



# To Be with You

*Opal Mellon*

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## **To Be with You** Opal Mellon

No matter how hard she's tried, Nicole Pierce has always picked the wrong guy. She dumps them as soon as they reveal themselves as the cheaters and abusers they are, but it's left her heartsore and discouraged. When she needs a date for a social function, from now on she's going to pick one from the gorgeous, hands-off, strictly-business escorts of Club Blue.

Her childhood best friend Sean Rollins won't stand for that. He and Nicole haven't seen each other for years, but he's the safe, long-distance shoulder she can cry on--a hard role for Sean, who loves her in secret. When he finds out about the escorts, he wants to keep her safe. Even though he knows more about martial arts than Armani, and even though he hasn't told Nicole he's now in the same city, he becomes an escort at Club Blue under an assumed name.

To his relief, Nicole chooses him. He's tall, dark, handsome...and oddly familiar. But Sean doesn't know there's a horrible reason for Nicole's choices in men--and his attempt at protecting her may have blown every chance he'll ever have with the one girl he loves.

## **To Be with You Details**

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## **From Reader Review To Be with You for online ebook**

**Theresa says**

**Need to read!**

Don't know what to say except this book speaks for a lot of women! Enjoyed this book, hope you do also!

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**Emotional Reads says**

I loved this book, though I hated the profession he chose in order to be close to heroine, though there was nothing sexual involved and I hated that she went to that place to have an escort to an event as if it would hurt her to go alone. Why couldn't she have taken her head out the sand to see what was in front of her sooner.

Though I loved the hero a lot more than I did the heroine.

Another book where the stupidest reasons was used to keep them apart.

I do wish the author would have used a different profession for hero in this book, there is nothing sexy or romantic about being an escort even though there was no sexual contact with clients, he was still being paid to escort different women.

the romance lost a lot of substance because of that. this woman was willing to go to an escort service to find dates on line instead of asking the man who cared for her all her life to escort her to an event and for a dumb reason. I mean, it wasn't to be a sexual thing just someone to escort her, so why couldn't the hero take her.

you know, I think I'm going to have to take one star away for the profession of the men. I don't find men who work as escorts romantic or sexy, who knows what these men did under the table. Nothing sexual is allowed but who's to say it didn't happen, who's to say the hero didn't. That kept going through my mind.

He says he loves the heroine but had no problems being paid to date other women. Why couldn't he have just gone to the heroine and offer to escort her as friends only, and worked from there.

no, I don't enjoy books where the heroine works as a prostitute, even if it wasn't sexual, he still sold his self to these women. that is the only part of the book I hated.

It wasn't sexually explicit or insulting, that's why the 4 stars. But I will not read the other book in the series, I'm sorry to say. UGH!

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**Zoe and the Edge says**

NOTE: This book was going fabulously until about the 75% mark and then it started to trail off from a flood of fantastic to a trickle of okayness which really made me unhappy. My main problem is the wrap-up starts too early and just gets dragged out way past its due date. I got so bored and frustrated because Nicole just turned a complete 180 from a practical and no-nonsense gal to a melodramatic and manipulative tease. I am not exaggerating.

## Review

Sean is SOOOO adorable and he made me laugh out loud. I LOVE that in a hero.

*Those weren't breasts. He willed it to be true. He tried to think of unsexy things, like road kill.*

He's so boyish and simple. And I really can't get over how cute he is. He is still madly in love with Nicole. He's a Tae Kwon Do teacher/champ and he's very stoic and awkward but the kind of quiet that girls like me think is mysterious and sexy.

Even though Nicole is the one with a supposed stunted development, Sean's social skills are pretty nonexistent.

I enjoyed seeing his friendship with his colleagues, the other escorts.

*"And when did you become the expert on what women want?" Justin asked. "You stop tricking one for a few days and suddenly you're Casanova?"*

Sean starts out as a bit of an idiot but as the book goes on, his fierce and altruistic love for Nicole is both heart-breaking and beautiful.

He's hilarious *and* a badass. \*dreamy sigh.

Nicole is really awesome. For one, she's not Caucasian and the author doesn't feel the need to play it up or make it seem so very *speshul* (read abnormal) or call it an "interracial romance". Nicole's black. No big deal. I loved Nicole's character. She is not dramatic at all. I was dreading that the author would drag out the deception and Nicole would be all predictable, but no. The author made the story her own and dealt out the plot without falling into cliched trope. For example, it's okay for love interests to disagree. You'd be surprised at how seldom this happens outside of The Big Misunderstanding.

