



Hard To Handle

R.C. Boldt

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RC Boldt's Teach Me series gives us a closer look at just how thin the line is between love and hate...

Fifth grade social studies teacher, Laney Kavanaugh, is no stranger to being left behind – her father taught her that at a young age. That's why she always has her eyes wide open when it comes to men. She's determined she will never again be the one left behind. She doesn't let sex blur what they're really doing; it's always just sex.

Until Zach.

Zachariah Mayson, fifth grade writing and English teacher, has been the bane of Laney's existence from the moment they met at their shared elementary school. She can't stand him. He gets under her skin like no other and is always utterly obnoxious in his attempts –and successes–in getting a rise out of her.

Until the wedding.

The night of their friends' wedding, Laney gives in to a moment of melancholy, knowing she'll never be able to let her guard down enough to let a guy close, let alone someday get married. She and Zach end up having the hottest night she'd ever experienced, showing her another side of him, a softer, sweeter one he'd hidden from her until now. Because now, he hoped she was finally ready to “see” him.

But when you've always guarded yourself against falling in love, can you let go of the past in order to embrace the future?

Hard To Handle Details

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Author : R.C. Boldt

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From Reader Review Hard To Handle for online ebook

Mel says

3.5/4 stars!

Hard to handle is the second book in the Teach Me series by R.C. Boldt. It is a sweet story about a hate to love relationship between Laney and Zach.

Laney grew up in a loving family with her mom, dad, and brother. One day when she was still young, her father up and left them. Laney was heartbroken and saw the devastation in her mothers eyes. She made a vow that she wouldn't experience what her mother had to go through.

Thinking about my life and what I didn't want it to be like, I decided I wasn't ever getting married because I didn't want to experience—or risk—the husband leaving. Like our dad had left us.

Growing up with that idea, she built walls around her heart and never truly let any man get close to her. Until Zach.

Both Laney and Zach work as teachers at the same school. Almost a decade earlier, the first time they met was anything but pleasant. One miscommunication led to years of obnoxious interactions and Laney's belief that there is a mutual hatred between them.

Zach has pined after Laney from the first day they met. After she makes it obvious that she wants nothing to do with him, he does what he can to get her to notice him, including bugging the hell out of her just to get a reaction. She is oblivious to his feelings though, and things change at Laney's best friends wedding.

Laney enjoys the wedding and though she is not searching for love, she gets emotional with the love she sees between her best friend and her new husband. With romance in the air, on a whim she ends up outside Zach's house.

“Can we just have tonight? You can go back to hating me tomorrow but, please, can we have tonight?”

Of course, it's not always simple to go back to the way things were before they crossed the line. Trying the casual sex thing works for a bit, but things change quickly when feelings get involved. Laney has a lot to overcome before the walls around her heart can come down making a real relationship between her and Zach possible. And someone's heart is always bound to break.

“I never knew it could hurt so much to lose someone I never had.”

I enjoyed Laney and Zach together. I thought the banter between the two of them was comical, as well as the interactions between them and their friends.

“Hey, man. Did I ever tell you the story about this cute girl who didn't like me and I used to purposely piss her off all the time just to get her to notice me? Because I was, like, super in love with her or something?” His friend's head tilted in question, a serious look on his face.

Zach stared at Lawson for a long moment, an uneasy feeling coming over him. Lawson wasn't normally the one to have heart to hearts. He was the joker of the group. But, hey, there was a first time for everything,

right?

“No, Laws,” he answered carefully, “you’ve never told me that story ...”

Lawson snapped his fingers as if remembering something. “Oh, wait! That’s because it’s not my story. It’s yours.”

And Zach shows us a super sweet side of him that won me over.

“Even after all the anger, all the hurt, I would still choose you. Every,” he kissed her, “single,” another kiss, “time.”

The only thing about this book that bugged me was how back and forth Laney and Zach were with their feelings. I got annoyed with the way she treated him, and then when she comes around, his reaction rubbed me the wrong way. If they had communicated better, a lot of the hurt could have been avoided.

