



# Good

*S. Walden*

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Cadence Miller is a good girl. She just happens to make one terrible mistake her junior year in high school which costs her ten months in juvenile detention. Now a senior, she's lost everything: her best friend, the trust of her parents, driving privileges, Internet access. It's a lonely existence.

But there is one bright spot: Mark Connelly, her very cute, very off-limits 28-year-old calculus teacher. She falls hard for him—a ridiculous schoolgirl crush headed nowhere. She can't help it. He's the only good thing at Crestview High. She doesn't expect him to reciprocate her feelings. How inappropriate, right? But he does. And he shows her.

**And that's when her life goes from bad to good.**

## Good Details

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Author : S. Walden

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# From Reader Review Good for online ebook

Sharon ∞☛ is an emotional book junkie ☛∞ says

3.5 ★'s

## The Premise:

Cadence made a huge mistake and is paying dearly for it which basically means, she's totally alone. That is until she meets Mark Connelly, or more importantly, Mr. Connelly, her math teacher.

## The Lure:

The forbidden teacher/student affair.

## The Characters:

**Cadence** - at first, I was a bit sympathetic but as time went on, her immaturity just really got to me.

**Mark** - I really liked him for the most part although it did feel a bit creepy how he went after Cadence. The thing is there's some sort of dark secret going on with Mark and slowly you pick up bits and pieces and have a good idea what happened. I did love the way he dresses, his music and...his dancing!

**Avery** - what a crazy person! And definitely an enabler for Cadence. But the waxing was pretty hilarious!

**Oliver** - I liked seeing his relationship with Cadence grow but he's a little oblivious to things.

**Fanny** - It was nice seeing this relationship develop.

**Religion** - yes, I'm putting it as a character because a lot of times, it was like the elephant in the room. This reads almost like a Christian romance minus all the sex, drinking and drugs of course.

## The Emotions:

It was really hard to hear the cruel things Cadence and Mark would say to each other. I really have a hard time believing that their relationship will work out.

## The Steam Factor:

*Some steam...not very descriptive but Mark likes to talk...and he likes to talk dirty. ;)*

### **The Problems:**

Well, I've already mentioned my two big ones and that was the immaturity shown by the two MC's and the heavy religious element. Also, in regards to the religion - sometimes the characters were in such a cocoon...I just wanted to shake them and tell them about the real world.

I also didn't like how the prologue sets things up. You have to wait the whole book for things to get going!

### **The Outcome:**

Ahhh yes...there is a bit of a cliffhanger and if you're at all like me, you'll want to have the next book ready to go.

### **The Future:**

I had to immediately start the next book and find out what happens. *Better* is the next and last book of the series.

### **The Quotes:**

♥ "I . . . I think you're the sweetest thing."

♥ "Jesus Christ . . ." And I never say "Jesus Christ."

"No, Cadence. My name is Mark Connelly. And I'm about to give you the most explosive orgasm of your life."

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### **Natalie says**

★★★ *Good* was so...good, amazing, awesome, incredible. Fantastic. I'M A HOT MESS RIGHT NOW!

This book was so unexpectedly good! The heroine *Candence* was pretty great and awesome. Sometimes she really got on my nerves though, with her insecurity and her immature behaviour. But I guess that is to be expected of a 17/18 year old, Still, sometimes I couldn't really understand why *Markus* wanted to take such a big risk with her. And especially her god worship. She felt like a timebomb, to be honest. But the sexual tension between them was INTENSE. It was one of the reasons why I LOVED this book so much. Mr. Connelly gave me butterflies And I loved the fact that he was 10 years older than Cadence. It made it just more forbidden and taboo. He was also so incredible sweet towards her. The small, but thoughtful things he did for her did make my heart melt.

So, this is the story about 17 year old Cadence. She is a good girl. She goes to church, she gets good grades and she never disobeys her parents. That was how it used to be at least. Then she got high and decided to rob

a store. And for that, she went to kids jail for almost a year. And that is how she meets *Mark* for the first time. From the side of the road when she is picking up trash. Sparks fly between them immediately. But that is that, and he leaves. One month later, she is out and returns to school. She is now an outcast and shunned by everyone, without a single friend. The only good thing in her life is that her new math teacher turns out to be the hot guy from the road. The attraction is strong from day one.

This book was easily one of the best I have read this year, and one of the best student/teacher books I have read, ever. It is definitely top 3 on my list, maybe even #1. Anyway, I am so, so happy that this is a series. I'm simply not ready to give up these fantastic characters yet. *Especially Markus Connelly*. I can't end this review without mentioning Cadence's fake friend/late-real-friend *Avery!*. OMG, what a hilarious chick. She was one more reason why I loved this book so much. So read it read it read it. No excuses. The author really has done an amazing job with this book. I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH I LOVED THIS. You are seriously missing out if you decide to skip it.

### PREPARE TO BE BLOWN AWAY!

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#### Patrycja says

I'm not in the mood for full review, so I'm going straight to the point. I can't wrap my head around the fact that nearly first 30% of this book were fantastic. Funny, amusing and sexy with heroine that was strong, kick ass as well as likeable. As for Mark The Teacher I couldn't think about a single flaw in his character, I just fell in love with him. But after they got together things started to get downhill. Candence started acting like the biggest fucking idiot in the world, being a weirdo and suddenly acting like a blushing virgin prude. Next Mark started being an ass and total creep as well as pissing me off so much I wanted to throw my e-reader across my room.

So yeah, I can't believe this book disappointed me so much. I loved the other book by Walden and giving Good only 1 star is painful. If I could rate only first 30-40% of this book, it would be 5 stars. What a shame.

Ok, my rant is over. I hope you'll like it better than me.

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#### Amy | Foxy Blogs says

\*\*\*4.5 Forbidden Stars\*\*\*

Ms. Walden is the Queen of **shock**. One thing you are **guaranteed** when you open one of her stories is to be pushed out of your comfort zone. Good does not disappoint in making me squirm. Books that break you out of your norm deserve a try and this book is one of those.

The forbidden love affair between a highschool student / teacher is compelling. Eleven years between them makes their forbidden love even more naughty. **Cadence Miller**: 17-year-old high school student. **Mark Connelly**: 28-year-old high school calculus teacher.

