



Just for Show

Jae

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When Claire, an overachieving psychologist with OCD tendencies, hires Lana, an impulsive, out-of-work actress for a fake relationship, she figures the worst she'll have to endure are the messes Lana leaves around. It's only for a few months anyway. And it's not as if she'll enjoy all those fake kisses and loving looks. Right?

A lesbian romance where role-playing has never been so irresistible.

Just for Show Details

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Author : Jae

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Genre : Romance, Lgbt, Gblt, Lesbian, Contemporary, Lesbian Romance, Lesbian Fiction, Contemporary Romance, Did Not Finish, Medical, Adult Fiction, Erotica

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From Reader Review Just for Show for online ebook

Jane Shambler says

It's Jae..... What more is there to say? Always a good story, always good characters and always a great read. Am I biased? I don't think so! I always tend to like Jae's writing. She is easy to read and allows you to connect with her characters.

The story is an old one that you've probably seen on the big screen. Someone needing a partner urgently and advertises for one. But what makes this one better than the rest is that there is a lot of chemistry between the two leads and it is really well written.

Honestly, it is a great read and I don't think you will be disappointed. Enjoy!

ARC provided by publisher via Ylva Publishing

Arien says

ARC received from YLVA for a fair review.

3.85 stars. It's Jae so of course it's good but the book has some issues I can't ignore.

First the good things. I think it's paced well and the plot is interesting (even though I've read about almost the exact same thing before, I don't recall the name of the book but it was about an author precisely in the same situation - a book on relationship advice, girlfriend left, book deal cannot be allowed to go wrong, there was an escort in place of actress though which Jae references in this book so she's self aware :D). Still, it's fun. Especially because Just for Show is far better written than the other one. I certainly wasn't bored.

Now to what went wrong. First of all the characters - I don't think I really got to know them that well even though it's not that short of a book. Their life goals and motivations largely stayed unexplained. There's a book that needs to be published at all costs because Claire always wanted to publish that type of book. That's it. Why does she go out of her way to that extent and why does it need to be published right now? No idea. She certainly doesn't need the money and she's not a professional author. Meanwhile Lana wants to act, she doesn't get roles because (view spoiler) That pretty much sums up what I got to know about her all throughout the book besides some of her hobbies I guess. I don't know... it's all presented in a superficial way to tick some boxes off.

Then there are the story issues. They are put in a situation, they clash and then in a classically opposites attract kinda way they get together. They do have some previous baggage relationship wise but it all felt inconsequential. Claire is not really that hung upon her previous failed relationship and Lana's baggage felt really manufactured. In fact many things in this book are too convenient. Lana's background was specifically written so she'd dislike Claire at first. There was nothing natural about it. Same with events in the book, a lot of them felt forced for drama and plot progression. To me the flow of it all didn't feel natural.

The sex scenes were ok'ish, I wasn't really invested in them because I didn't feel that much love between them. There certainly was sexual chemistry but otherwise it felt they got together because of circumstance

and not because of love. I'm not sure why they love each other besides the age old "opposites attract" or "opposites complete each other"...

Then there's that crosspromotion'y thingy going on with tons of characters from her previous works. I didn't count but as I now recall it was eight or nine characters from her other books? At one point there are five characters from her previous books in the same scene! Almost no new characters of note appeared in this book. It kinda felt like fan fiction at some points when all of these well established characters start to appear and instead of focusing on the story I'm sitting and recalling other books she's written and what they were about.

Overall an entertaining book with some flaws but worth a read nonetheless.

Tiff says

Jae, she does it every time. What does she do? She writes a damn good book, that's what she does. Every single time I am just floored by the work she puts out. I loved her newest novel, Just for Show. Loved, loved, loved it. A classic romance that does everything perfectly!

Dr. Claire Renshaw has her life perfectly mapped out. she has a thriving career, her book is complete, she is next in line to take over the counseling practice that she works in and she has a gorgeous and successful fiancé. Life according to Claire is going splendidly. Well, that is until Abby, her soon to be wife, tells her its just not working anymore. I love you but I'm not in love with you anymore. Inset mega-sized dagger right into Claire's ego. So what would this relationship guru who needs to have her book published ASAP do? Well, hire a Hollywood actress to fill in of course.

