



Faking It

Christine d'Abo

Download now

Read Online →

Faking It

Christine d'Abo

Faking It Christine d'Abo

Max Tremblay should be happy. His night club, Frantic, is one of the most popular gay clubs in Toronto, and his childhood refuge, Ringside Gym, is well on the way to reopening. But when he finds yet another drunk in the alley beside the bar, Max isn't sure this is the life he truly wants.

Grady Barnes has it all. He's rich, famous, and wants for nothing. Well, nothing but a good relationship with his father. When he discovers that his father is going to force him into an arranged marriage, Grady has had enough. He tracks down Max, the man who got him to safety after a night of overindulgence, and makes him a proposal: pretend to be his fiancé for two weeks and he'll invest in Ringside Gym.

When the pair travel to Vancouver to attend a family wedding, the flames of their mutual attraction ignite, and they discover that the only difference between pretend and reality is how well they can fake it.

Faking It Details

Date : Published May 8th 2017 by Riptide Publishing

ISBN : 9781626495531

Author : Christine d'Abo

Format : Paperback 238 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary

 [Download Faking It ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Faking It ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Faking It Christine d'Abo

From Reader Review Faking It for online ebook

Julie (*Happily Ever Chapter*) says

Max and Grady first meet when Max is taking out the trash at the club he owns, and he sees Grady getting sick out by the dumpster. Max doesn't feel right leaving him there, so he tries to find out if he is there with other people. When he realizes Grady is alone, he calls him a cab and takes him back to his hotel. Grady shows up at Max's bar again the next day to apologize for his behavior and thank Max for making sure he got home safe and not taking advantage of him. While he is there Max finally realizes that Grady is celebrity who comes from a very wealthy family. Grady later finds out from his brother that his father wants him to marry a man that he's never met to help him secure a good business deal. Grady and his brother hatch a plan that he get a fake fiance, that way he won't have to be forced into a marriage that he doesn't want. Grady decides that he wants to ask Max because he is a trustworthy person because he didn't take advantage of him when "it would have been easy to" (when he was drunk), and he doesn't know any other trustworthy people. Max doesn't feel comfortable at all with the plan but decides to agree when he sees firsthand how difficult Grady's life can be. They have a lot of chemistry but try to remind themselves that the arrangement is supposed to be pretend, but the lines start to blur and soon it doesn't feel so fake anymore.

Faking It is the second book in the Ringside Romance series, but can be read as a stand alone. The couple from the first book does make appearances, but knowing their story isn't necessary to enjoy this book. I love romance series because it's an added bonus to see another look into how that couple is doing. I am a huge sucker for fake relationships, so I had a feeling I was going to love this one. I always find them to be so much fun.

I ended up really enjoying both of the MCs. Grady comes from a wealthy background, but has a shaky relationship with his father. His father tries to control and watch over his every move, and Grady always rebels against that. Max is a very thoughtful person, and is cool under pressure... most of the time. Max also has some father issues, but no where near as bad as Max's relationship with his father. These two has a lot of chemistry, which led to some steamy scenes but I didn't find them to be overly descriptive or too much.

I am definitely looking forward to the next book in the series!

*I received an ARC of this title via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own. *

~Kristin~ says

~3 Stars~

I know I'm in the minority here, I think all of my GR friends felt differently. I did really enjoyed the first book in this series Working It, so much so, it's fair to say I was even excitedly anticipating this book. When it hit my kindle I dove right in, unfortunately almost from the start something was off. I'm not sure if it was the fake boyfriend trope that wasn't working for me, I just couldn't get into it.

I think what really left me cold was the Blake family dynamics, they were all so cold, callous and

calculating, I know Lincoln was set up to be the supportive link in the family, but I felt he was a self serving prick most of the time.

Obviously the father was horrendous, but I was bored by all the threats and over the top drama.

Don't even get me started on the fact that in one week

~ **Bam** ~

End the end, it was ok...I just felt a bit

Hollis says

What the hell did you bring to a wedding for a couple you didn't know while pretending to be a new fiancé?

FAKING IT started out so strong that it hurts me to rate this so low. Fake boyfriend/girlfriend/fiancé tropes are some of my favourites. And I really liked how everything was panning out between Max and Grady. I wasn't sold on some of the supporting cast but I felt the chemistry and connection was really strong between the leads even if some of the transitions in the early scenes seemed a little awkward. But it was easy to get swept up in the couple even when the outside drama became a bit of an annoyance. However it wasn't until the last 40-45% where I checked out.