One mistake has cost Cadence her 'good' teen status. She's in trouble for an error she made the previous year. Her family and schoolmates won't let her live it down. Mr. Connelly is the new hot math teacher and the one

'good' thing to happen to her.

*Avery* is a classmate who friends Cadence for an ulterior motive. She devises a plan to benefit both girls.

*Fanny* is an elderly citizen who Cadence does a church project for and befriends her. Fanny has lots of words of wisdom to share. She says this about Good->

**"Those are the best love stories."**

**"Which ones?"**

**"The dangerous ones."**

## **FAQ**

**Is there sex?** Yes and it's not until she's of legal age.

**Is this a series?** Yes. Their story will take place over the course of two books.

**Is there a cliffhanger?** Yes. A story cliffhanger but not a relationship cliffhanger.

**When is the release date?** The original date was October. The '*good*' news is that it has been changed to August 27th.

**What POV is this book?** Cadence's POV.

**Is there an excerpt from book 2?** Better excerpt-Click here.

My pre-review (view spoiler)

**SERIES:**

Cliffhanger. A series of 2 books

\*\*Beta read this book in June (6/8/2013). Then read the Arc in August (8/15/2013)\*\* Thank you, Ms. Walden, for allowing me to read this in exchange for an honest review.

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## La Mala 🍷 says

Reseña Original: Enero, 2014

Lo leí hace bastante y recién hoy me acorde de esta *Guía para predadores sexuales en la secundaria* que se hace llamar romance .

**Esto** es un horror . No solo por lo terriblemente INAPROPIADO (y casi diría, perverso) de las escenas de sexo (y todo lo que envuelve la relación principal) , sino también por las nociones ridículas que la autora obviamente tiene acerca de la adolescencia y las drogas .

Primero lo primero : el profesor (el interés "romántico") es un asco ; un personaje realmente asqueroso , con todas las características que se le pueden atribuir a un perverso sexual . No solo seduce descaradamente a la menor de edad (consciente de que es su alumna en todo momento , no como otros libros del estilo de *SLAMMED* y *THE LOW NOTES* que, a pesar de lo melosos, son preferibles a esta historia); es decir , no solo le coquetea a esta piba de 17 años en pleno salón escolar , sino que además lo festeja . MI nivel de indignación llego hasta la nave Enterprise , saludó al capitán Picard y siguió de largo por la frontera final cuando, en una escena , muy irresponsablemente , el PROFE (*yo quiero hacerte las cosas mas sucias de forma elegante*, cantaría Miranda , sólo que acá la elegancia hizo mutis por el foro) , muy haciéndose el canchero este viejo asqueroso, lleva a la MENOR a un boliche y cuando la presenta a uno de sus amigotes (que en la vida real seria uno de esos giles patéticos de veintipico que no tienen nada mejor que hacer en la vida, que pasar horas en Internet insultando a las adolescentes porque les gusta One Direction...porque la vida de ellos es genial, seguro), el amigote en cuestión se da cuenta de que es , en efecto , 'una MENOR y , saben que hace ? saben que escribe la autora???? LO FELICITA ! Y el PROFE , le CHOCA LOS CINCO!! Ja! *Mirennos , somos tan geniales , mirennos , tengo una menor esperándome en la cama , soy tan canchero y esta novela es TAAAAN ROMÁNTICA y nosotros TAAAAN SOÑADOS que nos escriben así , riéndonos como idiotas porque estamos corrompiendo menores ..*

(BRAVO . SENCILLAMENTE BRAVO . S. walden ha superado los limites del buen gusto en una novela de romance .)

Hace un tiempo estaba discutiendo con una conocida sobre LOLITA y no se que novela o serie de la tele con un tema parecido . Esta persona me decía que no podía entender como me gustaba tanto LOLITA pero me indignaba viendo una escena "romántica" entre una menor y un tipo grande en otro lado, que no podía entender que diferencia . Le conteste esto: ES una cuestión de contexto y desarrollo . LOLITA es una obra maestra de la Literatura; SI , es sobre un pedofilo y todo lo vivimos a través de su punto de vista, pero NABOKOV es tan genial que da cuenta de todas las atrocidades de esta bestia detalle por detalle sin juzgar; o sea , esta en nosotros descifrar el sentido de la novela entera. Nosotros tenemos que avivar el cerebro y no dejarnos manipular por Humbert Humbert; después vamos a ver que hacer con lo que leímos porque el autor no va a estar a cada rato diciendo ESTO ESTA MAL ESTO ES HORRIBLE . Ahí para mi esta la gran diferencia, la genialidad . El autor se desprende de la historia y deja su lugar a H.H. ; que el personaje haga lo que quiera , que cuente como es, que se haga creer a si mismo que Dolores HAZE lo ama y le corresponde.

Las palabras hermosas pueden engañar pero, como lectores, no ay que dejar de ver que lo que hace es una atrocidad. Por más que el narrador diga lo que diga , por mas poesía (¡y que poesía!) que le encaje a la violación ,nosotros sabemos cual es la realidad, sabemos quién sufre, dónde esta el daño mayor. Que la pobre Lolita no tenga voz ni voto en la narración no significa que esté consensuando a las atrocidades del desquiciado Humbert.

Toda esta esencia fantástica de *unreliable narrator*, obviamente, no pasa con GOOD, ni pasa con la telenovela sobre la que hablaba yo aquella vez.

Good trata de convencerte de que esta perversión del fulano abusador es amor; que es "oscuro" y "disfuncional" pero es amor; un amor tan apasionado que va mas allá de la familia y las amistades , mas alla de las leyes (?) y la responsabilidad del adulto ... ESTa es la peor manera de excusar la perversión, esto es lo que esta mal, acá esta la GRAN DIFERENCIA entre Nabokov y el resto de los mortales. No son los personajes , no es la ficción quien quiere convencer al lector de que esto es amor. Es la propia autora quien se pone en ese rol, quien juega al abogado del diablo. La autora esta presente en todas las perversiones, alentando y apoyando a los personajes en todos sus errores. Se usa al "amor" y al "romance disfuncional" como excusa para todo lo malo que pasa en la novela .

