means you have to pretend to like me."

"I'm not that good an actress," Annalise replies.

He grins...like a rouge pirate. "You're a spoiled brat, Princess."

"You're a bossy, high-handed pig."

"Kiss me."

There are whole paragraphs I want to repeat for their cleverness and dark humor. That humor mixed with the personally relevant characters simply made everything a little better. I'm now on pins and needles for the next and I suppose last (?) book, featuring Annalise's brother Larkin.

Some of my favorites quotes or paragraphs are below.

(view spoiler)

I loved the term 'approachable' and the fact that in 20 minutes she'd be scowling.

One of my favorite quotes is when Sam is lamenting the fact that he wants children and though she's not really a candidate for wife, Annalise doesn't.

"Besides, he needed a wife someday who would look at him in adoration, one who believed in romance. Not a termagant who made him want to hide the kitchen knives."

Another favorite is very near then end when Sam is about to go after an angry Annalise. He says to his supportive mother who is urging him to 'go fix things,'

"I'll try. But if you don't hear from me by noon tomorrow, you might want to start dragging the river."

Then when Sam arrives at her building he tells the doorman and concierge,

"Annalise and I have been seeing each other. We had a fight. I'm pretty sure she's upstairs planning my demise. I would consider it a deep personal favor if you could give me a spare key."

So funny! (hide spoiler)]

Susan says

Very good book. Annalise is the only girl in the Wolff "pack". Because of her mother's death and their isolation on Wolff Mountain, she was never exposed to the normal things a girl would learn from hanging out with other girls. As a result, she did things she probably wouldn't have done otherwise. Her hurt and anger from Sam's rejection are still with her and have affected her even now. When she is offered a chance to work on his grandparents' house, she can't say no. When they get snowed in at the house, Annalise realizes that her attraction to Sam has never gone away. She decides to give in to the attraction but tries to keep her emotions out of it, not wanting to risk her heart again. Because of her upbringing and issues she feels that she will never marry and have children because she doesn't want to risk doing something wrong. This is especially hard on her when she discovers that Sam wants to find the right woman and settle down and have a family. She would love to be that woman, but her fears make her unwilling to try. Sam rejected Annalise all those years ago because he felt he was too old for her. He was attracted to her even then, but unwilling to take the risk. Since then he has regretted the way he rejected her and would really like to make things right. When they are stranded together he has a hard time controlling his reactions to her. He would love to have a relationship with Annalise and see where it might go, but her attitude toward having a family makes him cautious. He discovers that her attitude covers up some deep seated insecurities and does his best to show her that they are unfounded. Their physical relationship is explosive but their other issues are preventing them from moving forward. I really enjoyed seeing Annalise get to know Rachel and her baby and learn that parenting is not an exact science. The conclusion, especially with the part about the cake, was fantastic.

Antonieta Flores says

Nice romantic story without instalove. They had been in love with each other without knowing and the trip to accept it was nice. I really enjoyed the story.

Marcy says

Annalise Wolff is the only girl in the "Wolff" pack, consisting of her father, uncle and five brothers/cousins. Being raised in this environment made her tough. But seven years ago (when she was 21) she made a play for family friend Sam Ely (who was 29). He thought he was letting her down easy, but Annalise vowed never to forgive him for hurting her.

Present day, they end up getting snowed in while working together to renovate his grandparent's farmhouse. Sam is interested in her, but Annalise's outer toughness is hiding insecurities about her worth as a woman. Can she trust Sam again with her heart?

I really enjoyed this fifth book in "The Men of Wolff Mountain" series.
