



# Inked

*Drew Elyse*

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**Inked** Drew Elyse

INSTANT ATTRACTION IS A POWERFUL THING.

Six months of dancing around each other  
led to one explosive night  
and two weeks without a word.

Only then did I learn the truth:  
The man I'd wanted since he walked into Sailor's Grave Tattoo Parlor  
was actually an undercover cop.

And the worst part is,  
I don't even know his real name.

BUT WHAT IF ATTRACTION ISN'T ENOUGH?

For over eight months I held back.  
Except for that one night when I couldn't fight it anymore.  
I'd wanted her from the beginning,  
but I should have kept waiting until my secrets weren't between us.

Now, I have the ultimate challenge before me:  
convince the inked goddess of a receptionist  
to at least let me keep her safe,  
even if she won't give me another chance.

## **Inked Details**

Date : Published October 18th 2018

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Author : Drew Elyse

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# From Reader Review Inked for online ebook

## Love N. Books says

ellie's \$0.02:

Once again I manage to post a blank review. #winning

Okay so for real now here is the review...

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## Kahea says

**\*\*\*4.5 Stars\*\*\***

Marked was my first foray into the words of Drew Elyse and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I love the world the story took place in and I wanted to get to know the various characters that were apart of it more. So, it was a no brainer that I'd be signing up to get my hands on Inked and I wasn't disappointed. Inked is a quick and smexy read that's filled with great characters and a nice little dash of suspense tossed in to keep you on your toes and wanting to turn the pages to see how everything turns out.

I really liked Jess. She's got a lot of moxie, is strong and stubborn and has no issue with speaking her mind, even if there are times where it would be in her best interest to pause for just a moment. But beneath the sassy is a woman who has quite a few wounds that haven't totally healed and I have to say that I really enjoyed watching as she dealt with them.

Braden is kind of everything. I adored the man. He's got the whole alpha AF male thing going on, protective, determined and smexy as all get out. He also is observant enough to know when to keep pushing and when to back off in order to get what he wants. He isn't perfect, but he isn't afraid to admit it when it really matters.

Jess and Braden's journey to their HEA was a lot of fun, even if some things did happen quickly. The chemistry between them was nuclear and I loved how they truly liked each other exactly as they were. There were quite a few bumps in the road and a little craycray tossed into the mix, but I loved how it all worked out for them when everything was said and done.

As I said at the start, this was a quick read. It sucked me in and I was finished before I knew it. The suspense part of the story was very well done and kept me on my toes. I still haven't been able to dive into the Savage Disciples MC's books yet, but after reading this one I really want to, so hopefully I'll get there sooner rather than later. But as for the Sailor's Grave crew, I loved hanging out with Liam and Kate and I absolutely **ADORED** Parker and I cannot wait to get my hands on his book!

*~ Copy provided by InkSlinger PR & voluntarily reviewed ~*

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## AJ says

### 3.5 stars

The second book in the *Sailor's Grave* series, and we are back in the MC-run tattoo studio, Sailor's Grave, this time for receptionist/office manager, Jess's story. And though this book is #2 in the series, and this series follows on from another series (*Savage Disciples*), this book can be read as a standalone.

Jess is a bold, confident girl who has had a difficult life but who has fought hard to get where she is, and she's confident in who she is and her alternative-ish style. For the last few months she has been sharing lusty glances with a customer who comes into the studio for two-weekly appointments, and who also just happens to be her neighbour. She made her move only to get shot down, and she's all kinds of worked up about it until the object of her fantasies comes knocking at her door. They have one sizzling encounter, only for him to disappear the next day, and it's two weeks later when she learns that her mystery man is actually an undercover cop who had to leave as part of his mission, and that she has no idea who he really is.

Braden was completely swept off his feet by Jess. She is exactly the kind of woman that he wants, and she pushes all his buttons in the right way, but he held himself back from starting anything until he could come to her openly and with everything. Their one time together never should have happened, but he can't regret that it did, and now he just has to bide his time until he can get back to her.

*She wasn't the only one who grabbed life by the balls. I knew what I wanted when I saw it, and I'd never fucked around in going after it. There wasn't one doubt in my mind from the start that I'd wanted her.*

*But what could I do with my identity being a secret that stood between us?*

It's months later when Braden returns, and it's right when Jess becomes the target of a violent stalker. He has a challenge in front of him to get Jess to give him another chance, but that's not going to stop him from keeping her safe in the meantime.

Braden is such a great hero! He is a total alpha, he knows what he wants, and he is committed to winning his girl. His absolute devotion to Jess is beautiful to see, and I loved how he held nothing back from her as he fought so hard for her.

*"I know what I'm getting into. I know what I want. And that's you, Jess.*

And when his hard work pays off and we get a passionate, intense romance that is all kinds of hot!