*Nicole thought of the other night, when she'd imagined walking on the beach with him. "Want to walk for a bit?"*

*"I walked all the way here," he said. "I'm too tired."*

Nicole is a romance novelist.

*S: Okay, okay. I've read them all. More than once. And dog-eared them. They are really good romance novels.*

*N: :)*

*S: Forcing me to spill that I read romance novels. Don't tell my students.*

...

*N: Although since I don't know where the dojo is, let alone in which state, and I haven't seen you in thirteen years, I guess that's not really an issue.*

*S: I hadn't thought of that. Thanks for reassuring me.*

*N: You could tell me where it is.*

*S: I don't think so. You just gave me a reason not to. My students probably aren't ready for a master who kicks people in the face and reads romance novels.*

*N: Well that's judgmental.*

They're chat conversations had me giggling.

*Sean: My students don't call me awkward at least.*

*Nicole: Is that because they know you could kick them in the face?*

*S: No. It's because they know I could kick them in the face super-fast and super-hard.*

*N: LOL.*

*S: Did you actually laugh out loud that time?*

*N: Yes, I did.*

*S: lol then.*

*N: Did you?*

*S: No. I just wanted to use it.*

The kicking people in the face is obviously reoccurring but for some reason it made me laugh every time.

*Nicole: Imma = I'm going to.*

*Sean: :/*

*S: Shouldn't a writer have better grammar?*

*N: Shouldn't a businessman have better technical skills?*

*S: >:( No. I can kick people in the face. That's all I need.*

*N: Would you kick someone in the face for me?*

*S: Any day! :)*

*N: Super hard?*

*S: Of course.*

*N: Aw, thanks. Sleep well.*

Nicole has had terrible luck in men.

*Sean: Don't trust him until he earns it*

*Nicole: Is there a point to trust if it's only earned?*

*S: Good point. Stop being tricky.*

She's a strong woman, but she has some major childhood issues from her stepdad. Towards the end, she really goes through some emotional upheavals that are connected with her relationship with Sean.

*Sean - "I'll be back in a second, I just need to check the beach."*

*When she didn't go back to the couch, but just stood there like an orphan, he walked over to her.*

I did feel a bit upset though that she emotionally jerks poor Sean around. But at least her abandonment issues and mistrust in men are finally brought to the light.

**Sexual Content:** No graphic sex scenes but there is this one weird gropey non-make out scene that didn't go anywhere.

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## **Sonja says**

Ugh. I found this title on a BookBub email I received, and frankly I think I overpaid even though the book was free.

I also (intentionally) did not finish the book. I just was so annoyed with the story that I couldn't even continue reading this train wreck.

First, I kept getting pulled out of the story by trying to do the authors work to make the story plausible. I could buy that Nicole and Sean kept up a friendship over the years without exchanging pictures. I will admit its a stretch, but I can try to buy that. But when there is a point where Nicole is wondering if her new escort friend, "John", is Sean...but doesn't try googling Sean just to see if she can find a picture?

Then, I wasted a lot if time and effort trying to figure out who her cousin, Melanie, was. One would assume it's the daughter of the aunt Nicole started living with, but yet other statements made contradict that. If the rest if the story hadn't annoyed me, I may have been able to gloss over it, but that wasn't the case.

Finally, I think the idea of the escort club could be an interesting one. This one? Sounds like girls get dressed up, and PAY men to basically hang out at a boys n girls club. While we are gifted with a description if Club Blue as being a really cool, swanky club the action that happens there doesn't live up to the image, I can see maybe having a pool table, and juice in individual-sized bottles... But to be playing the board game Sorry while drinking apple juice from a juice box? Again, it was so unexpected that I found myself rereading to make sure I read the story right.

The story did one thing right, though: I usually read "chick lit" books in between longer series. I find that they are a fun diversion and serve to give me a break from being in Hogwarts before heading to District 12. I am now more than ready to dive into another world entirely...

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### **Maria says**

This a very sad (child abuse, sexual abuse) and beautiful (friendship, love, hope, family) story. Love conquers all, but is not easy. This story made me think... of different things... It handles the delicate themes very carefully and gently. There's hope.