Lana Henderson is a starving artist. She has had a well-paying acting gig in two years. Of course, during that time she has been recovering from a near-fatal car accident that has left her with mental and physical scars. Lana takes a chance on Claire's proposal, because how the hell else is she going to pay these ridiculous medical bills that just keep coming.

The premise of this story is not new. You have seen films with Hollywood A-listers and romance books galore that have had this same idea of a relationship for hire. Not new, but so very good. What is so great about this book is that the main characters are dynamic and adorable. Not to mention the chemistry between them is sizzling hot. Its a fun read and I adored my time with it! You can always count on Jae to give a quality book. Every. single. time.

lov2laf says

I enjoyed this more than Jae's other books of late. It ticks some boxes that are usually fun to read: ice queen, fake romance setup, opposites attract, slow burn. And thankfully it's absent of the late break up trope and instalove.

I particularly preferred Lana's character especially because she was straight forward and I liked seeing Lana and Claire share their thoughts and feelings. Strangely enough, that's not something we often see in our romance books. There were several cute moments in the story and I kept reading and wanted to find out how

it would all get resolved. Towards the end there's definitely an angsty vibe, first for them to get together and then how will they stay together?

Like many romances in this genre, at least one of the characters is very well off and model beautiful. Lana, at least, is a counter having imperfections and a little weight on her.

I wouldn't call this a perfect book but the read is a pleasant and solid romance. For me, Jae's last batch of books have a paint by numbers feel. This one, though, had just enough falling outside the lines to make it worthwhile.

3.85

Lexxi Kitty says

I received this book from Ylva Publishing for an honest review

An exciting event occurred last night – I glanced at my Kindle and saw a new Jae book sitting there (this isn't magic or unexpected, I had requested the book). And, as luck would time it, I'd just finished a different story right before I noticed. Naturally, though, I couldn't begin right then and there, for reasons, except I did and found it hard to pull myself away, as I really did need to go off and do something else at the time. Course I was unnecessarily teasing myself, since that 'something' was walk to a train station and commute, so my departure from the book was brief. I then proceeded to gobble 81% in almost one go (if you count 7 hours as one go; one go, is that actually a phrase or am I just randomly putting words together again?). But then needed to sleep. As previously noted, though, hard to stop reading.

Simple enough reason why it was difficult to pull the book from my hands – I really like both main characters - Claire Renshaw, psychologist, and Lana Henderson, struggling actress & barista. Both of whom are allowed their own point of views to be seen. Oh, and when I say I liked both main characters, I mean separately as their own people, and together. Though the two first meet under odd circumstances – at an audition. Lana was there thinking she was there for a film audition (though thought it odd she was the only one in the waiting area); Claire was there because her agent (literary) talked her into it. It wasn't a film audition, though, but an audition to be Claire's fake fiancée. But then, I'm off chronologically, as the reader already knows *why* Claire might need a fake fiancée. Since the book opens with the real one taking off.

Strangely enough, despite going out of their way (agent and Claire) to find a fake girlfriend for Claire, they came up with someone completely different than her norm. This is where I was going to slide in things like 'not super thin'; 'not a lawyer or the like'; and the like, but I got distracted and when I came back I lost the thread. Long and short – there's a certain cultural clash on obvious display in this book, and part of that, and part of why Lana is a struggling actress instead of a leading actress, is the part in which Lana isn't 'standard' actress thin, instead being curvy and comfortable in her larger than normal body. Bah, I keep getting distracted with scenes from the book flashing in my brain, messing up my ability to write.

I move to how I almost started this little write up – the game of connecting the dots. Or, more accurately,

connecting books to this one. Through side characters. But let's see if I can do that without just bluntly stating book titles.

