



## Bargaining with the Boss

*Jennifer Shirk*

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## **Bargaining with the Boss** Jennifer Shirk

Kinsley just wanted to have some fun for a change. Then she wakes up in a stranger's bed, with her bridesmaid dress on backward and a hazy memory of what happened at her friend's wedding. With a quick escape, she can get back to her predictable life. But then she meets her new boss—the same guy she'd woken up next to—and seeing him with a clear head doesn't make him any less attractive.

Mixing business with pleasure has never been Damon's style, and easily avoided, but the hotel he just bought comes with an unexpected perk—its manager. "Sensible" Kinsley today is as alluring as "impulsive" Kinsley was the night before, and she talks him into a deal. If she can turn around the hotel by the end of summer, he won't tear it down to put up more profitable condominiums.

Their plan is simple...until falling for each other becomes more than they bargained for.

## **Bargaining with the Boss Details**

Date : Published January 15th 2018 by Entangled: Bliss

ISBN :

Author : Jennifer Shirk

Format : Kindle Edition 220 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Humor, Funny, Contemporary Romance, Clean Romance

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# From Reader Review *Bargaining with the Boss* for online ebook

## Elaine says

This is a delightful, sweet, romantic comedy that is heart warming and leaves you smiling! Bridesmaid Kinsley decides to have some fun at the wedding reception but is unsure just what happened when she wakes up in the bed of the handsome man she'd been flirting with - so she make a run for it! Certain she's left that all behind her, she's shocked to discover that he is the new owner of what had been her family's hotel, the hotel she is the manager for! She'd already been devastated to discover her brother had sold the hotel but now she's determined to help it remain in business . . . if only she can convince her boss to give her the chance to do so!

Her boss is Damon. He's also working in his family business and is striving to prove his worth to his father - much to the chagrin of some other ambitious and manipulative board members. The last thing he needs is to be distracted from his goal to demolish the hotel, but Kinsley talks him into giving her a chance . . . Can he convince her to give him a chance with her heart?

The story has a lovely, easy-going pace. There are plenty of twists and turns to thwart the potential romance to keep the reader page turning. The coastal community has some brilliant secondary characters and I really enjoyed how Kinsley had they working together for their mutual good. A lovely story with an endearing conclusion to keep you smiling! I hadn't realised this was the start of a new series until I came to write my review but I'm very happy to discover that - I can't wait to read the sequels and hope they'll share some of the same characters.

I requested and received a copy of this novel, via NetGalley. This is my honest review after choosing to read it.

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## J.M. Powers says

The man cocked his head, his blue eyes dancing. "I hate to disappoint you, but I'm not Chris Hemsworth." ~ *Bargaining with the Boss*

This book had me hooked from the first paragraph. The story opens with Kinsley, a quirky woman, dressed in a puffy pink bridesmaid dress. Her best friend nudges her to make the way across the reception hall to introduce herself to a Chris Hemsworth look-alike. Kinsley, determined to step out of her "boring and predictable" persona, finally musters up the courage. Kinsley is far from boring, but her ex-fiancé really slammed on the brakes of her self-esteem eight months prior.

So...back to the reception. Hemsworth dude is named Damon. Their initial conversation is giggle-worthy. (As above quote implies.) They end up sharing several shots of tequila. Their banter is witty. (Plethora of giggles from this reader.) The morning after, Kinsley awakes in Damon's hotel room, dress and memory askew. She slams into full-blown panic mode. (She even shoves her fist in her mouth to keep from screaming. I loved this visual!)

A call from her brother Wade has her hiding in Damon's bathroom begging Wade to push an important meeting up an hour so she can ... well, at least change out of a disheveled bridesmaid dress. The dreaded

meeting is with the new owner of the family business—the hotel that has been her birthright until now. Hungover, confused and dismayed, she had to collect her wits and sit across the table with the damn owner. Great. Could things get worse?

In a word, YES.

Before she can attempt a sneaky getaway, Damon’s phone dings moments after she ends the call with her brother.

She peeks at the text on Damon’s phone—a request to push up the meeting up an hour.

