



I Stole His Car

Jessica Frances

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She stole his car, so he stole her heart...

I saw something I never should have seen.
I took something they wanted back.
I was desperate.
Alone.
Hunted.
So, I did something I never would have normally done.
I stole a car.
Not just any car.
His car.
Now I have no choice but to trust him.
Only he can help me get out of this mess.
Then, when we both become hunted,
And when feelings begin to complicate things,
Can I still count on his protection?
Can I trust what is happening between us to be real?
Because, as some people say: there is nothing quite like love at first... crime.

I Stole His Car Details

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From Reader Review I Stole His Car for online ebook

Jasmine says

I Stole His Car was an incredibly written crime novel by Jessica Frances and it was also my first time reading her work. I was deeply intrigued by the synopsis and later, in the first chapter, I knew I'd love this book after seeing our female protagonist, **a 24-year-old web designer, Ava**, have such an unexpected yet hilarious encounter with our lovely **Zander**, who was a 28-year-old personal investigator.

To begin with, as the title of the book implied, Ava stole "his" (Zander's) car AND in the meantime, accidentally kidnapped his younger brother, **Van**. Well, her day couldn't get worse than that, right? Nope, since she obviously was a wanted in some sort (because she found out that her always absent ex-boyfriend, **Brian**—an FBI agent—turned out to be a sick pervert, who loved to watch BDSM videos and inflict sexual tortures on homeless women), she had no choice but to spill everything to Zander, considering that he was generous enough to offer her a safe place to stay and then make sure she was well-fed. We knew that Zander worked as a personal investigator so he tended to take his clients' requests seriously, and Ava's was no exception.

What both of them didn't know was how ugly the truth about Brian's sexual preference was. The more Zander and his teammates discovered, the darker the story became. Apparently, Brian was not the only one FBI agent who enjoyed hurting, torturing, raping and murdering those helpless women; his colleagues and fellow police officers from a majority of police departments across the country were secretly involved. Hence, could Zander trust his police friends/information sources enough to fight against Brian's men? Would those sickos retaliate by destroying Zander and Ava?

Honestly, I wasn't expecting this book to be so...unforgettable. I mean, according to the synopsis, I initially thought it'd be an instalove story since Ava stole Zander's car right away in the first chapter (and there were only 11 chapters in the book). **But later on, I realized how hard it was to put down this book because of the amazing character developments and plots.**

Let's start with Zander and Ava's—friendship? Relationship? Boss and Client's relationship?—whatever it was between them, I was stunned by how well-mannered Zander was! Instead of being mad with her stealing his car, he managed to put Van's best interests (the brothers didn't get along well but Van LOVED Ava when he was literally kidnapped) above his own and offered to help/take care of her.

During this week, we have kept the same new routine of sleeping in bed together. I'm always under the covers, while Zander drapes his own blanket over himself as he sleeps on top.

Even when Zander was digging more into Brian's criminal evidences, a.k.a. those horrific videos from the USB Ava cleverly hid, he still protected her from any possible second-time emotional wreck.

He has seen those awful videos, and I know it's eating away at him. Therefore, holding me and having me in his arms reminds him that, by helping me that night, he saved me from that happening to me. And maybe feeling me against him all night gives him more strength to get back up and do it all again the next day.

My heart completely melted by his sympathy and thoughtfulness because I never expected him to be someone so considerate. Frankly speaking, I absolutely adored Zander's personality in this book and that was

also why I didn't mind his huge-makeout-session with Ava afterwards. Umm, okay, maybe something MORE THAN making out. Go figure. *blush*

There is something surreal about this moment. We are two people who are completely naked, standing in a bathroom of a house we have only been inside of for not even half an hour, and we just had incredible sex.

Not gonna lie, their first time in the bathroom was probably one of the hottest scenes I'd ever read so yeah, I wasn't complaining at all. :P

Aside from the romantic elements in this book, I also appreciated the issues the author addressed in the story. As I mentioned before, this book focused on the sexual scandal of not only an FBI agent—someone in such a respectable position—but an entire group of admirable workers in our society. What happened in the story was unbelievably awful; it was ten thousand times worse than mere corruption. People had already despised political corruptions a lot, but sexual scandals where innocent girls were treated like wild animals? Ugh, I couldn't even begin to fathom how far people like Brian were willing to go or how much they were going to risk in exchange for financial aids/simple thrills.