I've mentioned the main characters, very briefly (read, learn for yourself, they good people), so something about the side characters now, as noted in that mini-paragraph above. The previously encountered via other stories side characters are almost entirely meet through Lana Henderson's side of things. I'm fumbling around in my brain, thinking hard, but I can't think of anyone on Lana's side who isn't a previously meet character (other than her mother, but never meet), and finally remember her step-sister, Avery. Interesting, thinking to myself, there's one character on Lana's side not previously meet; and one character one Claire's side previously meet. Right, so – Lana's mother, despite never actually appearing in the book, plays a somewhat important role in the book, as an example of someone addicted to self-help books, and as someone who pulled psychologists into Lana's orbit (and made her wish to avoid them as much as possible – see, more conflict, since that's Claire's life). Avery is actually seen, somewhat barely (well more than barely but near that), as Lana's boss at the coffee shop Lana works at (though they act more like sisters there than employee/employer). And then there are all those previously meet characters – not previously meet in this book, but in previously works.

Lana learned about the audition through her friend Jill, who in turn was informed of it by, I think, her friend Mercedes Soto. Jill and her girlfriend, Crash, pop up several times in the book. When some pictures are needed to be taken, Lana turns to her friend Michele to take them, being as she's a professional photographer. And Lana both eats at another friend's family restaurant, then later in a different meal, eats with that friend, Laleh, and her girlfriend Hope. I might be forgetting someone but I think I got every character who has previously appeared, at least those meet through Lana. Jill and Crash are from *Just Physical* (and other books, but that's the one they star in); Laleh and Hope are from *Heart Trouble*; and Michele is the Hollywood series character who normally doesn't get to do more than occasionally be mentioned or spotted, and is from *Departure from the Script* (Amanda, from that same book, is, as far as I recall, not seen or mentioned). (Somewhat strangely, Claire makes a joke in the book about maybe needing an actress for a job, then jokingly says Grace's name, despite Grace never being mentioned to Claire (Grace is mentioned as someone invited to a party that Lana can't go to, told to Lana without Claire present (Grace's Lauren was also mentioned in that same conversation (Grace and Lauren from *Damage Control*), as were Jordan and Emma from *Falling Hard*)).

On Claire's side of things, several side characters also wander throughout the book. That would include that literary agent, already mentioned (Mercedes Soto), both of Claire's parents are meet several times, as is her sister Stephanie. And ex-girlfriend Abby. And the various people from Claire's work like Renata and Vanessa. Oh, and that character previously meet? Barely in the book, is mentioned and is meet – the radio psychologist Dr. Christine Graham from *Midnight Couch* who interviews Claire. Though, as far as I could tell, there is no previous connection between Claire and Christine.

Well, I just spent way too much time playing connect the books. Pfft. Long and short – loved the scenery, images, characters, and story I encountered in this book. I had two specific problems with the book, but I worked past them. How to word it, hmms. First problem consists of a sequence of scenes that seemed forced and weirdly out of character – not that the action itself was, just how everything was being presented, as if the characters needed to go from here to there, so . . . they did. Wow this is vague. Less vague for those who have read the book – it's the scene that involves Claire and Lana going to the top of the hotel to drink – which weirdly seemed forced. The second problem I had involved how the book ended in longish sex. I watched as the percentages increased, as the book got closer and closer to 100% and continued reading what I didn't particularly want to read right then and there though knew there were those who would, feeling vaguely cheated, for reasons, then, finally, action moved to a few tiny moments out of the bedroom before

concluding. Funny thing to have a problem, of course, but, meh, was something I personally had a problem with since I wanted to spend more time with the two in the real part of their relationship.

((view spoiler))

Rating: 4.89

February 6 2018

Heinerway says

I agree with most reviews here. This is a wonderful story, warm and fluffy. And it happens that I like fake relationship stories. They are always fun.

As a bonus we have a few cameos. Jill and Crash from Just Physical, Lelah and Hope from Heart Trouble. Grace and Lauren from Damage Control are also mentioned.

With an ending with more umph or fireworks or whatever, I would have given easily five stars to this book.

MJS says

ARC received from YLVA in return for an honest review.

I don't think I've read a book by Jae that I haven't liked, and this one is no exception. I'm a bit of a sucker for the fake romance trope, so I liked the basis for the storyline. Both lead characters were also interesting and their chemistry was believable and fun. I liked that Jae's books give the characters time to get to know each other, thankfully there's no insta-love here. Kudos to Jae for also having a main character that's a normal woman who eats carbs, isn't a twig and doesn't hate herself for it.

