



Just Pretending

Dana Burkey

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Everything in Cam's life is finally going right. Despite many of her best friend being out of town for the summer, she is ready to have some fun. With her good friend Josh by her side, Cam is just starting to really enjoy the time off school, when Nick comes wandering back into her life. It's been a year since Cam last saw Nick, but the wound is still fresh. The heartbreak Nick caused so long ago left Cam in pieces. Now that he is back, she is quickly falling apart one again. And the fact that he brought his new girlfriend Gina along for his vacation is only making it worse. Not wanting to see the shell of a person Cam once was thanks to Nick, Josh comes up with an idea: he will play the role of Cam's boyfriend to make Nick jealous. Although the plan seems impossible, Cam quickly realizes it's working. Or at least it seems like it's working from the outside. But to everyone on the inside things get messy fast. With feelings, emotions, and kissing flying all around, will Cam ever stop the pretending and land the true love she's been looking for?

Just Pretending Details

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From Reader Review Just Pretending for online ebook

Kira Simion says

3/5 stars! :) cute, decent, light read.

So "pretend dating" is actually a thing, huh?

So the MC, Cam, dates Josh to make Nick jealous/or really just to make herself feel less lonely/less sad (even though he has a girlfriend so why would it bother him?)

Josh was pretty cute sometimes and I enjoyed when Cam and Josh were together. Their interactions reminded me of a crush I had this year (2016 lol) (I have his number too. *cue blush*)

It took me a while to read/listen to this because my audio app was being weird. It wasn't because I didn't like the story at all.

I'm happy that the people who got together got together (trying not to spoil but I think I already did. Whoops.) because it shows you need to let go of things that will just hurt you and move on to better, happier beginnings.

Thank you for this free audio in exchange for an honest review.

Tracy Trixy says

This was a cute little story that I finished fairly quickly :)

Guy comes to town who you spent last summer with, this year he brings his girlfriend... So cue the best male friend into a pretend relationship and read the result!

Yamna Rashid says

Thank you to the author for a copy of this audio in exchange for an honest review

Just pretending was quite a change from the novels I have previously read this year. Since I haven't read a single YA book this year, it felt nice to read about teenagers again. This book is about Cami, who is nursing heartache after her neighbor, Nick, spent the last summer with her then moved on in the end, leaving her to feel she was the only one who had felt anything. When Cami finds Nick with a gf after the summer, her friend, Josh, suggests they pretend to be in a relationship to make Nick jealous. Cami expects Nick to want her back but finds herself, surprisingly, falling for her fake boyfriend. Now she is stuck in a rut, having to choose between a past crush and a new love.

Just pretending turned out to be a cute read and one that urged me to move on to the next part of the series.

Laura Reading says

This is the second Pretend or fake summer romance I have read this month.

It is not a concept I was familiar with before.

Oh of course there is always the idea to flirt to make someone notice you or experience a twinge of jealousy. To go for a full blown pretend relationship for several weeks or months - you know someone has to get hurt.

This is a cute coming of age romance about 16 year old kids sharing summer.

Cam had a crush on Nick last summer but when school started, he moved 5 hours away.

This year he has a new girlfriend and he's brought her along for the summer.

Cam has only spent one year at her new school and her best girl friends are away at camp for a few weeks.

Luckily she has a good friend Josh to fill her summer hours.

Will pretending to be a couple with Josh make Nick see what he is missing?

Will unexpected feelings develop between any of the teenagers?

Are each of them really the people they seem to be?

It is a fun, fast read perfect for a day in the hammock.

There are some typos, but the storyline is well written and makes the reader develop opinions about each of the kids.

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Aja: The Narcoleptic Ninja says

Okay since 3.5 isn't an option here I'm going to go ahead and say 3.

I really enjoyed this short story and I'm always a sucker for a good romance story. Always. Burkey is a talented writer and her story flowed really well so it was easy to start reading and not stop. The premise of the story was fun and cute too and definitely fit with the whole 16 year old high schooler thing. Josh and Cam were fun characters to read about and they felt genuine and relatable as well.

I did have an issue though, and that was Nick and Gina. Personally, I felt like they were a little bit of a cop out. Nick turned out to be a jerk who cheated on girls and lied to Cam's face and Gina turned out to be pretty shallow (though I adored having it pointed out that she only compliments people to fish for compliments in return!). Overall it made Cam's choice to start crushing on Josh really easy. I think it would have had a little more tension and conflict if she still really liked Nick, or if Gina turned out to be a total sweetie that she didn't want to hurt.