This ARC was generously provided by RockStarLit PR in exchange for an honest review.

1-Click Addict Support Group says

A bonafide frenemies-to-lovers story, *Hard to Handle* has all of the components that made the first book in this series, *Wildest Dream*, such a hit for me. It's funny, the banter is on-point, and the slow building romance is captivating and completely entertaining.

Zach and Laney are barely friends. They drive each other crazy. Zach lives to torture Laney—he teases, pokes, prods and drives her crazy in every way imaginable. Laney, who swore off love and marriage at a very young age, would never in a million years consider having feelings for Zach. And yet—incredibly—he sneaks his way into her heart, and buries himself inside of it.

We saw a lot more of "obnoxious" Zach in *Wildest Dream*. In *Hard to Handle*, we get a lot more insight to him (and why he behaves the way he does), and a lot more sweetness. He's adorable, caring, and wonderfully tender. It takes him a while to win Laney over, but it's worth the struggle because the two together are completely heart melting.

And panty melting.

In unexpected, and delightful ways.

Hoo boy.

While I loved their story—and especially adored Zach—I struggled with Laney a bit from time to time, and I felt like the conflict dragged out a little too long. I skimmed over a bunch of that because it started to feel a little redundant and, let's face it, patience isn't my best thing. I needed a quicker resolution, less waffling.

However, once the conflict was finally resolved, the butterflies followed in spades. It was a fantastic resolution, and my overall feelings about this book are that it was fun; sexy, flirty, sweet and *fun*. I love this group of friends, I completely adore the camaraderie they have with each other, and their interactions feel so authentic to me. I'm completely enjoying getting to know them and am not slowing down one bit as I dive

into Tate and Miller's story next. ~ Shelly, 4 stars

Brianna at Renee Entress's Blog says

4.5 Stars!

I loved this book. Smart, sexy, fun, sweet and lots of temptation, this book made me smile and definitely hit all my good vibe buttons. This is a brand new author for me and I will definitely be checking out this series in the near future. This book sucked me in from page one and I did not put it down until the very end and then I still wanted more and can't wait for the next to come!

Diving into this amazing and powerful love story, this author takes us on a journey that shows us sometimes life gives us exactly what we need when we least expect it from the most unlikely places. In this story we meet unstoppable Laney and Zach. You will swoon and get hot and bothered. You will smile. You will get the feels. And you will definitely fall head over heels in love.

This is Laney and Zach's story. Laney isn't looking for love. Zach wants Laney and is determined to break down her walls... each and every one of them that she has. Their chemistry is undeniable. Their spark is sizzling. Their passion is electric. Laney will make you a believer in love and Zach is gonna make you swoon and fall hard. Welcome back... school is back in session with R.C. Boldt.

I highly recommend this book.

Review Tour---> <http://reneeentress.blogspot.com/2016...>

Nicole Smith says

If you haven't tried a book by R.C. Boldt you're missing out on some great books! I love her writing style. The humor she adds to her books wins me over every time. I found myself laughing out loud a lot while reading this one. I even had my family ask me what was so funny. This is the second book in the series and the closeness in this group of teachers is what brings this story to life. The easy camaraderie. I liked getting to know more about the army buddies of Mac and Foster. I really can't wait for Lawson to get his book because I think he's going to be my favorite character out of the bunch. Now onto the main characters in this story, Laney and Zach. These two have a complicated relationship because of a goof up by Zach when they first met. Zach is definitely great hero material. He's like the boy who pulled on your hair in grade school because he liked you. That's how Zach looks at they way he teases Laney except Laney has no idea his true feelings. Zach now has to reverse the damage his long ago comments made on Laney. Zach has such a big heart and needs to let Laney see that side of him. Laney's past has left a lasting impression on her to the point she has sworn off relationships and commitment. Can Zach open her heart to the love he has to offer? Will Laney realize what's right in front of her before it's too late? I did tear up at the end because it's a real big step for Laney.

