



Beautiful Sinner

Sophie Jordan

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Locked in with the town bad boy . . .

Most women would be scared, but Gabriella's only worried about resisting Cruz Walsh, who's even hotter than he was back in high school. Cruz was wrongly accused of the high-profile crime for which he was imprisoned; Gabriella's desperate for the scoop that will get her career off the ground and get her out of Sweet Hill, where everyone still remembers her as "Flabby Gabby." Being stuck in a supply closet with Cruz is the perfect opportunity to land an interview. What Bri doesn't count on is Cruz taking "up-close and personal" to a whole new level.

If there's a silver lining to the hell Cruz went through, it's that losing his freedom put everything in perspective. Maybe starting over someplace new would be easier, but after years locked up, Cruz values his family—and his true friends—more than ever. So he's back home, facing the gossip, dodging reporters . . . and face-to-face with Gabriella Rossi. They've both changed: Bri wants a story and Cruz just wants her. Another thing he's learned? Don't let a good thing slip away.

Beautiful Sinner Details

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Author : Sophie Jordan

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From Reader Review Beautiful Sinner for online ebook

Stacee says

3.5 stars

I didn't realize that I had read the previous book in this series, so I went into this one a bit concerned that I might not like it. Thankfully, I was pleasantly surprised.

I liked Gabriella and Cruz. They're both so similar: they're loyal and genuinely good people. I loved that they both had feelings since high school and that the chemistry was still intact. There were a fair amount of other characters, but no one stole the show like Gabriella's Nana.

Plot wise, it was okay. The surrounding drama was a bit much for me, but I guess it was sort of understandable. I was amused by all of the times they were interrupted and while they did spend a lot of time together, I think I wanted more conversation.

Overall, it was a quick and enjoyable read with characters who were easy to root for. I'm definitely interested in the next story.

FYI: there is a scene of forced groping and gross douchebaggery.

Huge thanks to Avon Books for providing the arc free of charge

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

I've been hit and miss with this series. Some I enjoyed, others were okay. The fifth in Jordan's sexy prison based contemporary romance offers a compelling story of second chance love, small-town prejudices, and redemption. A young man is released from prison after evidence is found that exonerates him only to discover his small town doesn't care what the courts say. Throughout this series, Jordan has built vulnerable heroes and heroines who are forced to face their biggest fears in order to move forward. Not a bad trope though at times, like now, the journey is riddled with ridiculous stereotypical behavior from people 10+ years out of high school and a couple, who in my opinion, allows their bullying to go too far. We meet a man and a woman who fell for one another years ago and circumstances kept them apart. Now they have a second chance but again, their own issues block their way. The chemistry driven romance is strong but it had a hard time competing against the multitude of subplots. Especially the "reporter must lie to the man she loves to get story of a lifetime." Plus, the constant flashbacks and certain scenes left me hard-pressed to suspend my disbelief. Or anger. Body shaming, slut shaming, prison shaming, economic shaming...so much shaming. The last quarter or so was the strongest part which helped to amp up my interest and the speed. Unfortunately, by then I was ready for the end.

Cruz Walsh has been released from prison after serving seven years for a crime he didn't commit. But some people in town aren't ready or willing to welcome back with open arms. Except for Gabriella Rossi. That is if she can get past her own feelings of insecurity and the tiny problem that if she doesn't get an exclusive inside story soon, she will lose her job. In prison, Cruz learned the value of family and family. He wants a fresh start and wants Gabriella there by his side, but with all the lies, gossip, and general mayhem, this

beautiful sinner may not be able to keep the only good thing in his life.

Grade: D

Amanda says

4.5/5 ?

If you had asked me yesterday who was my favorite convict from Sophie Jordan's Devil Rock series, i would have said Reid Allister, but he just got replaced by Cruz Walsh ? This book was everything I expected from a Sophie Jordan novel and left me wanting to reread the others in the series.

Gabriella Rossi is a thirty-year-old news reporter who is currently back in her home town taking care of her grandmother. She hates being back in Sweet Hill. All it does is remind her of her failures, and bring up the horrible memories of being called "fatty Gabby". When she finds herself back in her old high school halls she isn't prepared to encounter the mean girls or bump into her teenage crush Cruz Walsh, the man wrongly accused of killing her cousin.

Cruz Walsh spent the last 7 years off his life in person for a crime he didn't commit. When he is found innocent and released he goes back home to Sweet Hill. He has a home and opens a gym to help keep kids like he was stay out of trouble. He was content with the way things were even though people still looked at him like a murderer. Then he finds himself locked in a closet with his teenage crush Gabriella and his world gets interesting.