¿Que amor??? ¿DE.qué.amor.me.estas.hablando.MAtias?? ¿Qué romance???

ES imposible llamar a esta barbaridad "romance". Es perturbador leer los monólogos de la protagonista: suena como una piba de quince años en un capitulo (la voz de quinceañera se va haciendo cada vez más perturbadora a medida que avanza la trama) y en el siguiente esta siendo manoseada por su profesor como si no fuese nada del otro mundo. ¿En serio esto es romance? Me provocaron más nauseas que suspiros.

En fin, mE fui por las ramas , pero la indignacion me puede a veces .

Lo segundo...

El otro tema que quería mencionar era el tema de las drogas. La protagonista termina en la cárcel por robo a mano armada bajo la influencia de la drogas -no me acuerdo ahora cuales eran, creo que cocaína...?

Es así: la piba era una estudiante-puro-diez y muuuuuu religiosa hasta que un dia, UNA NOCHE en una fiesta se le dio por probar drogas por PRIMERA VEZ en su vida y ¡BAM!!!! sintió una necesidad imperante de salir a robar . ¿QUE ES ESTO?? ¿Donde vivio esta autora toda su vida? ¿Sabe algo de las drogas y sus efectos? ¿Conoce las diferencias entre unas y otras?

Por mas "drogas" (porque se le da un sentido tan amplio que ni siquiera se sabe de qué drogas se habla .... ) que tomés vas a seguir siendo la misma persona que sos --las drogas no te cambian de una hora a otra; si te fumás un porro, probablemente vas a terminar riendote como una naba hasta de una llave que se cae al piso dos veces seguidas -como mucho si te zarpas -, te vas a sentir que estas soñando o vas a estar el triple de lento , no vas a salir a apuntar con un arma a nadie . Vas a ser vos , bueno como seas o malo como seas .

A lo que voy es est: el culpar a las "drogas" por una cagada que se mando alguien no tiene sentido. Uno es como es y por eso la idea de la autora (muy al estilo de GO ASK ALICE ) de que todo es perfecto y dios te ama hasta que un dia ¡CHAN! te fumaste un porro (NOOOOOOOO! COUGH COUGH odio a todo el mundo DAME MAS) y saliste a matar porque si ... es una idea patética, típica de ignorante y que me suena a discurso de cura sobre la juventud degenerada y blablaba ...



NO GRACIAS . Ya tengo bastante con los testigos de jehova que me vienen a golpear la puerta a cualquier hora .

Evitenla. No recuerdo que tenga nada rescatable .

Para terminar,

Es también una de esas novelas con el *síndrome del padre ausente* , aunque en realidad tiene mas del virus de *los padres no entienden nada y no saben un carajo del amor así que mas me vale odiarlos*, y del trastorno *'todos los padres son malos'*. Como de costumbre en las novelas para adolescentes , las figuras paternas y maternas no existen y/o son malévolas ... En este caso, estas figuras son terribles , padres sobreprotectores y golpeadores, así que tiene todos los problemas juntos .

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**Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says**

**3,5 STARS**

At the beginning I wasn't sure how to rate this book.I had some problems with the reading of this but still I think that is a good story!!

This is a story about Cadence...

She is a student who had a bad moment in her junior year in high school and she was in juvenile detention for ten months.

Now she is back...but without friends..Her parents do not trust her anymore and they have her limited..She feels sad and alone.

Until the moment she met Mark her 28 years old math teacher!!

From the beginning there is an attraction between them..He tries to approach her and he makes whatever he can,in order to make her feel comfortable and nice...

He wants her to come back to normal and find herself..

**"You're the saddest thing I've ever seen Cadence.The loneliest thing I've ever seen.And any chance I get to see you smile,I'm gona take it."**

They know that nothing should happened between them..but soon they are together..

Mark is so sweet and cute!You can't read the book and don't like this character!!He cares a lot about Cadence and he showed his feelings from the beginning!

Cadence on the other hand...I don't like her a lot..at the beginning she was funny and smartass but sometimes she just acted weird.

The only thing that I didn't find nice was the reference to the Christianity. I am Christian too but I didn't like to read so many details all the time..

The book ends with cliffhanger ughhhh...I need the next book soon!!I must learn what will happen!!!

\*ARC provided by the author in return for an honest review.\*

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## **La-Lionne says**

Enough with barely legal girls and creepy, perverted teachers love stories already.

The only reason I'm not giving 1 star is because the first 30% of the book was kind of alright, and I liked the old lady that Cadence met. The rest made little to no sense. At the beginning I even got the Gabriel's Inferno vibe, but later, it turned out that it was nothing like it, not even close.

**\*\* \*WARNING SPOILERS\* \*\***

We have Cadence, who is 17 year old, doing community work for getting herself into trouble, there were robbery and drugs involved. She bumps into a guy with a flat tire. He's hot, they exchange couple of sentences, the sparks are there, you know the drill.

The next day at school she finds out that he is her new teacher. There are 'those' glances and butterflies. He keeps stealing glances at her and she keeps blushing. It lasts for quite a while.

At first she did seem like a young and naive student, but she got bold pretty quickly. She goes so far as spreading her legs in the middle of the class, to show him her panties. He finally snaps. After class he asks her to stay, and when other students leave he says:

"Come here," he says. I walked over to stand in front of him. "You've been very naughty, you know."

My heart sped up.

"You show me your little pink panties in class when you know I can't do a thing about it."

*I can't breathe.*

"I think you need a spanking, Cadence. For being such a bad girl."

"Mr. Connelly!"

At this point my hope that this book will turn into a love story is shattered. After that there is a lot of sneaking around and all kinds of inappropriate teacher-student behavior. He acts like a horny perv, and she a hormonal, misguided young girl.

She meets a girl at school, they become friends and starts covering for each other.

For the life of me I could not understand what he saw in her, besides young flesh. Mark went on saying that he found her interesting, but I didn't buy it. They had absolutely nothing in common.

"You're so interesting and insightful," he said after time.

"And can you believe I'm only seventeen?" I joked.