*"You really are a goddess."*

*... "Does that mean you're at my command?"*

*... "Not a chance. I'll worship you, but you'll get that how I want to give it."*

But there are still barriers between them, with Jess's fears holding her back. They have issues to work

through if they're going to find their HEA, but with Braden going all out, it's really gorgeous to watch.

*"I'm tired of being afraid,"...*

*I kept moving toward her. "You don't have to be. Why the hell should I scare you?"*

*"I might care about you."*

*"Well, I'm already there. So who has the upper hand here?"*

It's a great story with a really interesting set-up, and I enjoyed these two together, but my big issue with this book is that we're dropped into the story after all of the build-up has happened, and we didn't get to watch it happen and enjoy the development of feelings. We meet them when they're both already feeling it, and apart from a quick flashback glimpse (which is more sexual than emotional), we miss out on their first steamy encounter as well. And I think missing all of that stopped me from feeling this love story as much as I wanted to. Yes, there's chemistry that they are clearly feeling, but I wasn't feeling it with them, which was disappointing when the first book in this series made me feel so much! But it does build well, and though Jess got a bit annoying at times, Braden more than made up for it with his awesomeness.

The mystery/suspense part of the storyline is predictable, but it plays out well, and it adds a nice dimension to everything that is happening between Braden and Jess.

I enjoyed this one – not as much as I was hoping – but still a good read. And I'm really intrigued for Parker's book up next.

3.5 stars.

*Advanced Review Copy generously provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **Steph says**

Jess wanted Jackson the second their eyes met in her tattoo studio, but he never made a move...so she did. After one night together, he totally ghosts her, and she learns he's not exactly who he says he is. Jess is stressed about it, but when she's brutally attacked, her attraction to the inked cop, whose real name is Braden Miller, seems secondary. Braden isn't giving up, though. The minute he's able to get back to his goddess, he's there, but will she give him a second chance?

I REALLY loved the second book in the Sailor's Grave series, INKED! Tattoo shop settings are always fun, and the deep undercurrent of danger kept me reading long into the night. Braden and Jess were both excellent characters, and you could feel the fear that held them captive during this read. Jess was a strong, kick-ass character who I wanted as my BFF, and Braden just made me feel goeey all over with his protective worship of her. I highly recommend this book, and I'll have this author on my must-read list from now on... I'm already drooling over reading Parker's story next!

Bottom Line: No OM/OW or sharing; mixed condom use; no BDSM/kink; no sexual assault; violence, attempted murder.

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## **Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says**

Okay this book was everything and more. I was told I had to do a review that was spoiler free and holy hell I can't figure out how to do it because I love these characters in this book and the Tattoo shop is kick a\$\$ so I will say this about this book Drew Elyse you have OUT DONE yourself with this story full of suspense, romance, and steamy moments that make you need a glass of ice!

Jess is a strong woman who has gone through some things but she has picked herself up and started a new life. She Starts to like a guy who comes into the tattoo shop and after lot's of flirting and going back and forth with him they have one night together that rocks both their worlds. Then the next day he is gone with no forwarding address or anything.

Then Jess is in trouble and her one night stand comes in to save her. But is he to late? Will she be hurt? Will she give him another chance? When the truth comes out will Jess trust him? Must read book for all who love an angst filled romance.

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## **Kathleen R. says**

When i picked up this book, i was sure i was about to read a book that was following a new series i was instantly hooked on. And lo and behold, turns out that the joke was on me because i had mixed two series, only i had only read one previous book by Drew Elyse in the past.

The previous book i had read, Engage, was different in the sense that when i read it, it felt like as though this author was just starting to spread her wings and really find out what she's capable of spinning as tales. I looked forward to getting back to her stories in the future and quite honestly, which makes me sad to say, i had forgotten about that book.

On the flip side, Inked was, wow. It's a complete 180 from what i've seen from Drew Elyse in the past and there were no hesitations. Her characters are strong, engaging, absolutely mesmerizing. And the best part? Unforgettable. I didn't want to stop reading this book. I truly wanted to keep going and since i had been in a book funk, where none of the books were getting me, or rather, i wasn't getting the story lines, from the very start, i was hooked.

This is no wallflower that is simpering in the corner and waiting for the strong alpha male to make his move. On the contrary - here is a woman that i wish my own daughter aspires to be. Willing to take chances, puts herself out there and has an entire 'village' at her back, ready to lay down their lives to make sure she's safe. Never would i wish what happens to these characters to happen to anyone else, but it truly showed just how resilient they are.

I looked forward to being able to read after a long day at work and a longer evening having to 'adult'. And one thing is for sure, the Sailor's Grave series is really entertaining and exactly what i needed to get out of the book funk i was going through.