Jo - ***.★Reading Is My Bliss★.*** says

Do you remember being told when you were young that the boy who pulls your pigtails only does it to tease you because he likes you? Does that same theory apply to adults?

Zach & Laney work together at the same school and have recently had a front row seat to their work colleague's, Raine & Mac, falling in love. Zach would love to have a relationship like they have and hopes that one day he will also get married to a woman he could spend the rest of his life with.

Zach has been crushing big time on Laney for a while now but he doesn't know how to deal with his feelings towards her so he expresses it by teasing her and pretty much getting under her skin. To the outside world you would think that these two despise each other, they always seem to be at logger heads.

Laney almost breaks out in hives at the thought of being in a committed relationship with anyone, let alone falling in love. She is happy for her friends when they meet that special someone but she is not prepared to put her heart on the line for any guy.

Zach, Laney and the rest of their circle of friends are all together celebrating the marriage of Raine & Mac. You know that beautiful aura of love & romance that seems to be floating in the air at a wedding? It can heighten senses and stir emotions up that have been simmering away. This seems to be true for Zach & Laney. All the sarcasm and smart comments have been put on hold for a while and they seem to be seeing each other completely differently.

Maybe just for one night they can put their differences aside and give into this thing that seems to be simmering in the background between them. Get it all out of their system and go back to their usual pattern. Sounds like a good plan right? I'm sure you know where this is headed...

This was a really fun read, lots of laugh out loud moments and so much sweet from Zach that I was swooning!

'I know deep down that you're going to regret going through life always playing it safe. If you don't put yourself out there, you'll never experience the joy that's possible when you have love in your life.'

'You have to take the leap'

Elle's Book Blog says

:: 4.5 Pretty Little Stars ::

Hard to Handle is the second book in the TEACH ME series but can be read as a standalone novel. This series features some VERY sexy teachers and takes us on a journey with them as they find love. Overall, I absolutely LOVE this series. I find it to be very unique as most authors feature taboo themes when it comes to romances that involve teachers. This one however, is NOT taboo at all rather, it is a sweet romances series between teachers who fall in love with each other. How many other series out there are like this? None that I can think of which is why I love it so much!

Hard to Handle is sweet, sassy, humorous, and an overall good time. The angsty relationship between Laney and Zach will entertain you're throughout the entire story. Of course there are some emotional moments but this does not override the fact that this book is so much fun. The chemistry between these two (when we final get out of those angsty moments) is undeniable, real, and raw. I blushed a few times because it's that good. I also find that their relationship is really sweet which is something I love in a romance.

SO... Have you picked up this series yet? If not, then you NEED to. It's easily becoming one of my new favorite series and I therefore HIGHLY recommend it. The author is definitely someone to watch out for and I can't wait to see how the series continues to progress.

Liz ~ Liz's Reading Life says

Laney Kavanaugh learned a long time ago that love isn't always what it's cracked up to be, or at least that is what she believes. Someone she loved left her and the hurt that it caused made her build walls around her heart, and vow to never love anyone or let anyone love her.

Zachariah (Zach) Mayson has been infatuated with one woman since the moment he laid eyes on her, however at that first meeting he said things that made her dislike him from that moment on. As the years pass, he'll do anything and everything to get a rise out of her, if for no other reason than to have her look and talk to him.

On the day of their friends' wedding, Laney starts to feel like she may be missing something in her life. She's couldn't be happier for her friends, but there is a sort of melancholy surrounding her at the moment. Maybe it's just because she's been alone for awhile, not that a happily ever after is in her future.

Zach sees Laney and decides to make a sort of peace offering, maybe this is the opening he's been waiting for. And in a moment of weakness, Laney caves in and acts on the unexplained impulse she has towards Zach.

With each passing day, Zach falls harder for Laney. The only problem is Laney's belief in never falling in love. So will Laney ever learn to trust her heart or will she finally push Zach too far and walk away from her forever?