"Fighting him will only make things more painful. You know that."

"I'm not fighting him. I'm fighting for myself."

As much as I liked the epilogue, I felt the lead-in to the ending was very slapdash and rough and I really couldn't buy the quick fix to the drama that had plagued Grady for the entirety of the book. And unfortunately the big break-up felt.. I don't know, too manufactured to be believed, which is ironic in a way I don't want to spoil. I do quite like this main core of characters, Grady now being added to the Zack, Nolan and Max crew, so I'm still willing to read on. The lack of chemistry in book one wasn't the issue here but book one felt more well-rounded and complete than this one. Maybe book three will be the winner? Third time's the charm.

2.75 "now I know why women watch gay porn, that was fucking hot" stars

Aleksandra says

3.5 stars

Faking It is the second novel in *Ringside Romance* series and despite 3 star rating **I did like it!** I simply liked it less than the first book thus half a star less.

This novel is heavily leaning on tropes I dislike with burning passion. In particular, emotionally abusive

controlling father, arranged marriage (technically just a threat of it but still), generally the whole - "circumstances are piling up against the main couple". These situations were challenged so it's all good in that sense, I just can't stand them on principal. I'm more of "overcoming internal conflicts to get a HEA" than external ones.

It's not a book fault that these tropes aren't my thing. **The writing is solid, two main characters have distinct voices** through 3rd person pov, **the novel is well-balanced**, there were enough cute fluffy endearing moments to make up for the ones I didn't like. Of course, Zack and Nolan cameos were much appreciated.

Grady and Max are both well-crafted realistic protagonists. I can't say I've been deeply emotionally attached to them but **I've been invested in their romance and happiness**. It hurt so much to see people walk over Grady (I do realize it's partially his fault and the important thing that Grady himself realized it and **Grady's character development was quite impressive, if only rushed** in the end).

I liked the relationship Max had with his parents. Heart-warming and yet not overly mushy and unrealistic.

The main theme of this review is the word realistic. Which is amusing because the story about a gay bar owner and gay rich young man, that takes place in Canada, is so far beyond my personal experience, but **the story rings true**.

The dynamics between Grady and his father have been unhealthy, to put it mildly. I wanted to scream at Theo (father) for the majority of the book. I did like how the author wrapped up this sub plot though.

One of the most surprising moments was my 180 turn regarding **Justin**. I was very suspicious of him and he pissed me off almost as much as our darling Theo, but Justin has good heart and a good deal of reasons for his actions, which doesn't justify them but at least gives a perspective.

Let me say how *pumped* I am for *Losing It* (book4) starring Justin as one of the main characters. He will get his HEA!! I can't wait to read it.

(This situation reminds me a lot of Caleb Stone thing. How much I disliked him in *Sunset Park* and how he has become my favorite character in the whole series after *First and First* novel.)

All in all, **Faking It is worth reading**, especially if you're into fake dating/fake engagement, rich people romance, opposites attract tropes. Despite my personal distaste, I had quite a fun reading experience and I'm jumping right into *Working It*.

Natasha says

I received an arc from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

I will say this falls into what you'd expect from a fake dating romance. I did really enjoy it, and I really liked the couple in this story, and they did have a good amount of chemistry. It wasn't exactly anything stand out or special but for what it was, I did like it. Something that I felt was a little weird though that despite Max saying he won't have sex with Grady because he felt it'd be borderline prostitution, he initiated sex the first night they were at Grady's father's house. That felt like it came out of nowhere. I haven't read the first book, but I might. I did like the authors writing style.

Natalie says

4.5 really, because despite some flaws, it was an engaging romance (maybe pun intended?). I liked it more than book one, I think, although I read that at a bad time. Fake engagement tropes aren't a favorite of mine but I liked the way this was done more than others I've read. I liked the changing POV's, although Grady could have been used more depth, since he needed the most change in his thought processes. I loved Max and his Mr. Fix-it personality, immediately wanting to help Grady when he sensed the trouble Grady had with Justin and his father. Grady was pretty much a spoiled brat at 28, thinking his rebellions were the same as being his own man.