The secondary characters aren't as fleshed out, although both Lana's sister and Claire's family added a bit of dimensionality to their backstories. Crash and Jill from Just Physical pop up a bit and other couples from Jae's previous stories get cameos or name dropped, (her Heart Stop/Falling Hard stories also form part of the Hollywood universe, although Jae calls them standalone books in her book listings), which is my only gripe, it bugs me when authors feel compelled to tie all of their books together.

Because this is a fake dating trope, I usually spend the whole book waiting for them to get found out, and this one was a bit overly complicated because they were keeping up different parts of the same lie, and at the end I was still wondering how they were going to explain to Claire's boss Lana's different career.

I also loved that there's no pointless melodrama, and that even though Claire's ex does feature, she's not an evil caricature, or a paragon, they're just women who weren't suited to each other. This is a nice, pretty charming love story, with believable characters, who aren't perfect, but end up being perfect for each other. Four stars.

Netty says

Now that's the kind of book that'll get most romance fans out of a reading funk, I really enjoyed that, had me glued to my iPad, both character's were very well explained in appearance which is always a plus for me, I loved that Lana was a bit overweight, made a change from the perfect body we always read about, fair enough Clair was perfect but she was a bit of an ice queen/bitch so I really liked her, this storyline has definatly been done time and time again but i still loved it, the sex was a little tame for my liking and it could have done with less of the silly thinking from both character's!

4.5 stars

ARC was given for an honest review.

MD says

I just love the " Fake Relationship" Trope, you add an Ice-Queen and that's it you have me.

I have been wanting to read this book for a while but I wanted it to be my 100th read of the year, so I had to wait.

Now the book: Is not insta-love, is more A well-developed romance, there were some sparks that's for sure, Claire is uptight but Lana little by little makes her loosing up a bit and see that sometimes adventures are cool and no everything have to be put on a calendar.

I know that there are many fake relationship books lately but this one is quite nice.

I would recommend for anyone who wants to read a good book.

Lex Kent says

4.5 Stars. This was my kind of book! That darn fake relationship storyline just gets me every time. I think I'm such a sucker for this premise because the author has to really work at the romance. These are not insta love stories, often the characters are opposites or even dislike each other. Authors have to build the chemistry and sexual tension up slowly to make it believable and that is exactly what Jae did here. Anyone who is not living under a rock, and reads lesfic, knows Jae is one of the top author talents out there. She did not disappoint with this book, and I easily recommend it to romance fans.

I'm going to skip a summary in this review. I don't want to ruin anything or be too spoilerish. I believe this is a book that should just be picked up and enjoyed. I do want to mention a few things though. There were a few points in this book, that I kind of sat back and said, "that part was really well written". Of course I think Jae always writes well, but this book stood out to me at times. The warmth in parts, the realism... this book is not perfect, but it made me feel at times that Jae was actually improving her craft. She's at the point in her career she doesn't need to, but I think this book was better written than some of her past few offerings.

The actual romance storyline, I really enjoyed. It built at such a lovely pace. The sexual tension, the chemistry, I absolutely believed all of it. There is some angst in this book, but it is not forced, it felt organic to the story. There is even an ex in this book, but shocker... she is not a crazy ex. It was actually a realistic ex storyline which is so rare in lesfic!

As others have mentioned, there are a few cameos from characters from other books. The secondary characters that showed up the most were Jill and Crash. I was really happy about that as I love the book *Just Physical* and actually think Jill may be one of my favorites of all of Jae's characters. There also was a new character, she was a sister of one of the mains and her job was a stand-up comedian. I actually wonder if Jae might try a book with her next. I liked her character and you don't see many romances with comedians.

If you are like me and enjoy the fake relationship storyline, absolutely get this book. If you are a fan of Jae's or just a romance fan, get this book. It was a joy to read such a good book and I can't wait to see what Jae writes next.

An ARC was given to me by YLVA, for a honest review.

Luce says

5 Stars

I rarely am able to finish a full length novel in one day. I did this one. Jae is so readable it was a breeze. A very enjoyable breeze at that.