"That's what I like about you, Cadence. You're definitely seventeen in many ways. You like your little fashion magazines and gossiping and shopping. And I love to hear all of it. But you also have a wisdom and maturity that not many girls your age have. I like that dichotomy."

"I know that word!" I teased.

Mark grinned. That's why you're irresistible. That's why you turn me on."

Let us put emphases on him, 28 old man, love hearing her talk about gossiping and shopping. Did you noticed that he failed to come up with an example of her being mature and having wisdom? I've read the book and there is nothing, absolutely nothing that shows her being mature.

I reached out my hand, letting it hover over his penis. It twitched.

"Oh my God, Mark! It moved!"

"I'll do that, Cadence."

"Oh. Okay."

Here is another quote that shows how "mature" she is. This is on the last page of the book.

And so I sat on Mark's lap late into the morning. Not knowing how to really take care of myself. How I would eat. Where would I sleep. How I would pay for school. All the things teenagers never think about: insurance, taxes, bills (~~wow there missy, don't you start generalizing there~~). I didn't think about any of those things. I thought about Mark saying over and over, "I'll take care of you."

Sneaking around, lying to her parents, behaving inappropriately at school, complaining about him looking at some woman's cleavage, these are not signs of maturity.

One day Mark gets pissed and humiliates her in front of a whole class, asking her to come forward and explain the answer, knowing that she didn't know the answer and didn't like to be put on a spot.

"Everyone, pay attention to Cadence, please," Mr. Connelly said. He glanced at me briefly, and I know he could see the panic written all over my face. "All eyes on her."

That happened to me once, when I was in the middle school. I still hate that teacher to this day.

Then there was drama surrounding a pregnancy scare, her brother ratting her out to her parents, her parents pressing charges against him. There was not end to exaggerations.

What annoyed me the most was the fact that he, Mark, never once thought it was a bad idea to get involved

with a student, and that young at that.

"Why did you tell your mom you were already dating someone?" I snapped.

"What do you want me to say, Cadence?" Mark asked.

"You want me to tell my mom I'm dating one of my students who isn't even a legal adult yet?"

So he knows that it's not right, but that's not his biggest concern. His biggest concern is:

"Cadence, I'm not ashamed of you. I'm practical. You knew from the beginning that we had to keep this a secret. At least until we are finished with school.

Yep. Not to get caught.

I thought this book was a mess. It's not a love story. I got why she was crushing on him, I had a crush on my teacher once, too :). But he, he was just a perv in my eyes. By the end of the book he made my skin crawl.

It looks like there will be a sequel, but after "this" I couldn't care less.

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### **Michelle says**

I made it to 45% and I can't take it any more. Cadence is not mature enough for me to be involved with a 28 year old man ( her teacher) and it's giving me the creeps. lol I should of read some reviews before I started this one but I like going into books sometimes not knowing anything. lol Big mistake with this book:(

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### **Taryn says**

[image error]

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### **Aestas Book Blog says**

My casting for Mark & Cadence:

\*\*\* FULL REVIEW NOW POSTED \*\*\*

**Holy taboo!!** (4.5 stars)

**Good was a well-written, rebellious romance that defied rules and crossed lines. Bold. Daring. Forbidden.**

The dedication at the beginning set the tone for the whole story:

***To lovers who fought the odds. And won.***

To give a little bit of background, *Good* is a New Adult student/teacher romance but there is nothing sugar-coated about it. I loved that the author wasn't afraid to explore such a controversial, unconventional topic. The taboo screams loud and clear and despite the fact that the relationship was legally acceptable in their state, it's up to every reader to decide if they can morally justify it because the facts are this: the heroine is a 17 year old student and the hero is her 28 year old math teacher. Plain and simple. They were attracted to each other, they fell in love and they acted on their feelings. Now add to the mix the fact that the heroine is a Christian from a church going, Bible thumping family and you have the recipe for a story that will leave no feather unruffled. And.... I loved it!

Here's the blurb:

*Cadence Miller is a good girl. She just happens to make one terrible mistake her junior year in high school which costs her ten months in juvenile detention. Now a senior, she's lost everything: her best friend, the trust of her parents, driving privileges, Internet access. And most importantly, anonymity. Everyone knows about her mistake, and the kids at school like to remind her with hate notes in her locker, pranks, name-calling—the works.*

*But there is one bright spot in the hell that's become her life: Mark Connelly, her very cute, very off-limits 28-year-old calculus teacher. She falls hard for him—a ridiculous schoolgirl crush headed nowhere. She can't help it. He's the only good thing at Crestview High. She doesn't expect him to reciprocate her feelings. How inappropriate, right? But he does. And he shows her.*

This book had guts. Balls. It pushed every boundary. I won't lie though – some scenes did make me squirm. The situation was anything but 'comfortable' but I couldn't put it down. It was dangerous and thrilling.

***“He's cute. Very cute. And very smart. And very manly.... And very off-limits.”***

***“Those are always the best love stories,” Fanny replied.***

***“Which ones?”***

***She sipped her tea. “The dangerous ones.”***

The prologue starts off with a bang. Right from the start, I was drawn into the severity and scariness of their situation. And, I wanted to know more!

I really love S. Walden's writing. Her character building is fantastic! Within a few pages, she managed to

make me fall for the hero and be drawn right into the heroine's story.

Cadence was a really interesting character. She was vulnerable on the inside but tried her best to wear a tough exterior. I really liked her. She was sheltered but not stupid. Innocent but not naive. And was fighting an entire life's worth of doctrines and beliefs while trying to find her own place in the world.

I was outraged on her behalf for the way she was treated at home. Downright furious!!! How could her parents be so close-minded?? Utterly blind! Every time that I wanted to cheer her on for standing up for herself, they found a way to cut her down. It wasn't outright cruelty, but sometimes you don't need fists to hurt.