Kinsley just woke up in her new boss’s bed.

What a great hook. I adore how Kinsley meets this and many more obstacles head on. She may waver at times, but she does not back down once. She tries everything possible to better the run-down hotel, and in the process, redeems her self-doubt.

Damon, on the other hand, does not have the confidence to follow through, and at times seems downright broken inside. His long-held guilt over his brother’s death is heartbreaking. His mind deems Kinsley remain on a professional basis, but his heart slowly realizes how he needs so much more from her.

Kinsley, an open soul with her heart on the proverbial sleeve, does her best to uphold the friendship agreement, which was hard when he keeps kissing her...and she keeps kissing him back.

While Kinsley was diligent in the quest to improve both herself and the hotel, Damon is stuck in the past. And right when Kinsley’s hopes are within reach—Damon basically disappears. Yeah, he had other business to tend to, but the way he distanced himself personally was disheartening to say the least. I wanted to hate him, but like Kinsley, I couldn’t.

This left me asking several questions. Why, when Kinsley finally trusts him, does he let her down? What the hell is Damon thinking? Will Damon allow the hotel to go to the highest bidder? How will Kinsley survive losing everything, including him? Does she even have him? Is it all a game to pull the hotel out from under her?

This book is full of twists, turns and, tribulations. It’s also filled with giggles, grit and growth. The author, Jennifer Shirk, does a wonderful job of storytelling. I don’t want to divulge any more about this book, because I want readers to enjoy the surprise ending yourself. But let me assure everyone, *Bargaining with the Boss* is well worth the read.

(Book provided by author)

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### **Kim Reads (Read Your Writes Book Reviews) says**

If you were to ask me to rate *Bargaining with the Boss* immediately after reading it, I would have given the book 3 stars. For me, that would have been an unfair rating. My low rating would have stemmed from the fact that I didn’t like the childishness of the heroine, Kinsley Roberts. However, part of that child-like behavior makes her pushy and determined. It’s that determination that drove the storyline.

After getting dumped by her fiance for being too “sensible”, Kinsley has returned to her hometown of Cape

Harmony to manage her family's hotel. The hotel means a lot to her and holds fun and cherished memories. Unfortunately, the hotel is in financial crisis and her brother is forced to sell it.

As a favor to a former college roommate and friend, Damon St. James agrees to have the St. James Corporation purchase the financially strapped hotel. The hotel is in desperate need of some TLC and a makeover; all of which requires cash that the hotel doesn't have and Damon's board may not approve. Even before meeting Damon, Kinsley is upset and believes the new owners plan on tearing down the hotel, thus making Damon public enemy number one. Over the course of a month, Damon and Kinsley work together and ultimately strike a deal that allows her the opportunity to make the hotel profitable. With the two already having an attraction to each other, their time together allows their personal relationship to grow. Things are looking good until Damon's business rival steps into the picture. When all seems lost, Damon finds a surprising ally and finally opens up about his past.

I wanted to read *Bargaining with the Boss* because I loved the sound of the plot. With my initial misgivings aside, Jennifer Shirk has written a nice story with fun and playful characters. I didn't expect to find myself laughing at some of the characters' antics. I also didn't expect to have my heart ache for the hero. I loved the ending, which had my heart doing little flips. If who I think is going to be the focus of the next book in the *It Happened One Night* series, I'm definitely looking forward to reading it.

\*\*Received a copy of the book courtesy of the author and I voluntarily reviewed it.\*\*

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### **Jules says**

Another dee-lightful, romantic, sweet tale!

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### **Katie W says**

I know I'm probably in the minority, but this is exactly one reason why I don't drink--I don't want to wake up, not knowing if I did something dumb or not, haha. Kinsley throws caution to the wind at a friend's wedding, trying to get over her ex fiance, and finds herself in that situation--what a nightmare, but sooo hilarious.

I don't think people should change to fit the ideal mold of someone else and that's what caused Kinsley's breakup. And it leaves her with a lack of self confidence. I loved watching her work to regain her identity and become who she truly is--a kind and genuine person. Of course, Damon is a part of that journey and he has his own demons to overcome and stand up to.