I enjoyed this book, Laney, and Zach so much I couldn't put it down once I started. I loved Zach's attitude, passion, and more importantly, his heart. The person he is now has nothing to do with his very different background from those of his friends. When he commits to something, he does so with every fiber of his being and his love for Laney is undeniable. The kindness he has for those closest to him and strangers alike, can make any woman's heart swoon.

Laney is a tough cookie, that's for sure. She made a vow at a young age, and she stuck to her guns throughout her life. That is until a certain surfer knocked down her walls. I love how important her family and friends are to her and will do anything and everything for them. And even while Zach stole her heart bit by bit, I love how she stayed true to herself.

The chemistry between Laney and Zach is off the charts. It's smoldering and will leave the reader gasping and longing for more. The reader will be swooning after Zach and a couple of cold showers will undoubtedly be needed.

This book is brilliantly written and can make the reader believe that anything is possible, as long as you take the chance. Needless to say, the way Laney finally declares her feelings to Zach may have you shedding a tear or two. Sometimes with big risks comes big rewards.

Kari says

Hard to Handle is the second book in the Teach Me series. Zach and Laney have been teacher "frenemies" for eight years. They are always sniping at each other. However Zach secretly wants it to stop and become more than friends. Laney has sworn off love and commitment ever since her father left when she was little.

I really enjoyed this one, even though it was really gut wrenching at times. I will admit that I wanted to strangle Laney throughout most of this book. Zach was so in love with her and she was not wanting to see any of that because of her childhood. I loved seeing that Zach really wasn't a jerk, It all just ended up being the only way he could get Laney to pay attention to him. I don't want to say to much about the plot. Just go read it. The ending is super sweet. I promise you will love it!

Renee Entress says

4.5 star

I was pulled right into this story. The story has laughs, a wide range of emotions, and heartbreak.

If you have not read the below I would recommend reading those books(s) first
Wildest Dream (Teach Me, #1)

This is Laney and Zach's story. Laney has built walls around her heart. After being left behind she had to. She has sex but will now be left behind again so only sex. No emotions. Zach and Laney have been at odds for a long time. But one night of passion could have them both wanting more. Can Zach break through Laney's walls? Can Zach teach her to love him and believe that he is not going to leave? Can Laney trust Zach after her past has her so conflicted? Does one night really change a person so much or are they just fooling themselves?

I felt I was able to connect with the characters and the story was a great read.

I highly recommend this book.

Tricia says

HARD TO HANDLE BY: RC BOLDT

So I kind of love a good enemies to lovers story. I like the playfulness and the build up of frustration that ultimately turns into some explosively good times in the bedroom lol. This was exactly what you get here in Hard to Handle. I found the juvenility of Zach and Laney's back and forth frenemies banter to be a nice contrast, and a rather comical one, to their spicy bedroom romps and dirty talk later on.

Zach was sweet. The way he poked at Lacey, like an adolescent that pulls a girl's hair and calls her stinky because he likes her, was comical and also a little sad. He really pined for her. It was actually rather endearing and refreshing to have a contemporary romance where the guy doesn't start out as a womanizing toolbag. I thought it was kind of cute that this whole enemies thing started because he found himself putting his foot in his mouth when him and Laney first met because he was so enamored and thrown off by how beautiful he found her. It was sweet really. Zach consistently stayed sweet too. It honestly became sad to see him downplaying his growing feelings for Laney so he didn't spook her into running away. It felt like a nice change of pace to see this kind, sweet guy fall head over heels for the no commitments, fly by night girl. I was rather disappointed with Laney's behavior on a few occasions, but I could understand her thinking in the beginning. She eventually started coming around though, and that made my heart happy!

I think one of the best things about this series is the close friendship all these characters have. This is a fun group of friends that feel like family. That alone makes me want to keep coming back for more.

Well, that and the fact that I am still dying to get the full story on Tate and Miller. Although now I really want to see Lawson find someone special too. She'll have to be something extra special to keep up with him!

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Alex ? says

The main characters, both teachers, knew each other over 8 years and obviously had light feelings for each other. But they dated other people over all these years and everybody was ok. Then Boom! they came together, Boom! they had sex, Boom! the sex was good, Boom! one more time and so on. They were literally pushed together by their "dear" mutual friends.