*"I worked for an entire month since my release from juvie to get back into my parents' good graves... The irony was that I didn't need to show either of them I'd changed because I hadn't. I'd always been a good girl, even when I made that mistake. Yes, it was a really terrible mistake... but it didn't alter who I was. I didn't suddenly overnight become a drug addict or a career criminal. I made one bad choice that branded me for life, at least in my parent's eyes."*

I felt terrible for her. I mean, who doesn't make mistakes when they're a teen? It's supposed to be the time of screw ups. Granted, hers were more serious than most and while her parents' initial reaction might have been understandable, at some point, you have to be able to forgive and allow room to rebuild trust, no?

*"I was tired of hearing the word "no". I heard it every day... I couldn't breathe for the "no's" piling on top of me, pressing on my heart, smothering my brain, making it impossible to think positive thoughts."*

But because of the way the story was written, it made you initially feel one thing but then the more you thought about the different perspectives, the more multi-layered the story began to get. I mean, even with her parents... I could "get" where they were coming from the more I thought about it even though I hated the stance they took. But I think that's the point – people are rarely "good" or "evil". We're all comprised of multiple sides.

But lets get to the romance...

It was hot, forbidden and thrilling. But I love taboo books because you just never know what you're "supposed" to feel. Y'know? Should you root for them? \*cringes\* I really wanted to. Heck, I did. Did it feel wrong? Sure. Absolutely. Did it stop me from feeling that way? Nope. It was like my brain and my heart were at war and it was a constant battle to see which one could come out on top.

I'm not going to lie though – as much as I loved the forbidden romance aspect, I won't deny that the fact that a 28 year old was actively pursuing a 17 year did at least partially rub me the wrong way. Honestly, there were times when I wasn't sure... wasn't what he was doing wrong? Shouldn't an older person know better? What a fine line there is between the fantasy of love and the reality of it.

He was so direct. No beating around the bush. But at the same time, he never pushed her. He just didn't hide his feelings from her. Gah!! the conflict! And darn him but he was swoony! I have to give him that. Sweet and swoony. He never once pushed her into anything but, at the same time, he didn't hold back either.

*“I wasn’t a complete idiot. I knew this was all wrong, and I knew I had to confront the possibility that Mr. Connelly was a bad man. A user. An exploiter. So why didn’t I believe any of it?”*

There were definitely times though when he crossed the line and was unquestionably wrong. But I guess that made him human. I mean, who is perfect? And the way he apologized for his mistakes gave me a deeper respect for him. It’s hard not to respect someone who fully admits their faults.

Another thing I found interesting was that there was never a time when you got so lost in the story that you forgot Cadence’s age or Mark’s job. The taboo always loud and clear. It felt dangerous and forbidden.

*“Do you really think it’s wrong that we’re together?... Or do you think it’s wrong because that’s what you’ve been taught?”*

See, it’s a weird thing with student/teacher books because it’s like... Would I want that kind of relationship? No. Would I want it for my daughter? No. But at the same time, sometimes things don’t work out in an ‘ideal’ way and you can’t always help who you fall for. I guess the choice then is whether you act on it or not. But, if you don’t at least try, you might miss out on something incredible. So, it’s hard for me to judge it. And I have to take into consideration how much of my discomfort came from *my* societal norms and from what *I’ve* been taught my whole life. In another country, on a different planet, maybe this wouldn’t be taboo. They weren’t hurting anyone, they were both consenting, so... who am I to judge?

Every single thing in this book made sense. Everything was a reaction to something. I loved that there was no fluff and that everything that happened had a purpose and was somehow tied into either the overall plot or a character’s development. It was a well crafted story that made me stop and think.

I loved that this story made me uncomfortable in places, I loved that the questions that it raised, I loved the thrill of the taboo, and I loved the way the whole story came together. It was fast paced, attention grabbing and I honestly didn’t want to put it down.

*Good* is the first of a 2-part series so everything was not tied up neatly with a bow at the end. There was no relationship cliffhanger but there was an external one. While their relationship wasn’t in doubt, we are left with a lot of unanswered questions and there is a lot to explore in the next book. That being said, it didn’t leave me biting my nails. Sure, ideally, I’d have loved to have the sequel ready to go but I’m okay waiting here. And I will certainly be reading the sequel the day it gets released.

S. Walden really did a fantastic job with this book. It was bold, daring, and dangerous. This is the kind of taboo you *want* to read.

4.5 stars

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I also want to share this note from the author because it was a part of what made me want to read the book:

**Yeah, so I realize I’m taking a chance with this one (as I do with all my books, it seems). I know many**

of the student/teacher relationship books out there involve professors and college students to make them a little more accepting. Yeah. I really don't do "accepting." Plus, the story spoke to me. It wanted to be written. Cadence needed to be written. Not only am I taking a chance with the stark age difference between heroine and hero, but I'm also taking a chance infusing spirituality in this book. It's not enough that Cadence would embark on a completely inappropriate relationship with her teacher, but I wanted to make sure she was a Christian as well. So there you go. Start ruffling those feathers. She's a Christian. She's involved with a 28-year-old while she's still a minor. She's impressionable but not disgustingly naïve. It's very much a love story that explores personal values, societal expectations, and the meaning of true love.

I do have to share this because I thought it was funny. My agent asked me, "Summer, now they don't do it until she turns eighteen, right?"

"Well, I looked up the age of consent in Georgia. It's sixteen," I replied.

Brief pause.

"Summer, they don't do it until she's eighteen, right?"

"Oh, Marisa. Don't you want to wait and find out?"

\*\*\*\*\*

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- ◆ **Main blog: Aestas Book Blog**
- ◆ **Facebook Blog Page**
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## **Glass says**

Review from Way Too Hot Books

**I have no idea how to start this review.** Was Good what I expected? Did I like it? Hate it? Was I completely turned on after reading steamy scenes? And then disgusted by myself because he is her teacher? Not to mention ten years older? Is this a story about abuse? Could it be considered as darker romance novel? What was the point with all religious aspects of the story? Well, one thing is sure - this is taboo read.

**You shall have no sex before you're married.** I have to start with a thing that bothered me the most. Too much religion talk. Cadence is seventeen years old girl (almost eighteen) who lives in extremely religious community - everything she does must be approved by her "Church". Like any teenager, Cadence tests boundaries of her world which leads her to some stupid choices and ten months in juvenile detention. Now she is "spawn of Satan" and there is no redemption for her mistakes - her parents, her ex-best friend Grace, her youth group at church and whole damn school are picking on her. It doesn't matter that she was a poster child for good girl before incident that got her in trouble.