There is some snappy chemistry going on in this small, charming, old-fashioned town and it really makes me want to visit a place like this, where magic seems to drift through the air.

For my squeaky clean reading friends, you can obviously tell from the description that it isn't squeaky, but it is still clean and so much fun. I was laughing at times, blushing at others, and swooning throughout.

Content: mild-moderate romance (kissing, innuendo, talk of sex--nothing graphic at all); a handful of scattered mild-moderate language

\*I received a copy through Netgalley, which had no influence on my thoughts and opinions\*

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## **Kathy Jo says**

Kinsley has had a rough couple of years. With the passing of her father, her fiance calling off their wedding because she's too "sensible", and now her family's hotel being sold out from under her, she's in need of a little impulsive behavior.

So when the hottie from her friend's wedding reception starts chatting with her she decides to throw caution to the wind and allow him to buy her a drink or two. With a little liquid courage, she finds herself relaxing and letting loose. So what if she ends up kissing a perfect stranger... she's "impulsive" Kinsley tonight! And did I mention that he's a total hottie?!

But when she wakes up the next morning in a hotel room, with said hottie from the night before, "sensible" Kinsley makes an appearance and makes a mad dash to get the heck out of dodge! Little did she know that "impulsive" Kinsley from the night before had opened a big ol' can of worms!

From the moment Damon first saw Kinsley at the wedding reception, he was instantly drawn to her. There was a sadness in her eyes that he's all too familiar with. What's the harm in having a little fun? But they're both in for the shock of their lives. Kinsley meet Damon... your new boss. Damon meet Kinsley... your new General Manager for the hotel you just bought.

Business. It's not personal, It's business. But with Kinsley begging Damon for a chance to turn the hotel around and his dad and the board pushing Damon to sell, he's torn. He doesn't want to disappoint either one of them, but he knows eventually he will. Time. Damon just needs to buy a little time for Kinsley to work her magic and prove to his dad that he's not the failure he seems to think he is.

But when outside forces start rearing their ugly heads, trying to ruin the plans Damon has set in motion, he will have to choose. Business or his own happiness and love. Can he just walk away from Kinsley and move on with his life? Or will he stay and fight for happiness and love? He's never seen himself as a happily ever after kind of guy. But from the moment he laid eyes on Kinsley, he's never wanted something so bad in his life... even if he didn't see it at first.

\*dreamy sigh\*

What a great start to a fun new series! I have a feeling I know who the other books are going to be about and I can't wait! If you are looking for a book that can make you laugh out loud, let out little dreamy sighs and have you cheering for love to win then this book is definitely for you!

Have I mentioned before how much I love Ms. Shirk's books?! If not, then allow me to tell you now... I love her books! She's another one that can suck me in from the very beginning and I end up devouring her books in one sitting! And if you haven't guessed... I love it when that happens!

As for my casting... I have to admit I saw these two from the very beginning! I love them!

Content: Mild swearing and mild innuendo.

\*I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are solely my own.\*

**Nominated for a 2018 Swoony Award, vote here <http://bit.ly/2CWYB9U>**

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## **Stephanie says**

I received a copy of this title via NetGalley. It does not impact my review.

Whenever I'm in the mood for a sweet romance I know that Jennifer Shirk will deliver. I've enjoyed several of her books and *Bargaining with the Boss* is no exception.

I was a little nervous about this one at first based on the synopsis. If you are familiar with my reviews at all, you know that I don't like the graphic stuff in my romance books and I was a little afraid this one would have more content than Shirk's previous books. Thankfully, not everything is what it seems. Romance fans who prefer sweet and swoony to hot and heavy will definitely appreciate this one.

I liked both Kinsley and Damon. I liked how their working relationship was highlighted, along with the romance. I thought they worked really well together and I liked to see them become friends first instead of jumping straight into a relationship. I also liked Kinsley's brother, Wade, and wish we would've got a little more of him.

Overall, I enjoyed *Bargaining with the Boss*. I liked how sweet the romance was, the characters, and the humor. The only thing I didn't really like was that I thought the pace was a little on the slower side. It took me a little while to get into the story because I didn't feel like there was much happening. I'm looking forward to reading more from Shirk.