I enjoyed it up until the altercation at the party, with Kevin. It went sideways for a while, although I was happy with Max confronting Grady and leaving. Grady needed that scene to make his efforts to change feel genuine. I couldn't ever quite figure out how Justin was supposed to be portrayed, though. He was portrayed as nothing but a yes-man and lackey for Grady's dad, yet later he supposedly had wanted to care for Grady? He did a lousy job of it! The story didn't end with a solid HEA but the same way that Zack and Nolan are shown moving forward, I'm sure we'll see more of the same for Grady and Max. There was at least a little boxing action at the end too, so the series name is more than just the name of a gym. I guess Eli is next up, who hasn't appeared anywhere before, except mentioned in passing. Recommended as a light romance with a well handled, familiar trope.

Amanda says

3.5 stars

This is my first Christine d'Abo and I didn't read the previous book, but this works very well as a standalone. We have a Mr. Nice Guy, Max who is a bar owner and also a silent partner of a gym. Next come Mr. Trust Fund Baby/Reality Star, Grady. These two men are so different yet they just click seamlessly.

Grady is in need of a fake fiance to avoid an arrange marriage by his tyrannical father. I find the way he came up with such a scheme is totally unfathomable especially with Max. They hardly know each other and now he is proposing such impossible task and what is even more unbelievable is Max agreeing to it.

Max is too kind in this story. I can see he long for a connection with someone special and he thinks Grady is it.

Faking It is quite a humorous light romance with some minor drama due to Grady's immaturity. He is the classic example of a rich kid with first world problem. I find it hard to sympathize with his ordeal, wishing he will grow up already. Their relationship development lacks romance, basically started off with insta-lust and getting off. But ultimately, I think he and Max is a good match and wanted to see how will they pull off their act.

Tamika♥RBF MOOD♥ says

I read this book in sitting. Faking can be read as a standalone in my opinion. Max was in book one, but he stands on an island by himself in this book. He has everything he could ever want, on second thought he

knows he's missing that other half. Grady has everything one can ever want or need. Its all material things of course, he's by himself on an island by his self. His island deals with self rumination is the name of the game for him. Both guys have problems with their father for different reasons. They need a hug. I'm just saying. Trying to escape from under his father's hand Grady escapes to Toronto trying to keep a low profile, but fails miserably when it leads him to Max's bar Frantic.

The chance meeting starts a slippery slope for the two. This is a opposites attraction trope. Grady is a rich beyond means, and never told no of any kind. Max is a regular guy who lends a helping hand just to about anyone. Grady finds how what his father has in store from him, and makes Max an offer. Max really doesn't need to take the offer, but its something about Grady that calls to him. Its definitely not all physical. I think they are able to get under each other skins means something to both. No one hasn't even effect each other quite like the other. I liked how Max is so resistant to Grady, but the minute someone oversteps their boundaries he's this big protective teddy bear. The same with Grady. He realizes Max is something so much more.

They don't talk much to learn things about one another. They really don't have the time to properly get to know one another, but the steamy side of the relationship is A-OK. Max & Grady mesh well together in the bedroom. It was hot and steamy at times. When it wasn't that they were trying to steer things together. But before we know it both guys think that something is happening here, and aren't ready for it to be real. It takes a while for them to realize what they want. By the end of the story, I'm happy where they are at.

This was a good story. Can't wait to read Eli's book! I even despised Justin and wouldn't mind seeing him with someone. Not Eli though. This was a good addition to the series. Even got to see Zack & Nolan as well. Can't wait for more!

~☆~Dœni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

What happens when a buff nightclub owner and a spoiled rich boy cum reality TV star meet? One of them pukes in an alleyway, and the other takes him home.

But then they meet AGAIN when rich boy Grady comes to apologize and thank Max for taking him back to his hotel room and not robbing him blind or taking advantage; that time, sparks fly.

Grady trusts Max implicitly and asks him to pretend to be his fiancé at his brother's wedding. In exchange, Grady promises to invest in Max, Zack, and Nolan's boxing gym. Zack and Nolan are the MCs from book 1, and while they are present in this story, *Faking It* CAN be read as a standalone.

Fake fiancé trope, oh how I love thee!

Max tries to keep Grady at an emotional distance, but when the clothes come off, it's all fair in love and sex.

I really liked both MCs (the story is written from a dual, third-person POV, which is by far my favorite narrative style), particularly Max, and definitely felt the spark between them (the steamy scenes are not overly descriptive but sexy nonetheless).