With all due respect, I do not like religious ideology and that's why I'm hesitant to pick up books that promote that kind of view point. I probably wouldn't have read Good if I knew. Sad thing is that it would be a bad move because it turned out to be a good novel no matter my initial pouting when I realized what it's about. S. Walden is actually dealing with all the things community like that teach you and points out that life is not that simple and that even there you can find lot of things that "good Christians" shouldn't be doing. Now, this doesn't mean that she rejects her beliefs completely - she just talks about things that should be changed and aren't very logical.

**Abuse or romance? Or maybe both?** I have to set few things straight. I've noticed that lot of books about student/teacher affairs have one common thing in plot - they meet and hook up before they realize that they shouldn't have. He always thinks that she is older and she always thinks that he is younger or college student. Then you sit and wonder how the hell could he think that? Wasn't it obvious that she is still in high school? I have a question for you? Have you ever teach in high school, especially older kids? I have. I had honor to meet smart and eloquent girls for whom I believe have a really bright future and will make great lawyers, doctors, journalists or even teachers. And they are drop dead gorgeous. Stunning. Beautiful. I am so proud of every single one of them. Now, if I saw them out side of school hallways and classrooms, I would never guess that they are seventeen, eighteen years old. (Unless, of course, you get to talk with them about school.) So, it could happen.

Now, about teachers. Have you ever saw one of your younger teachers on Saturday night? Having fun with his/hers friends, wearing completely different clothes, smiling, drinking? Having fun? Not looking like that gloomy person that talks about responsibility or how all class will fail the next test if they don't start to study soon? We don't tend to think about our teachers as real persons that have a life outside their classrooms. Someone who has 28 years is still young and in some aspects not so different from his or her students. So, it could happen.

Good has a different approach - Cadence and Mark meet before, but they saw each other just for a short time and they exchanged few words. Nothing bad or scandalous. Everything happens slowly and you get to see everything behind sexy scenes and "excitement of forbidden romance" (that is basically what most of the books are about). S. Walden had done good job with describing their interaction - it is believable, because you catch on the age difference between them, how naive Cadence still is no matter her smarts and wit, Marc is older, more experienced and sometimes you get the feeling like he's the "predator" in the whole situation. Everywhere Cadence turns, there he is. But she is not stupid girl and she confronts him several times asking him if he's using her. This is not a story that talks just about forbidden lovers fantasy - it deals with consequences and social aspects (partially). I wouldn't label this book as fluffy romance - at times it was like I was reading a story about mental abuse. Maybe he loves her, but I can not justify a lot of his actions. They just felt wrong.

**Is this something you should let your teenage daughter to read?** In my opinion, Good by S. Walden is not young adult novel no matter the fact that narrator of the story is high school student. Just like Forbidden by Tabitha Suzuma, this book deals with very sensitive subject that needs a more serious reading and not just teen swooning over star crossed lovers. But when you say: "You are forbidden to read/do this!" it's more likely that they would do the exact thing you told them not to, so it's probably more wiser to talk with your kids openly and clear some things out from the beginning. Also, this book can be described as erotic romance - there are a lot of sex scenes and maybe you wouldn't be comfortable with your sixteen year old daughter reading some of them.

**How does it make me feel?** One of the things that define us as persons is what we do for living. When you are young, you think how you'll never be like grown ups in your life, but that is something that happens and you don't even notice it. You grow up and start to think trough about everything that you do or say. That is

why I can't forget my job while I read this novel. If I had read this book ten, eight years ago, I would be all heartbroken and cheering for Cadence and Mark. But that is not the case. I can not ignore my work ethic and say that whole situation is okay because they are in love. I understand circumstances that lead to everything, but I still think that Mark as teacher abused his position. Don't get me wrong - I very much enjoyed reading this book, but I guess that I grow up and I can't simply swoon over forbidden romance without thinking about what is right thing to do.

**Will you read it?** I know that this was one of my longer posts, that most of you gave up reading it after first half, but I had to clarify few things. So, have you read Good? Did you like it? Are planning to read it? And are okay with teens reading stories like this?

**Visit my blog tomorrow...** because S. Walden agreed to answer few of my questions, but also she will be giving away 2 e-copies of Good. Also, earlier today we posted cover reveal for Better - you can also get ARC copy of the sequel. On Saturday S. Walden is talking about student/teacher topic in books. Do not miss it!

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## **Jessica's Book Review says**

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Good by S. Walden is not good, it's flippin' AMAZING! Yes, Amazing! I DEVoured this book in one long giant sitting and this is not a short book. I could not put it down; I was completely captivated by the story and characters. Good was a book I stopped existing for just so I could read it. Who cares about dinner or laundry or feeding my husband when I had Good on my kindle to read? It is one of my favorite books I have read all summer.

Casting:

When I found out Good was a student/teacher romance novel I was sold right then & there. I absolutely love forbidden romances; they're my weakness! I did not expect to fall in love with the characters and for the story to have so much depth to it.

Good is told in the point of view of 17 year-old high school senior Cadence Miller. Cadence comes from a strict Christian home, goes to church on Sundays, doesn't have sex with her boyfriend, cuss or say the lord's name in vain. She is your average student and has a goody-to-shoes best friend. A year ago, the hot, popular boy invited Cadence to a party and that is where her life changed forever. She made a ~~mistake~~, no scratch that... she made a GIAGANTIC mistake that makes everyone look at her differently including her parents. She paid for her sins and spent 10 months in kid jail (as she calls it). Now that she is out she is deemed the demon child at school, lost her friends and is grounded for a lifetime by her parents. Life as Cadence knew is now over.

Upon coming back to high school Cadence begins a relationship with her teacher Mark Connelly. How come

I did not have an H-O-T 28 year-old teacher when I was in high school? I may have actually paid attention in class. They start off flirtatious; they never had your typical student-teacher relationship. There was always something there between the two of them. Their relationship was a long build-up and even when it was PG, well as PG as you can get between a student and teacher I still found it incredibly sexy but also real. Their relationship was not based on sex, it was about Mark/Mr. Connelly understanding where Cadence was coming from and feeling protective over her.