Maybe it's just me, but I hate when certain people know better what **you** need and poach in other people's love life.

I don't like it. Period.

Since I didn't feel much chemistry/lust/love between the MCs...
happy life, guys, I guess...

*****Cheryl*** says**

I really enjoyed this book my R.C Boldt, this time we a great hate to love story.

This time around we get the story of Laney, who has sworn off ever getting close to anyone after seeing her parents marriage fail. Well that is until she meets Zach. When they first meet, something goes wrong and they rub each other the wrong way but could they both just be protecting their hearts. They have a hate/ love relationship as such, until Raine's wedding when everything changes. Zach has secretly always loved Laney, can he ever break through Laney's heart?

This was another great book from R.C Boldt. I loved Zach's character. I loved how patient he was with Laney, breaking her down a bit at a time. It was a bit of an angsty read at times. It also had me laughing out loud at times. I just love some of the characters in the series. It was good see more of Mac and Raine and all the others. As with the first book its well written and has a good pace, Laney really did frustrate me a times. This book was so easy and fun to read that I wanted to keep reading.

If you are looking for a fun, lighted romance story then this is the book for you. I really enjoyed it and can't wait for the next book in the series.

* I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Shelly's review posted at Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

This is the 2nd book in the Teach Me series and I enjoyed this one almost as much as the first one. This wild group of teachers and SEALS, with their quirky, witty banter, karaoke nights and finding a deeper part that they each keep to themselves till they find the one to share it with.

Laney's father walked out on her family when she was young and since then she has no interest in a relationship with men and if she does, she makes sure she is the one leaving, not one who is left behind. So with this love, hate relationship with Zach going on, Laney isn't sure what to do when Zach starts to show signs of interest in her.

Zach has crushed on Laney since first meeting her as a new teacher, but when the first meeting turned bad and he is not sure what happened he has been being the bane of her existence. But when he has decided to take it slow and see if he can't break under her tough shield he has his work cut out for him. With her shield firmly in place he has a hard time breaking through, but his friends are always there to give out advise.

What a fun series to read and I am looking forward to see who is up next in the Teach Me series.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

Nicola says

I have to say I was looking forward to reading *Hard to Handle*; the characters and setting sounded entertaining and I do like the enemies-to-lovers trope.

"The only way he had managed to get her attention over the past eight years was to piss her off or annoy her in some way. And, like a juvenile, that's exactly what he did."

Laney Kavanaugh and Zach Mayson teach at the same school and run in the same social circle. They also hate each other, but their friends' wedding leads to some dancing of the horizontal variety. Her commitment issues mean it'll never be more than just sex, but Zach shows her a side that she never expected.

"You can go back to hating me tomorrow but, please, can we have tonight?"

All this should be a recipe for a good romance but I have to be honest and say I struggled. I didn't dislike Laney or Zach, there were parts to them both that I did like, but equally there were things that frustrated and I never became invested in them, largely due to the slew of secondary characters. It felt too busy: I understand it's a series and these men and women will likely get their own stories, but there were just too many of them and it became confusing as to who was who and who was into who. Plus their banter was fairly juvenile; *"parking the beef bus in tuna town."* Really?

Pacing wise, the story did flow reasonably well, although events in the opening chapter seemed forgotten, and the author doesn't scrimp on the sexy-time between this couple. Perhaps if I had read the first book in this series, things may have been a little clearer with regards to all the characters, and looking at other reviews I'm in the minority with my thoughts, but unfortunately on this occasion this wasn't for me.

Copy received courtesy of Rock Star Lit PR for an honest and unbiased opinion.

AnessaRenee Reviews says

It's always a thin line between love and hate. Sometimes you truly don't know which one is more powerful. This book was a great addition to wildest dream. Once again the author makes you fall in love with her characters. These ones were definitely hot and cold. Life can get so twisted with a misunderstanding. And it can take what seems like forever for it all to come together and work it's self out.