Gabriella is self conscious of her plus size body but Cruz makes her feel beautiful and desirable. Cruz has been dreaming of her curves for so long he can't wait to lose himself in her. What started as the idea of a fling quickly becomes something more.

The sexual tension and connection between Gabriella and Cruz is intense. Even though the two don't actual have intercourse till almost the end of the book, things get hot and heavy on more than one occasion. Damn, Cruz can talk dirty to me anytime ?

Beautiful Sinner by Sophie Jordan was a fantastic convict romance novel. If you like a curvy leading lady and a dirty talking male, this one is for you !

"But with Cruz hovering at her back, his warm breath on her neck...she felt desired, wanted in a way she had never felt before."

*"So you have to realize that I'm going to ruin you for any other man. When we f*ck, Rossi, it's going to feel like the thing you need most in your life. Forget food or water. Me. Between your legs. You're going to need it like air to survive. It will never be as good with anyone else."*

Maria Rose says

The Devil's Rock series deals with inmates of the federal prison system or their family members on the outside, and is now on its fifth instalment. Each can be read as a standalone romance though there are connections between the characters across the different books. In the previous novel, Beautiful Lawman, Piper Walsh and Sheriff Hale Walters got their happy ending, but we also found out that Piper's brother Cruz was innocent of the crime for which he'd gone to jail. In Beautiful Sinner, Cruz is out of jail and trying to find his way in a community of people still wary of his innocence, when he meets up with Gabriella Rossi, home for what she hopes will be a brief stay. It's a second chance for a couple who secretly crushed on each other in high school and now have the opportunity to make their feelings into something real.

For more of this review please visit All About Romance: <https://allaboutromance.com/book-revi...>

A copy of this story was provided by the publisher via Edelweiss for review.

Sabrina says

NOW LIVE!

Amazon US * Amazon UK

Beautiful Sinner was my first book from Sophie Jordan, and my introduction to the Devil's Rock series. I seem to have a habit of jumping into series without reading them in order, but this blurb really caught my attention and couldn't wait to catch up with the series to read it. Which I'm happy I didn't because I really enjoyed this book.

Gabby and Cruz both have a past that still haunts them, Gabby's from her High School days and Cruz's from his being sentenced for a crime he didn't commit. Back in the town they grew up in they're looking for a chance to redeem themselves and move forward. And what better way to do that than together.

I loved the slow burn type of romance that Cruz and Gabby had, and it brought all the sexual tension to their story. There was so much to learn about them and it had me captivated and excited to dig deeper into their characters. There were some flashbacks to their High School days that I actually really enjoyed. I felt like the characters were very well developed and those extra parts from their past helped with that. And in the present I was rooting them on and sitting on the edge of my seat waiting for them to finally give in to the chemistry between them.

Overall, I found this book to be very enjoyable and it's one I would recommend. I didn't have a problem reading it before the previous books in the series so I'd say it could be read as a standalone. Though I do plan on going back and reading more of this author since I liked this book so much.

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

Maida says

Wow! I flew through this book. It's that engaging. I was sick with cold and flu when I began reading this, and I actually felt better by the time I finished.

I grin as I think of how I want to describe Beautiful Sinner: dirty but sweet. ? Cruz, with his dirty talk, increased my fever in a good way. The sexytimes are ?????. Gabriella, sweet Bri, blossomed with his love. She accepted who she is and found her place in her hometown.

These two had so much going against them. He's the ex-con who was exonerated from the charge of murdering her cousin, but who continues to be a pariah in their small town. She's the girl bullied in high school who wants to leave if not for her grandmother, and eventually, Cruz. Their attraction is mutual and has been so for half their lives.

This book is rich with plot lines that advance the story to its satisfying ending. The involvement of family is strong and necessary to the development of Cruz and Gabriella's romance.

I really love this series. Sophie, please continue writing these because they're really good. Not only good, but healing, too.

Lover of Romance says

This review was originally posted on Addicted To RomanceI received this book for free from Avon in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Beautiful Sinner is the fifth in the Devil's Rock series and boy I have gotten a kick out of these books here. I have such a weakness for those bad boys that need love too...that underneath the tough exteriors have hearts of gold. And with each hero of this series, I fall in love all over again and it was like that with Beautiful Sinner. The Devil's Rock series centers around characters that are ex-cons and Sophie Jordan has handled these books very well so I was pretty excited to get an ARC copy of Beautiful Sinner, especially since it features the brother of the heroine from Beautiful Lawman ---Book four.