By the time their relationship went to another level I found myself cheering for Mark & Cadence. I wanted them together. I did not feel Mark was taking advantage of Cadence, they just fell in love. I loved the protectiveness Mark has for Cadence, he wanted to take care of her, and he wanted to love her. Their relationship is complicated but what relationship isn't? It was not about sex for him and I respected him for that and when their relationship did move on to sex it was sweet & tender.

My favorite thing about the book was the real emotions/problems Cadence & Mark faced due to their relationship. It wasn't hearts and flowers all the time. Cadence had major guilt and was choosing this life with Mark of lying & having sex over her Christian upbringing. Mark had guilt for putting Cadence in this position. Mark really put Cadence first even if it met hurting her. The two struggled with their relationship which made it so real. The author did an amazing job of making the reader feel that guilt as well. I was blown away with how I felt towards the characters while reading. I felt like I understood them all and where they were coming from, even understanding their relationship.

I also LOVE the character of Avery. She is just a hoot and made me laugh. We all had that friend, the friend who in front of parents and teachers was the perfect child but behind their back they were the ones having sex, drinking, and cussing like a sailor. Well that is Avery. She went from a fun character to really being there for Cadence at the end. I am glad they had each other; they needed each other.

I do wish we were able to get to know Mark a little better. He was hiding something about his past and that was obvious while reading. He was always dodging questions and putting answering off. I am hoping in book two we get to know Mark better and find out who he is and what is from his past he has yet to tell Cadence.

Good was a great surprise. I loved being surprised by books especially when I was expecting just a hot, fun story and getting so much more out of it. Good does end on a bit a cliff hanger. When I mean cliff hanger all the drama starts and the book ends. Almost like the story just got cut off and you are left crying in a fetal position asking when the next book comes out... okay so maybe that's just me but I did SCREAM when I saw I was at the end. I need book two NOW!

Well done S. Walden! I want more Cadence and Mark!! I need more Cadence and Mark!

I give Good (Too Good #1) 4.5 Stars

*ARC provided by the author in return for an honest review.*

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## **ZARIA (Sheldon Cooper lover) says**

[ forgets a condom (hide spoiler)]

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## **Kristin (KC) - Traveling Sister says**

**\*4 Stars!\***

### **Good:**

adjective bet-ter, best.  
morally excellent; virtuous; righteous; pious: a good man.  
satisfactory in quality, quantity, or degree: a good teacher;  
of high quality; excellent.

### **But who's to judge?**

I've come to expect that certain things will happen when I read a Summer Walden book: My boundaries will be thoroughly pushed and I'll, in turn, question my moral stance on a given topic. This author knows exactly how to tackle the inappropriate HEAD ON, and grants her readers the power and courage to do the same. Her stories are honest, unique, edgy, and never predictable. I can always be certain I'm reading something that's going to make me think, feel, and question. In my opinion, there is nothing better in a book than that!

**Cadence** has always been a good girl, until one mistake on her part changes everyone's perception of her—leaving her a sad and lonely outcast amongst her family and "friends". When her math teacher takes an unlikely interest in her, she begins to come alive again and starts to question everything, including her strict religious upbringing.

**Mark** is sort of an enigma; he's sexy and intriguing, with an adorable love of music and is definitely hiding a secret past. He sees something in Cadence that no else bothers to recognize, sparking a flirtatious but slightly hesitant pursuit.

The characters, although well fleshed out, are flawed and will potentially get under your skin at times; Cadence especially. Although she exudes a rough exterior, her naiveté became apparent in many instances, truly highlighting the maturity gap between these two characters. Cadence had a tendency to blurt out whatever crossed her mind, without a mental filter, and some of it felt awkward. That said, she was young and had been allowing her broken past to navigate her future...and I could appreciate her rocky journey to self-discovery.

The forbidden love element in this story is racy and bold, but completely "legal". The religious aspect was woven in delicately, but offered a sense of justifiable controversy. There's plenty of angst; tons of steam, but more importantly—an extraordinary, well-developed plot centered on a thought-provoking theme...

*Good* is such a subjective term. What's deemed "good" by one may be ridiculed by another. We are all flawed in some form, and I love how this book really drives that message home.

I've often wondered what makes these teacher/student relationship stories more questionable for some readers than many other topics which display major controversy—such as stories centered on kidnap, rape, and abuse. Some of these stories are brutal yet have been romanticized time and again, and many readers seem to eat them up—myself included.

Here we have a very 'age-legal' teacher/student relationship, forbidden for the fact that its taboo, yet I've seen the morality of this story and how it's presented dissected under a microscope. When we take on a forbidden topic, we have to be prepared for a bold outcome; Something uncomfortable; Conditions we don't have to necessarily agree with, but may become captivated by nonetheless. It is precisely what makes these stories forbidden. Of course, not everyone is going to enjoy this book and accept what it represents, but I don't feel this is any more morally "wrong" than many other teacher/student stories out there.

This installation *does* leave off on a cliffhanger, but one that surrounds the plot, and not the relationship. There are still many secrets to uncover, and I cannot wait for the sequel to this story!

#### **Book Stats:**

? **Genre/Category:** Romance/New Adult

? **Steam Caliber:** Extremely steamy!

? **Romance:** Forbidden teacher/student relationship

? **Characters:** Hero 28/Heroine 17

? **Plot:** Bold, edgy, and controversial. Excellent execution.

? **Writing:** Fluid, engaging, and gripping.

? **POV:** 1st Person: Heroine

? **Cliffhanger:** Yes (though not a relationship cliffhanger)

? **Next Installment:** Follow up

*\*Huge thanks to this generous author for providing both beta and arc copies\**

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### **Natasha is a Book Junkie says**

I will start this review by pointing out that love stories of forbiddenness and passionate affairs between teachers and students are my undoing. I love the illicitness, the hiding around, the inability to stay away from each other even when being together could cost them everything in their lives, so I dove into this story with a receptive frame of mind, expecting it to rock my socks off. But what it did instead is leave me distraught, shaking in a corner, desperate to get some of those images out of my head, wondering how something potentially so great could have turned out to be so very wrong. This was not the story I hoped to read, I only persevered with it because it felt like a car crash I could not take my eyes off, and part of me stayed incredulous until the very end that this was not a satire. This book made me angry, it ignited every maternal bone in my body and the protective lioness in me wanted to draw blood. I will say though that I strongly

believe that we do not all connect with books the same way and that reading is a subjective experience, so my objections, as fierce as they may be, are just that – my personal objections. They are based on my personal set of beliefs and moral values and they should be taken as that.