\*ARC provided by Author in exchange for an honest review. Reviewed by Kathleen, The Small Girl from A small girl, her man and her books

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## **Nerdy Dirty & Flirty says**

Inked is the newest addition to the Sailor's Grave series by Drew Elyse and it was an amazing addition.

I instantly loved Jackson/Braden. And that's one of those dependable, consistent, great things about Drew Elyse books and her leading men. She knows how to write leading men you fall in love with even if they're having their moments that make you shake your head and ask why are they acting this way.

And to counter and perfectly balance those leading men she gives you leading women that you can't help but like and want to be friends with. That's how I felt about Jess. With her tattoos and confidence and sassy wit, I would absolutely be friends with her in real life if I could.

I loved these two characters and their whole journey from flirty banter to couple. It was filled with twists and intense emotions and demons from the past. But it was a book that I loved experiencing.

I'm so excited to see that Park's book is next. He really shines in this story but I want to know more. I need to know what his full story is and cannot wait to get my hands on that book.



Inked is a must read and a perfect example of why I have come to love books by this author.

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### **Jessica says**

TLDR: I enjoyed this book as I did the last one (great characters and couple, hot sex, enjoyable writing) but there's just something that keeps her from being a must read I can't quite put my fingers on.

Things I liked: Jess reminded me of myself, lots of sass occasionally used to cover up insecurities but stubborn, tattooed, and pierced. MC or adjacent books rarely work for me, but this author breaks the stereotype (and frankly the general man stereotype) by writing alpha men who aren't afraid to show emotion or let everyone know how much their ladies mean to them. Also that none of the others make any whipped comments over it. Her characters read like real characters you can invest some emotions in, not just someone you're coldly reading about. From the two books I've read so far she has a knack for putting perfect couples together and holy fan yourself sex scenes. The writing is solid, flows well and I didn't notice any errors.

Things I didn't like: the stalker plot was really contrived and unnecessary. There was a more logical bad guy if the author wanted to write a high stakes situation to throw them together. Too much of their relationship happens before the book even starts. They've had six months of flirting. We get one night of hot sex then slam them into this crazy drama, which I'm never a fan of. Well when that's all the book anyways. When all we see of a relationship is what's occurring in danger I never buy that that's something that'll last. Like the last book I would've liked to see more romantic development.

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### **Mandie Foxylutely says**

Inked is the second book in the Sailor's Grave series but can be read as a standalone (although I do advise to read the first book as I loved it)

Jess is the off the wall and unique receptionist for the Sailor's Grave Tattoo Parlour which is owned by the MC. Over the last couple of months she has lusted after the enigmatic sexy customer who pushes all her buttons. When she finally decides he is just not interested despite all her hints and enticements, he totally surprises her and an explosive night of passion happens. However the next day he disappears. She later finds out he was an undercover cop.

Braden still feels guilty for leaving Jess right after he had made the move but as always, things in the undercover world have a way of interfering with his life. He has all intents to hurry up his return to claim his woman. It takes months and when he finally gets back to town he hears Jess is now the subject of a crazy stalker. So not only does he need to worm his way back into her good books, he needs to protect her at all costs too.

This was an enjoyable read with the prickly pear Jess and alpha Braden. Both had a lot of work to do to make a go of their relationship, mostly down to Jess' deep insecurities of not being accepted for who she truly is. I would have liked to have more of the slow burn months where the two were dancing around each other so I got more of the connection between them. That would make their actions and thoughts whilst apart more understandable.

There was some high drama in relation to the stalker which was a bit of a curveball when the perpetrator was

revealed. It seemed a little unbelievable and contrived when I found out who it was. Anyhow it was a sub story to gel with the romance and gave balance to the storyline.

Overall an enjoyable fairly quick read and great to be back in the Sailor's Grave world. Can't wait to find out more about Parker in the next book. Four stars.

*ARC kindly provided by the author to Foxylutely Books*

<http://foxylutely.blogspot.co.uk>

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### **Kimberly Garner says**

Great book, great story line. There was a great story arc here with some suspense and action I wasn't expecting. The characters are amazing, and Jess is sassy, and she gives as good as she gets. Braden was the hero we all love, alpha, strong, and loveable. The pacing was great, there was never a dull moment. I would highly recommend reading this, it was enjoyable. This story is told in dual pov.

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### **Lindsay says**

This book struck a chord with me right away. I loved how it started. I loved the way the prologue started with how Braden and Jess hooked up but felt like it was full of history and chemistry. I loved how Braden tried to stay away from her until he couldn't. Until he turned her down and was afraid she'd move on and he'd miss his chance completely. And I especially loved how when he was free to come back to her, he did. As in immediately and she was the first thing he did that wasn't work related.