The story begins with a small town event, Gabriella is there to congratulate her niece, but then she finds herself locked in a closet with the man rumored to have been falsely accused of murdering her cousin...Cruz Walsh. Its rumored that the Walsh family is no good, but with the recent marriage of his sister to the local sheriff, Gabriella knows that there is more to the family than meets the eye. Even though she is nervous around Cruz, she has also had a crush on him for years. She knew him well in high school, and in the dark, they had the most sensual encounter, a kiss she has never forgotten nor the explosive chemistry. But she is torn between her feelings for Cruz and her job as a journalist to find out everything she can about him. But Cruz and Gabriella have always had a connection and now that they are in close proximity, nothing will stop them from embracing what they have both wanted for years.

I have to say that I truly had so much fun with these characters. I normally don't care too much for journalist/reporter characters, they just seem to be so selfish and not caring about who they hurt just for a story. But this was NOT the case with Gabriella and I found it so refreshing. Sophie Jordan had me breathing a sigh of relief with this book. Of course, we have a second chance romance here, and some secret identity.

Cruz at first doesn't realize that its Gabriella that he shared that passionate encounter with in High School. But the moment they kiss again in present, he realizes who she is and that she is the one that got him through the worst of it in prison. Cruz is such a strong and honorable hero. I love how devoted he is to his family, and how horrid people can be. The town really treats him horribly and after spending years in prison for a crime he didn't commit, he definitely didn't deserve such harsh treatment. But Gabriella really surprises you in this book because she stands up for Cruz even though her family will probably cast her out for it.

I've always wanted you, Gabriella Rossi. In the boathouse...I didn't know it was you, but I wanted it to be. In prison, in the dark of night, when I dreamed of the girl I kissed in the boathouse she didn't have a face...so I gave her yours.

Now even though I enjoyed the romance and the slow growth of intimacy between the characters, the reason my rating is so much lower is the pacing of the book. Being engaged in a story is one of the most fundamental elements in a story for me to enjoy it. Now I did read this pretty quickly, but honestly, I was hoping it would be more engaging. I didn't fully connect with the story like I really wanted to. I felt like I only got the "surface" outlook on the story instead of the full depth of it like I have come to expect from Sophie Jordan.

Overall I found Beautiful Sinner to be emotional, leave you with tears and smiles love story with endearing characters and a second chance romance that is deserved....A FUN TALE OF STRENGTH AND LOVE!

[foogallery id="24074"]

Alyssa says

OMG I read a book, alert the presses...

Review to come

Leigh Anne says

Favorite Quotes

"Shouldn't you be avoiding me? I'm the press, after all." She stopped before him. His knees were close. Just inches from her.

"I'm not that worried. What we're going to do doesn't involve a lot of talking. At least not the kind of words you can put in print. Pretty sure the censors wouldn't allow that."

...

"So you have to realize that I'm going to ruin you for any other man. When we fuck, Rossi, it's going to feel like the thing you need most in your life. Forget about food and water. Me. Between your legs. You're going to need it like air to survive. It will never be as good with anyone else."

The Story

Beautiful Sinner can be read as a standalone book, but I'd recommend reading Beautiful Lawman which follows Piper, the hero's younger sister. If you ever plan of reading Piper's story, I do believe Beautiful Sinner does spoil her story a bit. For seven years Cruz went to prison for a crime he never committed to protect his sister. When the real criminal confesses he is exonerated and remains in town despite everyone being so wary of him. He somehow gets stuck in the janitor's closet with Gabby who had a major crush on him in high school and who shared a secret kiss with him years ago. Cruz never knew who kissed him years ago, but once he finds out it was Gabby, he isn't letting her go even if she is related to the woman he confessed to killing seven years ago.

From the Bibliophile

This is the first ever book I requested from a publisher when I started blogging. Why? Because I'm a huge fan of the Devil's Rock series by Sophie Jordan. It's a hot and sexy small town series with men who've been incarcerated. And Beautiful Sinner didn't disappoint me. Cruz was as hot and male as I expected him to be. Once he figured out that Gabby was the mysterious girl who kissed him in high school, he pursues her relentlessly even though she is reluctant.

Gabby has always had self-esteem issues. She was made fun of in high school and always wanted to get away from her small town. She moved to be a reporter in Austin but her career never took off like she thought it would so she returns home to take care of her grandmother. Her insecurities came off as real and believable. She took steps to overcome them but being surrounded by people who knew the insecure girl she was made it harder for her to stand up for herself. I liked her growth throughout the book, coming to terms of who she was and learned to face her old fears and not runaway anymore.

There wasn't much plot outside of the romance or much to do with Gabby's job and needing to interview Cruz for the newspaper she works at. This wasn't a problem to me since it gave Gabby and Cruz plenty of steamy time together.