Still, this was a fun read and I enjoyed it and I am definitely looking forward to the next one!

Iva Kenaz says

This was a really cute book. If you like a fast-paced relaxing read, then this book is definitely the right choice.

Having been very much delved in memories of my teenage years recently, it came at the right time to me. I could identify with the character, her self doubts and low self esteem that eventually grows throughout the story. I thought it was a perfect length and a good base to build upon. It was the first book in a series so I look forward to read the next one.

And thank you to the author that her book is available for free on Amazon!

?Joycedale? says

Short and sweet story but quite a few typos.

Myst says

Great short story. It is slightly predictable in who she ended up with, but still a fun read! The only thing I would've changed was the length of the story.

Abbie says

Actual rating - 3.5

This was a cute, quick read.

I liked Cam, and I liked Josh. I really didn't like Nick though! He was a jerk, and I really didn't know what Cam seen in him.

Overall, A good novella.

Lesley says

This was a really fun read. Loved the characters of Josh and Cam and how their relationship is so relatable.

So the book starts with Cam finding out that her crush from the summer before Nick is back in town with his new girlfriend. She and one of her best friends, Josh, come up with a plan to pretend to be dating in order to make Nick jealous and leave his girlfriend. During the summer, Cam begins to have feelings for Josh, but brushes them off because they are such good friends. Towards the end of the summer, Cam finds out that Nick cheated on his previous girlfriend. Nick informs her that he broke up with Gina when she left to go home for the remaining few weeks of summer.

After an argument between Cam and Josh while hanging out with Nick, Josh storms out and Nick admits that he had a crush on Cam the previous summer, then kisses her. To Cam the kiss feels all wrong and she realizes that she has true feelings for Josh. When she goes to tell Josh, he confesses that he has had a crush on her for a very long time and their fake relationship turns into a real one.....

**** Not very good at writing reviews and summaries so sorry if this is hard to follow****

Francisco Angulo says

A refreshing read!

It reads very well. It is short and that's good. Good perfumes come in small packages.

A special writer!

I recommend it!

C.P. Cabaniss says

I really don't understand why girls pretend to date someone just to make another guy jealous. It's never made sense to me. If he's with someone else then getting him to like you isn't a good thing. It just shows that you don't value yourself enough to be with someone who liked you all along.

With all of that said, this was a fairly cute story. I appreciated the fact that Cam was able to start seeing Nick for what he was. Sure she liked him a year ago, but things change. At first her wanting to make him like her was rather offputting, but as she started to pay attention to who he was and what she felt I started to like her more.

I also really enjoyed Josh. He was sweet. I think he made some mistakes along the way, but they're young. We all make mistakes. He and Cam were really cute together throughout the story. Overall it was an enjoyable read.

Sarah says

(Source: Downloaded for free from Amazon.co.uk)

This was a sweet YA romance novella, and the kisses were hot!

I have to say that people 'pretend dating' is something that I really hate. Things always go wrong, and someone always ends up getting hurt, and generally I just do not like it. That being said though, this story was really sweet! I really liked Cam and Josh, and I was desperately hoping that they could work things out and get together! And the kisses! So steamy! If Cam had still been after Nick after those kisses she'd have been mad!

7.5 out of 10.

Fiona says

Actual Rating: 3.5 stars

Just Pretending, the first novella was about Cam, a girl who has had a crush on Nick for over a year because they spent a whole summer together hanging out. But then, he's back with his girlfriend and Josh, Cam's friend, makes a plan to get the two together.

Okay so for the characters.. Cam irritated and annoyed me. She was childish, but it made the story so cute. Idk if that's a good thing or a bad thing. Lol!

I liked Josh. He was so freaking sweet. Ugh, I couldn't get enough of him. *O*

And Nick? Ugh. *Whatever.*

Overall, the story was really entertaining, cute and nice to read just to pass time. :)

Shammi says

so its just a quick read, a short story..

The kind of read you'll not be exhausted of.. I love the story just as i love the characters.. It's very realistic for a young love.. It made me miss the feeling of being secretly in love with someone and wishes to make him feel the same way for me too.. Way back when i was young and so is my heart, I could still remember that my EVERY SUMMER HAS A STORY.. that im always looking forward for summer.. Only, it lacks conflict.. Not bad for a first novella... 4 stars all in all.. Congratulations miss Dana and hope to hear more books from you :)