Corruptions might be mainly about money or fame in a certain group of people from the social hierarchy whereas sexual scandals in the book brought the under-the-table deal to a whole new criminal level. **Zander and Ava's story brought awareness to the readers that there were still many f**k-ups in the reality but either we didn't pay that much attention to them or we did realize how little help we could offer to stop such things from happening, the truth was, let's face it, these incidents were still emerging in an endless stream.**

All I wanted to say was that Jessica Frances took a seemingly ordinary crime story up a notch and this book would get you thinking. I was truly impressed by how well-done a crime story could be. Although *I Stole His Car* was just a fictional story, it was so much bigger than itself. It wasn't easy for Zander and Ava to eradicate crime and there were times when both of them *almost* sacrificed themselves, but in the end, those were what made this book all the more worthy of reading.

"That's twice I thought you were dead. Two times you've cheated death," I tell him, my voice shaky.

"I was sure I had lost you, too. Let's not do this again to each other, okay?" He squeezes me to him. His words are light, but his meaning is heavy.

"Okay."

Now you must be wondering why I didn't give this story a solid 5-star when I praised so highly of it. *eyebrow arched* Well, let me explain a little. Yes, I LOVED the characters, the twists and the story arrangements. I also adored the depth in the crime development. The writing style was super easy to get used to so I liked it as well. Basically, I enjoyed reading 90% of this book. **HOWEVER, THE LAST 10% OF THE STORY SORT OF RUINED ALL MY LOVE FOR THE PREVIOUS PARTS!!!!** I mean, since the bad guys got their punishment and these sexual scandals were no longer hidden in the dark, the story might as well draw a happy ending right there. I would be really satisfied if the story simply ended at chapter 10 even though it was slightly shorter than the original version. Don't get me wrong, it was still a happy ending but I didn't like the further development in Zander and Ava's relationship.

I had no idea where or why Ava started making a big deal out of nothing, regarding her maturity in her characteristics before. Then *something unexpected happened* and I just couldn't even. *SIGH* *TAKING A DEEP BREATH* I just thought the ending lacked the intensity we had in 90% of the story previously so I

was sorry to say that it cost 1 star from my overall rating.

Despite my disliking for the ending, I still **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** *I Stole His Car*!!!! The story seriously tackled some important social issues and the romance was undoubtedly something worth appreciating!

****Thanks to the Enticing Journey Blog Tour and the author for providing an e-ARC in exchange for an honest review. ****

Annika says

The blurb made me curious, the first chapter instantly hooked me, and the amazing characters and funny narration both kept me entertained throughout the entire book.

This was a great start to a new series, following Ava, who's on the run from her ex after discovering something about him she never wanted to know. Hungry, terrified and desperate, she decides to steal a car to get away from him as far as possible. Problem: in her distracted state, she doesn't notice the kid lounging in the passenger seat until it's too late. Through little Van, she meets his older brother Zander, who happens to run his own P.I. business and seems to be determined to help her out of this mess she's in.

This was so much fun, seriously. The first chapter alone would've been worth 5 stars, I loved it so much. Van in particular instantly stole my heart, and the relationship between the little boy and Ava was absolutely beautiful and endearing. The romance was sexy and the hero rather drool-worthy.

There was some suspense and action, too, revolving around a pretty serious subject matter that might need a trigger warning ((view spoiler)), and while it was dealt with sensibly, I found the execution a little lackluster, especially the big finale that felt rather rushed.

Still, the overall mood in this book was light-hearted with tons of funny banter, some emotional turmoil and characters you won't be able to resist for long.

ARC provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Sowm says

If you are like me in your first reaction, and don't want to read the book after looking at the title & book cover, well ! Think again.

I enjoyed this very much. Apart from the actual crime scenario that is.

Van is adorable , Ava is cute & Zander is a rock !

Jessica Frances says

****New Romantic Suspense series coming soon!****

Story_girl says

After seeing very high ratings for almost every book by this author, I was more than intrigued to read her books for quite some time. So I went into this one with high expectations and I'm happy to say that I was in no way disappointed.

Zander and Van have lost their parents and are heavily grieving. Twelve year old Van is not coping well and has detached himself from people. His only interaction is when he lashes out in anger at his much older brother. Zander is overwhelmed dealing with his own grief, work and the responsibility of his young brother whom he doesn't know how to help anymore.

Ava is a woman on the run after discovering a terrifying secret. In an attempt to steal a car for escaping she realises there's a little kid in the car. Since she cannot kidnap the child she returns both the car and child to the owner and meets Zander.

I loved Van in this story. Undoubtedly the little kid stole my heart. His interactions with Ava led to many tender and heart warming moments. The romance between Zander and Ava is a slow burn. I'm also really interested to meet the mysterious character Jerry! I'm hoping more about him will be revealed in the next books. The villains however are the vilest of the vile. It's terrifying what kinds of evil coexist in our "civilised" society.