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### **Angela says**

What a great story! I am so happy that I read it and I loved the fact that it was a FREE book! Best freebie yet!!!!

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### **Melissa Levine says**

DON'T READ THIS STORY!!!!!!!!!!

My god...I hated this story! That is not something I would normally say either. I might be a fan of a story or just not like it but I think this is the first time I use the word hate. There was just so much annoying crap, I had a hard finishing this book.

Needless to say, there were a billion inconsistencies in this story. I'm surprised Nicky and Sean made it to the ages they ended up being in this story without having some major accident or something. They were horrible! I found so many problems with this story it's unreal. Let me state that I read a large variety of books. So the no sex concept was nothing to me. Anyways, here goes...sorry but I just hate leaving stuff out.

So Nicky was 26 and Sean 24. By the way Nicky talked/thought throughout this story, I would have assumed her to be much much younger. Even when she was suppose to be 17, telling Sean she had a boyfriend, wanted to keep everything a secret, wanted to kiss her and if she didn't he'd dump her? Seriously? Why do I get the feeling that she would have stayed with him for a while after that revelation too? Sean on the otherhand, seemed older at times but then other times, seemed like a kid.

Why is it that Nicky and Sean never talked on the phone or visited one another after they became adults? That seemed really strange. Like even after Nicky knew he was just around the corner from her, she still 'hired' him to hang out with? I wouldn't say that they were really friends at all. Sean was more of a guidance counselor or something to Nicky. They didn't have a special relationship just a strange one. They never sent each other pictures of themselves after 13 years of talking to each other??? Oh that's right, it's because he doesn't have Facebook! Of course. Stupid me!

I could not stand Nicky at all. There were so many times where I was praying that Sean would just get over her and find someone else, someone better. But at the same time I wished they ended up being a car accident together and the story would end.

Given Nicky's personality and whatnot I found it basically impossible to believe that she was a writer. Much less writing romance? haha What a joke! I can't imagine she was doing very good though if she was living with her aunt still. And the fact that she didn't know anything about romance!! And the fact that she says writing is her job and boring to talk about? What writer would say this? One that's not very good!

What exactly was wrong with Sean? I had said he seemed like a kid at times, but it was more like he had some kind of mental thing going on. Although I could say the same thing about Nicky. He seemed to not understand why other women would find him interesting physically? Even after himself admiring his abs and all in the mirror? Knowing he was fit? And still acting stupid? Or when Nicky was explaining smilies and all in the chat program and Sean being that clueless. What the hell kind of life was he leading? I mean he's a virgin, didn't seem to have ever had a date because he doesn't know about girls or what you do with them. Ex: not knowing he should ask a girl on a 2nd date...He just seemed to get confused an awful lot. What was he doing in his free time prior to meeting up with Nicky?

At one point he wonders if he's too tall? Then later tells Nicky that he's not as tall as he wants to be. Huh?

Both of the main characters are living in California. How did neither of them know about escort services? What time period is this story suppose to be taking place in? I mean a lady asks Nicky if she'll share her date aka Sean/John with her and Nicky says yes. Why? So Sean/John doesn't think she's possessive? Seriously? She did forget she was the one playing for the date?

Nicky's whole...Sean I mean John...So f'in annoying. Nicky kept doing this after meeting John/Sean and ahhhhhh!!!! I can hear how Sean and John both have the 'on' sound at the end, but honestly they don't sound like they really rhyme to me.

The fact that Nicky kept telling Sean that she didn't want him in that way, or wasn't interested or ready...I could have smacked her if she were a real person. She's not ready for Sean aka Good guy, but more than willing to jump into a relationship with Ben who she just met. When she finds out he went on a date with Angela she realizes that she missed her chance? Again huh? Make up her mind already!

He's constantly defending her even after purposely getting into these stupid situations. Ex: at the wedding, her ex admits to force himself on her. Um hello, why did you run off to a deserted area in the first place?

Why not hang out with the rest of the people? Or bringing Ben to the club. Why? She had already said she got a bad feeling about him. Already said that she wasn't attracted to him and didn't like when he kissed her. HELLO!!!! Then she has the nerve to get mad at Sean when girls flirt with him?

So when Nicky realizes that she's seeing Sean in a new light, she wonders if it's because he's so tall now. Right...Seriously, could either of these characters be any stupider?