Neither man gets on well with his father, but Grady has it much, much worse. Grady's father is a controlling dictator who manipulates Grady and treats him like a pawn in his business dealings.

Like in book 1, the ending is a strong HFN. **Not enough time passes between the last chapter and the epilogue to seal a HEA, but it left me feeling hopeful for Max and Grady.**

The setup for book 3 is subtle; if I'm guessing correctly, then we haven't met one of the MCs, and the other was not a likeable secondary character in this story. I'm so in!

Ele says

4.25 stars

I've come to really like this series! Christine d'Abo is a relatively new author to me, but I really click with her writing. The characters are flawed but very well-sketched, the narrative is smooth, sprinkled with a nice dose of dry, sarcastic humour, and the romance is always present.

I'm not a big fan of the "**fake boyfriend**" trope, but it was almost perfectly executed here. Grady needs a pretend fiancée as his date to his brother's wedding, and Max could use some financial help with the reopening of Ringside Gym. Also, Max was looking for a new adventure, so this proposal came at the right time.

This is also an opposites attract story. Grady is a spoiled, rich brat, but what made him different (thus likeable) to me, was that he acknowledged his fuck ups, but was just too weak at the time to not relapse. And let's face it, his teenage years were a mess, and his father treated him like a complete asshole. Max on the other hand, was the epitome of responsibility. He's grounded and independent, he's a peacemaker that always wants to take care of people.

What I loved, though, is that by the end of the story **both characters had grown up so much**. Grady finally got his shit together and faced head on some new challenges. And Max understood that it's ok to let go sometimes and put yourself first. **Great character development** here.

I loved Max and Grady's chemistry. It's very palpable throughout the story. The steamy scenes are plenty, although a bit muted. I absolutely loved how possessive/jealous/growly both MCs were for each other.

The story stretches over the course of a few weeks, so this is definitely a bit **insta-lovey**, which is my only niggle. That's a personal preference, though.

The realistic portrayal of family relationships, flawed and messed up, but with potential for improvement is another thing that I liked a lot.

I have a couple of theories about who the next couple might be but I can't be sure. My money is on Eli, but I'm sensing that Justin could get a story too.

Recommended!

Vanessa theJeepDiva says

The blurb had me a little worried. I enjoyed the d'Abo's first Ringside Romance book so I really wanted to continue the series. The things that had me thinking I may not enjoy this were the whole arranged marriage and needing a fake fiancé. There are so many different reasons a father would want to arrange a marriage for his son. I had a guess at what this father's might be and sadly I've read it too many times. Thankfully that is not what is going on here and Max and Grady managed this whole not wanting to work thing that really worked for them and this book.

Far too many people in Grady's life seem to think that he needs managing. At twenty-eight years old he is doing this floundering party boy thing that isn't really progressing in any positive manner. His character doesn't come off as irresponsible immature. He is to a certain degree immature and in need of finally growing up. He's just not sure what to do with his life. That's how he finds himself in Toronto at a hot gay nightclub looking for his next hookup. What he finds is the back alley and a knight in shining armor.

Max doesn't know it but he's stuck in a rut. He has worked so hard for so long making sure that Frantic is successful and profitable that he has left little time for himself. As a silent partner in getting Ringside Gym back up and running he given more of what little time he has. Helping drunks in the alley behind his bar is just being a decent human. After making sure Grady was safe in his hotel room he never thought he'd see him again, much less under the circumstances of trip to Vancouver posing as his fiancé.

Under most circumstances Grady could easily be one of those characters that you just feel sorry for. I never felt sorry for him. A lot of Grady's drama is brought on by himself. Some of it is from people having grown tired of his attitude. There is a huge factor (Father) that I didn't really get but it also explains so much. Max's treatment of Grady had all the feels though. Grady being on the receiving end of true generous kindness and loving for the first time was just heart melting.

Feel free to purchase Faking It knowing it will work as a stand-alone. Nolan and Zach have very little page time. The page time they do have they are simply secondary characters, friends of Max's. The gym that ties this series together is simply that within these pages.

Mirjana **DTR - Down to Read**** says**

*****4.5 Stars*****

"What are you doing to me?"

"What people should have been doing for years. Showing you that you're worth it."

"Worth what?"

"Everything."

I LOVED THIS!!

This book was everything I love about the fake relationship trope...and without any of the unnecessary drama. WIN!

Grady and Max were fantastic together!