This is not an unusual plot line - one person (usually wealthy) pays someone to pretend or actually be their girlfriend/fiancé/wife. I was surprised when I read that Jae was writing such a common plot. Not to worry, It's Jae.

Psychologist Claire hires an actress, Lana to pose as her fiancée because she is trying to get her book on how to have a successful relationship published. The problem, her longtime girlfriend dumps her at their engagement party. She fears no one would be interested in a book by someone who didn't have a successful relationship themselves. So Claire and Lana navigate convincing friends and family their relationship is real and the guilt of lying to them, living together especially when Claire has OCD tendencies and Lana does not and what to do when their mutual attraction grows. Highly recommend this book.

Alexis says

Two thumbs up!

When it comes to the fake relationship trope it seems to me writers either knock your socks off or make you wonder why you even picked up the book in the first place. Jae has definitely hit the nail on the proverbial head with this novel.

Although I really didn't like Claire in the beginning and was wondering if I would even want to continue reading about such a shallow, stuck-up control freak of a character, I eventually really began to like her as she started loosening up a little. Lana on the other hand had me wrapped around her finger as soon as she

was introduced.

Full of great dialogue, some very sweet moments and loads of sexual tension this is a great novel to read for those hopeless romantics among us!

Overall 4,5* rating.

Rosi says

In this book, almost from the beginning, you are waiting for the disaster to unfold. The situation has its logic, but there are so many factors that can throw everything away, which is a matter of time that everything falls apart. Meanwhile, as is also to be expected, Claire and Lana are discovering that not everything they are performing is fiction, overcoming their great differences in personal situation, family background and childhood. With all that you can think that the book can be predictable and uninteresting. But it's not like that, since being hooked from the beginning, you're always eager to read how the author will solve situations. For me, this has been a good book, with a good story, with a good development of the attraction between the two protagonists and with a good ending.

Gaby says

This is another fantastic book by Jae, a heart warming romance about a fake relationship between psychologist Claire Renshaw and barista/actress Lana Henderson. Dr. Renshaw is a successful couples therapist with a mild obsessive compulsive disorder and a big reputation at stake when her fiancée calls the engagement off. As an expert in relationships, a career changing book deal might fall through if her publisher realises that she's been dumped. Hiring an actress to play the role of her fiancée seems to be the perfect solution, at least in theory. But when Lana appears in Claire's life with her untidiness, her diet full of carbs and tendency to put her foot in her mouth, Claire starts second guessing her decision. Will they be able to fake their relationship? And what if it's not so pretend after all?

Lately there's been a few lesfic books on sham marriage or fake relationships with different degrees of success. 'Just for show' is one of the best (if not the best) I've read so far. As usual, Jae likes to deviate from the common stereotypes portraying Lana as a plus size woman proud to show her curves and happy to enjoy food. Jae tackles issues such as anxiety and OCD with tact and the rest with a healthy dose of humour. She exploits the absurd fake relationship situation with great skill.

"I want you to be my girlfriend." For a moment, all Lana could do was stare at her. Was this some kind of joke? Then the humor of the situation overcame her. "Shouldn't you at least buy me dinner first?"

The dialogues are witty, the chemistry is off the charts and the secondary characters are spot on. Jae is a master of the 'show not tell' in lesfic (no wonder she's authored a non-fiction book on the issue), the pace is perfect and the growing chemistry is believable. A pleasure to read.

As a bonus, readers can catch up with the lives of Jill and Crash from 'Just physical' and Lelah and Hope from 'Heart trouble' who make their appearance as secondary characters.

Overall, a very entertaining, well written, heart warming romance. Highly recommended. 5 stars.

This book is in my list of recommended books of the month:

<https://lezreviewbooks.wordpress.com/...>

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

See all my reviews at
www.lezreviewbooks.wordpress.com

Corporate Slave says

Oh Jae I feel so bad writing this review because I'm such a big fan! I was so excited to start this book, come on it's Jae!

Lately I've read a couple of amazing fake relationship books and unfortunately this comes the last on my list. I didn't connect with the characters that's for starters.

I also got so bored of the storyline where the ice queen always needs to be rich.. and falls in love with her opposite who's always suffering.

There was a good twist where you get to see some characters popping in from her previous books, that was my fav part of the story.