Thank you Avon Romance for providing me with a review copy. In no way does this influence my review.

Recommends To

Beautiful Sinner is great for fans of the Devil's Rock series but also new readers. It can be read as a standalone. This is great if you're in the mood for a sensual read and bad boy, misunderstood hero from the wrong sides of the tracks who chases after the heroine.

Book Info

Publish date: October 30, 2018

Series: Devil's Rock #5

Genre: contemporary romance

Buy: Amazon

TBR: Goodreads

Kindling Micky says

This has actually been my favourite of the Devil's Rock series which is strange considering the connection to Devil's Rock itself is very tenuous. The story has been the most enjoyable and the hero had none of the over alpha traits I struggled with in some of the previous characters.

Cruz was released some months ago after serving seven years for a wrongful conviction, not that their small town treats him as exonerated. Gabriella was out of his reach in high school and still was after Cruz's release and yet they were literally thrown together. Cruz and Gabriella were the most relatable couple in terms of their crisis of confidence, strengths and insecurities. The story was truly down to earth and I loved reading it.

The connection between this couple was palpable and yet it burned oh so slow. That made it even sweeter when they did stop pushing one another away. Considering Gabriella was fodder for bullies all her life, I really liked her and I enjoyed seeing her find her stride in speaking out and self belief.

This is a great read with heat that can be powered through in a day. Cruz in particular is memorable and worth your time.

I voluntarily read an early copy of this book.

Reviewed for Jo&IsaLoveBooks Blog.

Kristina Birch says

This book!!!!

I knew Cruz's story was going to be special, I just never imagined it would be this special! From the high school unrequited/requited love to the forced proximity to Gabriella finding herself to Cruz feeling worthy to learning to forgive and accept your family, every moment of this story was rich with emotion and depth. I fell in love with Sophie Jordan's historicals and then her New Adult Series but the Devil's Rock Series, and especially Beautiful Sinner, is her on a whole other level! Normally I end my reviews for series' books by saying, "I can't wait for the next one," but Beautiful Sinner was so damn satisfying, after steaming things up and then ripping my heart out, that I don't even need another book in the series!

Although, please feel free to keep giving us more of this fabulous series, Sophie!

Zeee (I Heart Romance & YA) says

Beautiful Sinner was one of my most anticipated reads this year. I absolutely love the Devil's Rock series and I was highly anticipating Cruz's own HEA when I read that last chapter in Beautiful Lawman.

Unfortunately, it didn't blow me away as I expected. Don't get me wrong, I still enjoyed it, but it wasn't as good as say, All Chained Up or Beautiful Lawman, which I absolutely adore!

I love the premise – Beautiful Sinner is an unrequited romance where the heroine had a crush on Cruz in high school. I also loved that the heroine is plus size – with plus size descriptions and not just a gratuitous plus size description. While she is on the smaller size of plus size, she still had hang-ups like us plus sized women have. I feel like Sophie Jordan did really well with this part.

What I didn't like about it was just that it felt a bit too rushed for me. The relationship development, the actual falling in love – was a tad bit too fast and I wanted more character development. The conflict in Beautiful Sinner is not as great as Beautiful Lawman and Fury on Fire so I was really disappointed with it. Since Cruz's family had a bad rep and he was in jail for murder, I expected more conflict and drama that came with it.

Overall, Beautiful Sinner was an enjoyable read and I highly recommend reading the Devil's Rock series. As a side note, I reread the whole series before reading Beautiful Sinner and I think it added to my enjoyment of the book.

This review first appeared on I Heart Romance & YA

Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says

3.5 STARS

Remembering him was easy. Forgetting less so.

I've been dying for Cruz's book ever since I read Beautiful Lawman. There's just something so deliciously angsty about a man that spends years in prison for a crime he didn't come back only to come back to the small town in which he's always been the boy from the wrong side of the tracks. Then the heroine is the cousin of the woman he was accused of murdering. Sign. Me. Up.

Admittedly Gabriella took a while for me to warm up to. She's not my particular cuppa when it comes to

heroines. She has deep rooted insecurities that date back to her high school years that even as an adult she hasn't been able to kick. She allows everyone to walk all over her, ranging from her sister, to her a-hole ex and current boss, to the random mean girls from her high school days that still act like they're sixteen. This wore on me at times.

But then somewhere around halfway through the book things took a turn for the better. Gabriella began to grow a spine and truly come into her own. She began to see her own appeal and not seek validation in any compliment thrown her way by Cruz.

Now Cruz.

pervy sigh

This man made the book for me.