I loved that he was seeking her out before he even knew something happened to her. And speaking of what happened to her, let me just say I wasn't expecting that.

I loved how patient Braden was, how hard he worked to win Jess over after coming back. He set out to woo her. And of course protect her. I will admit that I was surprised that her stalker didn't play more of a roll throughout the book. There was the initial issue and lots of waiting and watching for him with no success and then things kicked into high gear with that part.

Overall, I really loved this book. I definitely want to go back and read the first book and I loon forward to more books in the Sailor's Grave series!

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### **A.BookNerd.Bookseller&Bibliophile.Blog says**

This is the second book in a series. This was a good book. I really like Jess. She's a very strong, determined woman, who is full of sass. Braden was perfect for her. He was supportive and protective, and just there for her, which is exactly what she needed. I also really liked the suspense of the book. I wanted to skip to the end because the whodunit was driving me crazy, because I couldn't figure it out. Overall, this was a satisfying

read, and I'm looking forward to reading the next book

Reviewed by: Clare M.

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### **Shahla's World says**

This was a really enjoyable read and my first from Drew Elyse. I'm now looking to read the Savage Disciples series and then we've got Parker's story coming in this series which I'm excited for.

CHECKOUT THE FULL REVIEW:

<https://shahlas-world.blogspot.com/20...>

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### **Rosa Sharon (iScream Books Blog) says**

*"You're sexy as fuck when you don't take anyone's shit."*

Perfect. A man that was turned on by her tattoos, piercings, pinup style, and lack of filter. They'd been eye-fucking and flirting forever before she finally pushed him too far and he was unable to resist her. They gave in to their passion and it almost burned down the building. It was the best she'd ever had, and then he was gone without a word.

He met her while he was working undercover. She didn't know the truth, not even his real name. He didn't want to start anything with secrets between them. But damn, she was so hard to ignore, and she didn't play fair. *"They say you're supposed to call a doctor if you have an erection for more than four hours."* He didn't mean to disappear on her, but the case was beyond his control. Would she ever give him the chance to explain? Or would that temper that turned him on so much be what stood between them?

When danger came calling for her not only did he put his investigative and protection skills to work, she had the full force of the Savage Disciples MC behind her too. Unfortunately, she was still pissed at him and he had to watch over her from his car...across the street. Was she too broken to ever believe he cared for her and their one night was more than that to him? How was he ever to convince her if she wouldn't let him in?

Prepare to fall further in love with the amazing characters in this crossover series. It's so cool to reunite with your favorites and to meet new ones as they are added to the family. Everyone pulls together when an enemy threatens one of their own, and she's definitely been claimed. I really enjoyed this sweet, sexy and suspenseful story and I'm excited to get my hands on the next installment in the *Sailor's Grave* series. The line forms here...

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### **Kate's Corner says**

After much debating with myself I have decided to go with 3.5 – 4 Stars. For me though it is going to be

tough to write a review.

### Characters & Chemistry

Jess is the receptionist at Sailor Grave's tattoo shop. We meet her in book 1 and from what I can remember I was on the fence about her then and still am to be honest. She has had a tough life and she doesn't like to be vulnerable but then again who does?

I liked Jess albeit somewhat unwillingly but if you look beyond her prickliness she is loyal to a fault and has a heart of gold. She reminds a bit of myself really as I can be prickly, lol. I didn't quite get her hang ups but I feel as if the author only touched on this. There was one time where the Hero really talked to her about it and well when it came to her thinking about what he said I expected for her to react more and to truly see herself for who she is. But at times she was selfish and petty not appealing attributes if you ask me.

Braden was undercover when he met Jess and he tried to stay away but in the end caved after their one night together and the case having a breakthrough he disappeared off the face of the earth. Luckily his partner managed to set things right with Jess. But she waited a long time.

I loved Braden. He is solid and did everything in his power to win Jess over. There were times where I thought that it would have been easier for him to just walk away but hey if he had there would have been no book.

These two sexually are off the charts but at times I was missing a certain emotional depth to these two. Once again this is just my opinion.

### Writing, Plot & Pace

I liked the book a lot and I really enjoy the author's writing I'm even contemplating reading her MC series and I don't read that kind of genre anymore. She sucks you into the story and makes you an active participant in the story and the lives of the characters.

The plot is a bit of an iffy one for me. My hunch on who it was panned out but it just seemed so farfetched and suddenly after such a long time it happens. I don't know it wasn't a plot I expected or would have worked with but hey once again I'm not the author.

The pace is solid and there is never a dull moment. It's engaging and has exactly what this type of read needs.

### Verdict

This one was good but not as good as book one. Now one of the best secondary characters in the book was Parker and I can't wait for him to get his book. Alas it is in 2019 so the wait is real my friends.

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