I would highly recommend this book to all romantic suspense fans and I will be definitely checking out more books by this author.

Janja says

I have been following the author for several years, but since her previous stories do not match me according to the genre, I could hardly wait for Avo.

I do not usually write long reviews, because I don't know how, but I can do my best.

Ava is a modest girl who runs for her life from danger of her ex boyfriend, that in one moment she steals a car. That the confusion is completely, besides stolen car there is a child in it, (brother of the owner of the car) which is P.I.

To not write about the content, read the story yourself, you will not regret it. The story of the escape, the survival, the mourning, and the love. Ava and Zander found themselves when they needed one another most, together they found a way out of deception and danger, in sincere friendship and love.

I can only say that I can hardly wait for the next one the series!

Nerdy Dirty & Flirty says

???

~Jenny

I will admit it did take me a few pages to get into the story but once I did I could not put my kindle down.

Ava's life is turned upside down when she sees something she shouldn't have. In danger and desperate to get

off the streets, she steals a car.

Zander is the owner of the car and when Ava returns the vehicle he decides to help her.

The story is fast pace. The characters Ava, Zander and his younger brother Van were very entertaining and had me laughing. There were great supporting characters. The plot is filled with action, suspense, romance and like I said lots of humor. I would recommend this book and look forward to reading more on this story.

Dawn Herring says

This story revolves around private investigator Zander, damsel-in-distress Ava, and Zander's little brother, Van. It is a light read with a nice blend of suspense, romance, humor, and angst. I thought the characters were well developed and that the plot moved at a nice pace. I never got bored or found myself skimming; I was thoroughly immersed in these characters' lives as they tried to sort through the trouble Ava found herself in after seeing something she shouldn't have. I loved the opening scene between Ava and Van, and his immediate connection to her was sweet. And the chemistry between Ava and Zander was intense. I liked that the relationship took some time to build; after what she'd been through, I would have been completely put off if they'd immediately gotten together. This author knew exactly how to treat that relationship. This is the first book I've read by Jessica Frances, and I would definitely be interested in more.

I received an ARC via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Tina says

Okay how did I not know about this book?

I enjoyed it so much!! Not only it was safe but it was fun, lovely and loved the characters. Both hero and heroine were brave people that I felt chemistry and also hero's little brother was cute and funny. Often I don't like children in books because they are annoying (sorry but when someone writes about little child talking like freaking Einstein I just can't roll my eyes enough), but here I loved Van so much he was fun and he was hurting but loved his brother.

This story was light but also engaging and had enough depth to not be shallow.

So why not 5 stars?

I neeedeed hero's point of view, like needed it badly. I would literally read this book again from start to end just from his pov, that's how much I needed to be in his head. I think it was wasted opportunity to not have both pov, the book could be a lot better.

Also more epilogue would be great too :/

Safety gang:

(view spoiler)

Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says

OK cover on this one. It is a decent representation of the story. The composition is good as well. I am not a fan of the title work. I think it would have looked better straight and lowered a bit.

So I basically went into this one blind. I haven't read anything by this author before and I didn't read any reviews before I cracked this open and hoped for the best. Well, let me just say luck was in my favor this time because I thoroughly enjoyed this book from beginning to end (minus the epilogue...more about that later).

I found it to be very well written and paced. The plot was engaging and kept me turning the pages. It was humorous at times. There was no angst to speak of and no OW/OM drama. It was a bit of a slow burn, and the sex scenes when we get them are pretty tame. I wasn't overly bothered by that, but I do like my erotica so I couldn't help but wish it had been a teeny bit spicier. There were a few interesting side characters that I assume will be getting books of their own. But honestly, it was VAN that stole the show in this one. I LOVED that kid. His interactions with the heroine were both funny and sweet.

Both main characters were extremely likable as well. Ava I ADORED (except for in the epilogue...more about that in a bit). She was just an endearing sort of heroine. Funny and caring and sweet. Zander was equally likable. Not a manwhore. Protective. Sweet. Struggling to connect with his brother after their parent's death. I liked him a lot. I think the story would have benefited from having his POV now and again.

The only major issue I had, and it isn't that HUGE of a deal, but I did not like the epilogue. I am struggling to put my finger on why. I thought the heroine came off a bit bitchy in it and usually, epilogues are the cherry on the sundae given to us to make us smile and bask in the couples HEA. I just found it weird to have them fighting in the epilogue when they never once fought in the book. Especially over something that should have been addressed a year previously when they moved in together. I would have preferred an epilogue focused more on (view spoiler)

So I had a couple of tiny issues with this one, but overall it was an entirely enjoyable way to spend a few hours. Two thumbs up from yours truly.