Overall Rating (out of 5): 3.5 Stars

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## **Lauren says**

\*3.5\*

After Sabine Durrant's *LIE WITH ME* I needed something sweet and fluffy, and I thought Jennifer Shirk's *BARGAINING WITH THE BOSS* would be the perfect choice. As it turns out, I was one hundred percent correct!

Throughout the entirety of *BARGAINING WITH THE BOSS* I was grinning from ear to ear! It's downright adorable.

Kinsley and Damon have a "rough" start - a start that I found endearing as well as hilarious. Goodness, I wouldn't have wanted to be in Kinsley's shoes. I felt that their start also helped establish who they were.

Kinsley has always been the good girl and a rule follower; however, after being told she's boring she tries to

bring some excitement to her life with a one-night fling. The result? It's an utter disaster. I found Kinsley to be charming and likable. I especially loved that she was a bookworm. Plus as someone who's been called boring before, I could definitely relate to her need to prove her haters wrong. Damon, on the other hand, is mischievous, charming, and kind-hearted. He always had the ability to get Kinsley going with his teasing, which I found hilarious.

I also loved the build-up between Kinsley and Damon. It felt natural and never rushed. Plus they had some great banter! Besides the romance I enjoyed the focus on families and friendships. Both Damon and Kinsley deal with some change, and I thought both situations brought about a lot of heart and development. The NJ beach setting was also a lot of fun.

Overall, Jennifer Shirk's BARGAINING WITH THE BOSS is simply adorable! I can't wait to see which couple is featured next. I'm hoping for Kinsley's brother and best friend!

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### **Kathy \* Bookworm Nation says**

This was a fun, lighthearted read.

Waking up in a strangers bed would be quite the shock. Finding out he is your new boss...yeah, not fun. Well, it's definitely fun for readers! Kinsley and Damon had great chemistry right from the start. Kind of an unconventional way to start a working relationship, but it did add some fun tension. I actually really enjoyed how their relationship unfolded. Kinsley and Damon were both likable characters. I loved the setting and thought the plot was fun. Overall, this was a fun escape. I look forward to more in this series!

#### Content

Romance: Clean, mild innuendo and kissing

Language: Mild

Violence: None

Religious: None

Series: Accidentally Yours, Book One

Source: Netgalley

**Nominated for a 2018 Swoony Award, vote here <http://bit.ly/2CWYB9U>**

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### **Ayekah says**

Fantastic read. Kinsley returns home to her family's hotel to find her brother has sold it after the death of her father. She's come back home to recover; herself and her past, leaving behind a lousy ex of 8 years. She's crushed her brother has sold the hotel. She also finds herself a bridesmaid at a friends wedding where she meets Damon. After a few drinks they leave and she wakes up the next morning, to her overwhelming dismay in his bed. Her dress is askew, her phone is buzzing and this stranger is sound asleep. The call is from her brother reminding her they're meeting the new owner of her family's beachside hotel for brunch.



She gets him to push it back an hour, hungover and she can't remember what exactly happened the night before. Getting to the restaurant for brunch she meets her brother and the man who will be her new boss. It's Damon, the man she spent the night with.

Damon's got his own issues. He's up against the "I don't measure up" in the eyes of his father. He's never had a relationship and doesn't want one, yet he's drawn to Kinsley. Kinsley is a breath of fresh air and she's a house on fire. I loved her and how great is it to have such a strong, resilient female lead!! I loved it. She could counter every negative that rolled out of Damon's yap-almost.

Things are going well until they hit a few bumps and a skid. Damon does Damon very well.

Kinsley is so open and just plain lovable. She's the perfect female lead to her counterpart.

Her friends in this small beachside town were great! Local color is always a plus! The imagery is so vivid I want to visit the place!

All in all this is a great story and a yes you should read this book! Jennifer always writes a great story.

This one tops my list.