*“I knew this was all wrong, and I knew I had to confront the possibility that Mr. Connelly was a bad man. A user. An exploiter.”*

This is the story about a very innocent and naïve seventeen-year-old high school girl from a sheltered and stern upbringing, whose one and only mistake cost her her life as she knew it. She lost all her friends, she lost the trust of her parents and the admiration of her close-knit community, leaving her bullied, ostracised, lonely and craving for human attention.

*“I was never allowed to make a mistake, and when I finally did, I paid the ultimate price.”*

Cadence is convinced that no one loves her, that she is being unfairly punished for her one and only reckless act in life, and hence when she meets Mark Connelly, her handsome math teacher who also happens to be ten years her senior, his attentions easily find fertile ground in this lonely little girl. What starts as an ordinary schoolgirl crush on a teacher, a foolish yet innocent infatuation with the usual hopes of being singled out by him and interpreting every look, every word, every touch as a declaration of love, very quickly changes once he starts actively pursuing her and making his intentions unequivocally clear. Cadence is aware all along that had he not made the first move, hers would have simply remained a secret crush on her teacher and she knows it is wrong to allow him to pursue her, but from the moment Mark makes his intentions known, Cadence is incapable of saying no.

*“I was perfectly content to harbor a secret crush on my teacher – one I knew would go absolutely nowhere. It was one thing to fantasize about an inappropriate relationship. It was quite another to actually pursue it. And he was pursuing me.”*

There’s an inherent inequality in their dynamic from the get-go. He wields power over her by sexually awakening her young body and then using those emotions to make her doubt her uncomfortableness with their relationship. The easiest thing to do when a person doubts their actions is to convince them that instead of questioning themselves, they should question those who taught them right from wrong. He effectively manipulates her thoughts to serve the purpose of keeping her in his bed.

*“What I’m doing is wrong... Being with you. Sneaking around. Lying. Letting you do things to me. It’s wrong, and I feel guilty.”*

*“Do you really think it’s wrong that we’re together? Or do you think it’s wrong because that’s what you’ve been taught?”*

Every interaction between them, every exchange of opinions, ideas, beliefs, shows us how different these two people are, how little they have in common and how unbalanced their relationship is. I did not feel the passion between them at all, all I kept seeing was an impressionable little girl, desperate to be forgiven and feel loved by her parents again, aching for even the smallest bit of attention and acknowledgement from

them, failing to redeem herself in their eyes and finding solace in the arms of a man who should have known better than to abuse the control gained from making a girl fall in love for the very first time.

*“I’ll be honest with you, though. There is something sexy about the idea of you cutting me off from the few people I know.”*

It was impossible for me not to draw a parallel between Cadence’s authoritarian father and her need to please him, make him proud of her, and the way Mark sets the pace in their relationship, fully in control of each milestone of intimacy between them, and that way maintaining control over Cadence. Her parents’ expectations of her might seem high to a disgruntled young girl who has suddenly lost her driving privileges and her social life, but an adult like Mark should see them as what they truly are – a normal reaction by two very scared parents that their daughter might be losing her way. But instead of justifying their valid parenting methods and helping her see their point of view, he distances her emotionally even further from them by calling them “assholes” and validating her childish defiance.

*“You don’t like me. You haven’t liked me since I got in trouble. You don’t show me love. You’re not there for me. But someone else was. He was there for me. And kind to me. And he showed me love... I was an easy target. You’re right about that. And whose fault is that?”*

At the end of the day, I never stopped perceiving Mark as the predator in this story. I did not feel the passion, the depth of emotion that I expected to feel. I kept seeing a young girl who’s never even seen a naked man before being manipulated and used by a man who did exactly what he wanted, when he wanted it, and how he wanted it. All consequences be damned. There were too many cringe-worthy moments that prevented me from enjoying the storyline or becoming invested in the characters. At no point did I believe that Mark saw her as a woman and everything he ever said to her implied that he cherished her childlike naiveté more than anything else in their bizarre relationship. That made me uneasy and mad at the author for romanticising a relationship of blatant inequality.

*“Do that again and I’ll f\*ck that eighteen-year-old pussy of yours right here in this room.”*

Scenes that were meant to be sexy or romantic were often disrupted by awkward dialogues between the characters, and the frequent use of first names in dialogues broke their flow even further. On top of that, every time he sat her on his lap a little part of me shrivelled away and died. Every time he called her “adorable” or “pretty little thing”, I wanted to punch him. Every time God was brought into the equation, and then Cadence’s religious upbringing used when it suited the storyline but ignored when it didn’t, made me confused. Every time her friends, young or old, shared their endless ‘wisdom’ with her and gave her the worse advice known to human kind, I felt like screaming.

*“He’s doing you in the closet and he loves you? Well, Cadence. It’s obvious this guy’s a keeper.”*

This book clearly made me feel a whole lot of emotions but I doubt any of them were intended by the author and none of them were at all positive. This was not the story for me, I did not connect with it and I feel so

very angry at it, even days after I finished reading it. I felt it failed me as a reader because while focusing on pursuing a taboo storyline and pushing the boundaries of comfort, it missed on creating a believable and relatable story by ultimately crossing the very fine line between deliciously forbidden and deliberately disturbing. I, however, applaud the author for the courage it took to write such a story and for her unquestionable writing skills.

*Good* is the first in a two-part series and in the sequel we will hear Mark's voice.

***“Nice job, Marcus,” the bouncer said as he looked me over, checked my ID, and looked me over again. “Not even legal.” He held up his fist, and Mark bumped it. “Score.”***

**[2.5 STARS]**

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