Cyndi says

A good read! I would have loved Zander's POV and a longer and more in depth epilogue.

Elena says

5 amaizing stars!!!
I'm in love in this book))))

Katerina says

A few months ago I nearly finished this book. Thought I would come back to it when I was less busy but I never did. I think the vibe the cover and synopsis gave me is that it would have epic banter, teasing and that really hot romantic undertone. In reality, they were not passionate enough and it was a little boring, just lacking though safe.

Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

I Stole His Car is book one in the series, Love at First Crime, by Jessica Frances.

Ava leads a very predictable life in Chicago. She works as a temp so she has no office friends. She goes home to a predictable evening. Her boyfriend, Brian, is an FBI agent so he is out of town more than in town. But when he is home, she spends quiet evenings at his home. Her routines never varied, until her life was turned upside down. Until she discovered her boyfriend of eighteen months was not who she thought he was but instead was completely evil.

“How did I not see what was lurking beneath the surface? How could I be so blind?”

Ava has never done anything criminal in her life. But she’s been on the run for days. But Brian seems to be a step ahead of her. She can’t seem to go anywhere without seeing one of his men. She has no money. She’s desperate. Just desperate enough to consider stealing a car to try to get out of the city. Little did she know that the car belonged to Zander, a private investigator, who instead of calling the police, would be the man that saves her.

So begins the wild ride of Ava, Zander, and Zander’s little brother Van. Zander and his little brother are dealing with issues of their own. They are grieving the recent loss of their parents. Zander has had to take over as guardian of a twelve year old boy who seems to hate him. I loved that Ava seemed to have such an impact on this little boy. She knew just what to say, and she was able to draw him out. This kid won my heart.

The crimes her ex boyfriend has committed are atrocious, awful, evil and so much more. Ava has a thumb drive with all the evidence needed to implicate him. He wants that thumb drive but Ava knows that won’t be enough. He will kill her but only after making her suffer. Can Zander keep her safe? Is it fair to bring this danger to Zander and Van’s doorstep?

As Ava spends time with Zander, feelings begin to grow. How could she be attracted to him so soon after discovering what her ex had done? Did she ever love Brian in the first place or was it all just too convenient? And what happens after Brian is caught? Will she and Zander just part ways?

“I have never been one to rush into anything. Never been the person to take a leap of faith or take risks. Now I’m risking more than just my life. I’m risking my heart, and that might be scarier.”

I have read every one of Jessica Frances’s books and she never fails to surprise me. This book is completely different than anything she has written to date. You can’t help but to fall for these three characters. And Ava is so much stronger than she gives herself credit for. She stood up to evil and looked it right in the eye. She protected the people she cared about. She did what she had to do to survive, even if it was stealing a car and breaking the law. But stealing that car might just have been the best thing that ever happened to her. I look forward to the next book in this series, I Knocked Him Out.

Carol says

3.5-4 stars.

My first foray into a Jessica Frances book and this crime-caper/ romantic suspense novel was really good. I was drawn in by how original the storyline was.

Ava is a woman running away from a terrifying discovery involving her now ex boyfriend Brian (an FBI agent).

In her desperation to get away, she attempts to steal a car and then realizes there's a little kid (Van) in the car. Since she cannot kidnap a child she is forced to return the car and child to it's owner where upon she meets Van's much older brother Zander.

Zander seeing how instantly attached and friendly Van appears with Ava decides not to call the police but takes her home with them instead.

Zander and Van have just recently lost their parents and both are grieving in their own ways.

Twelve year old Van has detached himself from people and friends. He is not fully able to cope and frequently lashes out in anger at Zander.

Zanders overwhelmed by dealing with not only his own grief and work responsibilities is also finding it hard to cope especially with a younger brother whom he doesn't seem to be able to help or understand.

I couldn't help but love Van in this story. His scenes with Ava were so very heart warming and tender as well as funny and entertaining.

Zander who runs a detective agency also decides to shelter and help Ava and so begins the start of a slow burn romance between the two of them.

There are some vile and evil characters later on in the story, with some scenes that were really difficult to digest but overall this was a very well written and also entertaining read.

Only pet peeve for me was Zander's use of curse words in front of his younger brother Van- that just bothered me for some reason.

Will definitely be open to more books by this author.

ARC received in exchange for an honest review.