I get Nicky was sexually abused by her step father when she was a kid. And since then she's been abused/used by guys. So why does she feel strange around her cousin Melanie? Or her aunt for that matter. Wondering why her aunt didn't want anything sexual from her? Really?

How does current day Sean look anything like the Sean Nicky left 13 years prior? I don't that would be possible. Or when Sean tells Nicky that he's no longer going to protect her unless she asks him. "That was new. So now he would abandon her?" Really Nicky? Nicky was constantly referring to herself as being damaged and when Sean uses the word, she just about rips his head off.

A few statements that make no sense:

So this escort club...they have pool, board games and juice boxes? Nicky thinks Sean isn't attracted to her. Sean felt like ants were crawling in his underwear. The whole Susan character. What was with Nicky going to meet Sean in her living room, but pushing down the back of underwear on the way down the stairs? The whole interaction with the idiots when she's crying about her past and he's trying to console her. Need I say more?

THAT'S IT. I FEEL SORRY FOR ANYONE ELSE THAT CHOOSES TO READ THIS.

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## **Isha Kamara says**

### To Be With You

I decided to read this book because it revolved around a love story. I book that isn't too long that I already know a little about seemed perfect. I noticed that the average rating for this book is about three stars, but in my opinion this book was just amazing. It is one of my favorites and it deserves five stars. Perhaps it is because of the scars that the protagonist, Nicole, faces that a person may dislike the book, but I believe those scars made her who she is as a person. Especially because she would never forget them unless, she met the right guy for her. This was book that was completely based on romance and tears. I don't remember crying at any point of the book, but I know I pitied Nicole and was happy for her when things changed. The fact that the book had a lot of drama reminded me of some of my favorite shows and because this was my first drama filled book that was really entertaining. It felt like I was reading the subtitles on a screen, but actually I was reading words on a page of a book.

I believe that Nicole changes throughout the book and that it was the reason she could not see who was right in front of her. The theme was that your fate can change depending on the direction you look. Sean, other protagonist, tells Nicole, "I'd do anything for you" (Mellon 45). Sean also says, "Her only fault was that she just wasn't Nicole and nothing was going to change that" (Mellon 112). His feelings were so set in stone and it was just sad how Nicole couldn't realize soon enough that he really loved her.

This book was significant to me because the theme taught me a valuable lesson about how some things are obvious and not to think too hard when there is a simple way.



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## **Tara Gaytan says**

Enjoyed this! A little predictable, but not enough to make me want to be sure of my small predictions! It was free on IBooks and I plan on reading the whole series! I also liked that it was a book I could finish in a day.

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## **Fred says**

Up front disclosure: I received advanced copies for review after posting about a preference for romance I could share with family and friends. I'll try to be detailed but honest because Im still new to book reviews. Things I liked about this book:

The leads in this book are Multiracial, which I wasn't expecting. It isn't emphasized or explored, but the characters aren't both white. I don't see that often.

Clean. No swearing, no sex, and more importantly I didn't miss it. I didn't think the characters sounded inauthentic without the cursing, and the romance kept me involved enough without the sex scenes.

Sometimes I think that's a lazy way of building a romance anyway, if it's just sex sex sex. I hated hated HATED FSOG. If you like that, you'll hate this.

Very respectful, good type of guy I don't see often enough in romance.

Very believable paced romance, considering the issues they have to overcome together. No falling in love in one week.

Things I think could have been improved.

The pacing. I felt it started quick, but slowed through the middle. I was okay with it because I found the ending very sweet and touching. My wife sighed. Maybe because I married my best friend I'm a sucker for these kinds of endings.

A little more physicality. I would have liked to see a bit more of the happy ending. Maybe an epilogue like the other two books have.

Definitely different from the typical romances topping the charts right now. I don't know how this is going to go for the author but I think clean secular romances have their audiences too, once they find them.

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## **Anna Marie says**

Confession: I'm a closet writer. I don't seek publication, because I know that I'm not nearly good enough for that. Having said, this author (term used loosely) should not \*EVER\* have sought any sort of publication, because she's probably the worst writer I have read in my entire life. Worse than me, far and away, and I'm pretty dadgum self-depreciative where writing is concerned.

The dialogue was immature and benign. The phrasing was inner city stupid. The characters were moody and inconsistent... and a total waste of typing. The writing was shoddy and tedious, with little description in the passages and too much big-mouthed belligerence.