4.5 stars

\*\*I voluntarily read an advanced copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own\*\*

arc from NetGalley and Entangled

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### **Bette Hansen says**

A wonderful sweet read that will touch your heart and leave you smiling. The writing and characters are excellent with a nice easy pace to the story. Perfect for a relaxing afternoon read.

Damon has spent years trying to prove himself to his father. Buying this hotel property is his latest attempt. All he needs to do is flip this property into condos for a huge profit. Doing so would be much easier if the very tempting Kinsley wouldn't keep trying to get him to change his mind. When they agree on a one month deal it should be easy for him to bide his time but when feelings begin to develop Damon knows he is in way over his head.

This is a book I highly recommend to everyone.

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### **Isha Coleman says**

For Kinsley her biggest mistake could turn out to be her greatest gift. Jennifer Shirk can lift a heart and impart wisdom as easily as she can spin a good yarn. Bargaining with the Boss is romantic comedy at it's sweetest. A naughty mistake lands responsible Kinsley in an awkward position. How can the night she can't completely remember, keep coming back to haunt her everyday life? Damon is the man who has a far more intimate knowledge of his employee than he ever thought possible, but can hardly resist wanting more. The surprises in life are what keeps the world interesting and Ms. Shirk takes that advice to heart with a hilariously heartwarming spin on falling in love.

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## **C.E. Hart says**

**Bargaining with the Boss**, by Jennifer Shirk, is so much fun. It's a quirky, laugh-out-loud, swoony type of love story.

If you asked Kinsley's ex-fiancé, he'd say she was "boring and predictable." After she becomes single again, she somehow dives headfirst into a never-ending pool of embarrassing situations in an attempt to break free from her predictability mold.

Damon (total stranger guy) disarms her with his drool-worthy, leading-man handsomeness. In turn, Kinsley manages to humiliate herself by blurting whatever comes to mind. In spite of the initial awkward meeting, they hit it off. Well—until morning, when tequila-infused Kinsley awakens in his hotel room. Yikes. Panic. A prompt getaway later, Kinsley manages to stumble directly into another all-but-predictable-or-boring-situation.

The buyer of her family hotel is in town. A-n-d...of course, it is no one else but...you guessed it—Damon. She had somehow spent the night with her new boss? Kinsley's emotions and self-confidence rise and dip like the ocean in a hurricane. Trying to keep afloat, she does everything imaginable to salvage the run-down hotel.

Kinsley is anything but boring, in my book, and emotionally wounded and guilt-ridden Damon certainly didn't bargain on falling for her.

I enjoyed the fast-paced third-person narration and witty dialogue. It allowed me to sit back and 'watch' as the characters entertained me. The story posed so many questions, and I quickly turned the pages on a mission for answers. Kinsley and Damon's predicaments had me enjoying every twist and turn. And, just when I thought I had all the answers—well, I'll end it here and allow you to ride the waves of this wonderful story for yourself.

*Cover: Love*

*Title: Like*

*Publisher: CreateSpace*

*Series: Accidentally Yours Volume One*

*Pages: 220*

*First Lines: Kinsley was on her second piece of wedding cake, still mulling over her friend's idea of walking up and introducing herself to a total stranger. The situation couldn't be entered into lightly. After all, the stranger was a man.*

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## **Anastasia says**

Loved the characters Kinsley and Damon!! Such a heartfelt and humorous read. The charming seaside town backdrop is a plus.

All of Ms. Shirk's books are such a treat.

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## **Jennifer Shirk says**

Hi, all. Yes, I'm cheating by reviewing my own book. :)

But I thought I'd tell you why I really love this story...

Two Reasons: Damon and the town of Cape Harmony.

Damon is my hero. He's had a traumatic past. (Haven't they all?) However, he still manages to be super charming and quite funny (if I do say so myself) in his interactions with my heroine, Kinsley.

I hope you love him too!

Cape Harmony is the fictional town I set for this new series but it is loosely based off my real hometown of Ocean City, NJ (America's Greatest Family Resort)

I always tell people it's easy to write romances when you actually live in a romance novel setting. Want to know more about it? Visit <http://www.oceancityvacation.com/>

Thanks for reading!!!

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