So you have to realize that I'm going to ruin you for any other man. When we fuck, Rossi, it's going to feel like the thing you need most in your life. Forget about food and water. Me. Between your legs. You're going to need it like air to survive.

He was a sinful combination of intense, broody, and vulnerable. I absolutely adored him. My heart broke for what he endured to spare his sister and what he continues to endure in the small minded town he lives in. I loved his singleminded intent when it came to Gabriella. I also really enjoyed their connection that dates back to high school and a certain mysterious encounter.

He was the dream she never forgot.

The romance between them was a slow burn and perfectly paced. I really enjoyed watching Gabriella finally grow into a woman that can stand up for herself. And I especially loved the way she stood up for Cruz even when others didn't. There was something almost childishly innocent about her, and yet it worked for me.

And while the romance was a slow burn, the story certainly wasn't. I enjoyed the pacing and the way things unraveled even if I did find there to be a tad too much small town drama at times. Between the sister, the sister's ex, the mean girls from high school, Gabriella's self esteem issues, Cruz's reputation, and everything with Gabriella's boss, I couldn't help but feel all of it wasn't necessary. But it also didn't bother me to take away from the story, so I can't complain too much. Though I think the story would have still been solid enough with just half of those things.

Beautiful Sinner was a delicious slow burn romance of second chances and love against all odds. If you enjoy a good convict romance, this one will fit the bill quite nicely.

ARC courtesy of author in exchange for an honest review

Find me on:

Dísir says

Sophie Jordan's 'Devil's Rock' series is not an easy one to pin down. I've been mixed on these books, but keep on going back because I like the premise of how her protagonists pick themselves up again after life kicks them down. And what best demonstrates this spiral than time in prison, where things can only go up from then onwards?

'Beautiful Sinner' is just that: a wrongly-accused man who's free but who can't escape his past, paired with a woman who happens to want him...and something from him. There's little else, apart from a huge preoccupation with the heroine's body issues, and pages and pages trying to ramp up sexual tension before Cruz and Gabriella fall into bed which then later turns supposedly into love, so much so that the story could have been cut in half and still been told satisfactorily.

There's also an intensely N/A feel to it, if that's your thing: the flashbacks, the innumerable self-image issues that Gabriella faced, the inability to get past those teenage years with peripheral characters behaving like stereotypical mean-girls, the journey of self-discovery along the way...all of which had me turning the pages wondering if I'd fallen into high school or college drama without meaning to.

The baffling bit is a small bit of history over a decade ago that Cruz apparently can't forget—a make-out session with a mystery girl who did a Cinderella-move on him where she pretended to be someone else, before disappearing for a long time. Yet what tossed my suspension of disbelief out of the window however, was the painfully ridiculous notion that Cruz, at that time (even as a manwhore), couldn't tell the difference between girls in total darkness (they're not the same size!) as they made out. That this particular night was given so much weighty significance 12 years later left me incredulous (most people barely remember such things), because well, I'd thought that life experience and a myriad of memories in the intervening years would have long overshadowed that night that both apparently could never forget.

It's also hard to deal with a heroine so insecure about her own body and so downtrodden in so many ways, seeking validation in every small compliment she can get. Even harder yet to deal with is the way Gabriella had made Cruz out to be the one and only man who could persuade her with sex so different and so out-of-the-world from her other boyfriends. (It certainly helps that Cruz only wants her type of body) Body-image issues are hard to deal with—this much I acknowledge. But to read how it becomes all-consuming where a heroine can't believe anyone would want her, let alone a man with a smoking hot body pushes it too far even for me.

I think I was looking for more to this story but never quite got it, until way past the halfway mark when the conflict finally kicked in. It was only then when things got more interesting, though by which time, I was a little too ready to throw in the towel.

*ARC by the publisher via Netgalley

Tracy DeNeal says

Cruz and Gabriella

Worth the wait!

Well, I didn't actually wait that long. After reading BEAUTIFUL LAWMAN last week, I was excited to read Cruz' story. Lucky me! It released last night. I loved it!

Sophie Jordan has a way with words. She made me love Cruz in all his gruff selflessness and I couldn't wait to see him get his HEA. This book wasn't a one sided love fest. Ironically, it's told mostly from Gabriella's POV. She was amazing. Why? Because she is every insecure smart girl you ever met. She's not the homecoming queen. She's not the cheerleader. She's the girl with the books. The girl with the love handles and bulky sweaters and jerseys hiding her curves. She's the girl with the massive unrequited crush on the unattainable bad boy. Or so she thought.

In December, I'm going to read the rest of this series. I can't get enough of these folks.