It. Just. Sucked.

Okay... so Nicole is an African American (at least to some extent, we have no idea beyond 'olive' skin and 'root beer' eyes). She's a girl who was abused by her step-dad, and taken to safety by her aunt and cousin. The rescue meant having to leave her home, school, and best friend - a little nerdy ethnic boy of undisclosed background, because... author lacks descriptive abilities.

The two write to each other for years, and the boy - Sean - fancies himself in love with her, even after all this time. Nicole, meanwhile is a shrink-visiting, self-indulging mess. She can't pick a decent boyfriend so she goes to this club where you can hire escorts... except that it felt more like the youth center on the Air base I grew up on, rather than an escort club. They play 'Sorry!' and break out the juice boxes, for pity's sake. The whole story felt juvenile and surreal.

Anyhow, Sean wants to protect her, so he hires on as an escort for the club, puts himself in her way, and even though she recognizes him from moment one, the author insists that he's incognito for half the damn book. REALLY stupid, and poorly executed. And from there, it's all pride and stupidity and fights and making up and then belligerence, and talking and more dialogue, and no plot...

There's a reason it's free, people. Seriously, you DON'T want to waste your time on this one. If you want incognito? Look up "Weekend with Mr. Darcy". I promise it'll be far more enjoyable in the end.

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### **K.M. says**

I wanted to like this story, I really did. But the main characters were entirely annoying due to their inability to make rational decisions like adults. Nicole's choices in men are linked to unfortunate occurrences in childhood. The one person who has always been there for her? Sean.

They've known each other since they were kids. Even when Nicole moved away and went to high school and college, the two kept up communications via emails and text. Yet, they never exchanged pictures. In fact, Sean moves closer to Nicole but is too afraid to tell her. Nicole drastically decides to end her bad choices in men by enlisting the help of an escort agency. I'm not sure how that decision made any sense. Sean then decides to join the escort agency to thwart Nicole from 1) still choosing a dud, 2) choosing a winner that is not him. Are we dealing with adults or juveniles here? Both the characters have emotional limitations that prevent them from just simply saying "I want to be with you, let's give this relationship a go." I thought the character development was mediocre and instead of relating to Nicole and Sean, I just wanted to get to the end of the book. The rest of the story devolves into an episode of Gossip Girl with poor decision making skills included. However, the book ends in a HEA.

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### **Allie says**

Still curious about self-published books and the romance genre, I decided to select another free Kindle book for bedtime reading. This turned out to be one of the best decisions of my Kindle life.

1) It was like a telenovela in book form, which is to say that it was all my dreams come true. I could not stop reading. Sometimes you just have to suspend disbelief RE: implausible situations and go with the flow, and it is 100% worth it.

2) Nicole deals with the trauma of abuse, which I did not expect, and I found that narrative to be very moving.

3) It was totally an interracial romance. When I started reading, I assumed that the protagonists were white, but then the narrator said that Nicole was black, and Sean was some kind of mixed child(?).

4) There were no sex scenes, so my prudish self was spared!

5) Villain A+!

The ending was a little rushed, but overall this was a quality piece of romance literature with a big heart and healing & redemption narrative. So, I have already purchased the second book in the series YOLO

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### **Charlotte Dustin says**

#### **Good potential**

The story was a little silly. The characters not real enough..as if she was in a hurry to finish her story. At least twice I felt like I must have skipped a page because I didn't know how suddenly something came out that needed an explanation. Otherwise, it was just interesting enough to finish the book.

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### **Veray says**

This was a difficult book for me to read because I don't like to read about people being abused. It really hurts my heart to think about some of the things that really do happen to people. I wish I could stop it and fix it. Nichole is such a broken person and it has such a huge affect on her best friend who is a boy named Sean. His whole life he has lived to protect and help Nicole. They have known each other since they were young. Nicole was rescued from her abusive stepfather by her aunt when Sean was 11 and Nicole was 13 and was taken away to live on the beach. They have kept in touch via the internet and letters, but haven't seen each other in person. They are both grown up now, but Nicole is still choosing the wrong guys to date and Sean is still trying to protect her from them and wishing she would choose him. The feelings in this story were hurtful and real and so sad at times. I love how the characters change and grow and begin to understand themselves and each other. The ending was very good and I was glad that I read it

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