Their relationship may have been a lie for Grady's father, but what Grady and Max didn't do was lie to each other. There were easily about a dozen scenarios where the author could have thrown in some formulaic drama that comes with writing about a fake relationship...but NOPE...none of that here!

Max and Grady were a team...right from the beginning. And even though sex wasn't part of the initial agreement, there was no way that their chemistry could be denied.

Everything about the evolution of their relationship felt natural. It was clear early on that these two fit and complimented each other perfectly. Because most of this takes place over a couple of weeks, it could feel a little insta...but it didn't feel that way to me. Maybe it's because Max and Grady were just so effortless together from the very beginning that their relationship felt inevitable...I was rooting for them from the first pukey interaction!

I'm curious where Christine d'Abo is going next with this series. Given what information we're provided in the epilogue, I have a pretty good idea.....but no matter who it is, I know I'll be reading it!

****ARC courtesy of publisher, via Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review****

Rohit says

DNF@35%

Damn. That was one bad investment. I should have heeded to the warning bells when phrases like "the smell of aroused male" and "male musk" were being used in semi-private situations. I should've. But I didn't.

Then came a Serena.

I HATE IT when a -supposedly virtuous and too good to be marrying into a fucked up family- woman starts harping on about women and gay porn statistics the moment she sees two guys just barely touch their lips. Barely. Height of awkward and immaturity. Why did you have to include that?

Then came the too-easy-too-soon sex. With one of the characters a believer of emotional connection and stuff. So nope!nope!nope!

Fabi says

Faking It is pure, unadulterated romance. Two boys meet, decide to become (*fake*) fiancés, and live HEA.

screeech stop, wait, what?

FAKE fiancés?

The Max we met in Working It is much too level headed to do something so bizarre. Isn't he?

Apparently not when it comes to rich boy, semi-celeb Grady.

I loved it. I loved getting to know both of these men. Loved watching them fall for each other. It's a low angst, engaging story. It never slowed down or faltered. Although the characters from the previous book appear, this one can be read as a stand alone since it focuses solely on the new relationship between Max and Grady. I'm impressed with Christine d'Abo's writing.

Review ARC graciously provided by Riptide Publishing via NetGalley

? Todd says

While **I love a good fake engagement story**, this one had **some pluses and minuses** for me.

On the plus side:

I absolutely loved both Max and Grady. Their banter and flirting was fun and definitely **kept me engaged.**

I loved Grady's **brother and sister-in-law**, too. They were his only true (*known*) allies against his controlling, vindictive, asshole "**Father.**" That man gave me the serious creeps.

The sexy bits. Hot. 'Nuff said.

On the minus side:

When it suited the story and Max was supposed to come across as more innocent, he was **supposedly not into hook-ups**, nearly at all. Then as soon as Max was supposed to be a sexy and confident Alpha-type, he was suddenly **no stranger to the hook-up**, having been with '*many*' men. Which is it?

Also, Max's ability to hold to **his convictions** in regards to not sleeping with Grady seemed to be **controlled only by which direction that the wind was blowing his dick that day.**

One minute he was all, "*Nope, never, not gonna happen (again),*" then on the very next page he's **balls deep in Grady** and groaning out "*Yes, yes, fuck yes!*"

It happened multiple times and I just didn't get it. Why even bother?

Another thing that threw me was where **the story line with Grady's 'handler', Justin** went, which left me simultaneously open-mouthed and scratching my head.

Then, lastly, when "**The Big Public Break-Up**" scene happened, I was utterly confused. I read the scene a couple of times and still thought, "*Dude, he just told you he LOVES you, for fuck sake, so where the hell is all of this really coming from?*"

That whole thing **felt forced and more than a little manufactured**, like Grady was doing it for show and would later explain to Max that it was all part of some bigger master plan he concocted to get around his hateful Father.

So yeah, while **I enjoyed it a lot**, I definitely **had a few issues** with the story to keep me from fully putting it into the 'love' column.

Overall, I'd rate this one at **around 3.5 stars** and am actually looking forward to reading **Eli's story**, where he reunites with his ex and long-lost son.

**** Note:** I haven't read book 1, but this one seemed fine as a standalone, although the boxing gym element in this story felt pretty irrelevant to this particular story line, unlike Max's ownership of the gay bar.

My ARC copy of the story was provided by the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for a fair, unbiased review.

See All My Latest Reads (Review Quick-Links)
