



Love Lessons

Heidi Cullinan

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Love doesn't come with a syllabus.

Kelly Davidson has waited what seems like forever to graduate high school and get out of his small-minded, small town. But when he arrives at Hope University, he quickly realizes finding his Prince Charming isn't so easy. Everyone here is already out. In fact, Kelly could be the only virgin on campus.

Worst of all, he's landed the charming, handsome, gay campus Casanova as a roommate, whose bed might as well be equipped with a revolving door.

Walter Lucas doesn't believe in storybook love. Everyone is better off having as much fun as possible with as many people as possible...except his shy, sad little sack of a roommate is seriously screwing up his world view.

As Walter sets out to lure Kelly out of his shell, staying just friends is harder than he anticipated. He discovers love is a crash course in determination. To make the grade, he'll have to finally show up for class...and overcome his own private fear that love was never meant to last.

Warning: This story contains lingering glances, milder than usual sexual content for this author, and a steamy dance-floor kiss. Story has no dairy or egg content, but may contain almonds.

Love Lessons Details

Date : Published October 1st 2013 by Samhain

ISBN : 9781619218277

Author : Heidi Cullinan

Format : ebook 379 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary, New Adult, Academic, College

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From Reader Review Love Lessons for online ebook

Christina Marie says

I apologize in advance; this book has turned me into a giddy schoolgirl. I'll try my hardest not to squee.

Have you ever been so excited for a book that you were nervous to the point of sweaty palms? Have you experienced that fear of disappointment? Hesitated to read something you really wanted to since you knew that it would be devastating if it didn't fulfill expectations, because you were so ridiculously looking forward to enjoying the hell out of it? NOT A PROBLEM HERE!

The blurb had me convinced that I was going to love this. I'm ecstatic that I was right.

Kelly is starting his freshmen year at Hope University. He finds himself with an unexpected roommate, Walter Lucas, the campus Casanova. Kelly believes in love and happily-ever-afters. Walter doesn't believe relationships.

This book was pretty much made for me. It had so many things for me to love:

- Roommates, check.
- Slow burn, check.
- Great dialogue: check.
- Fluffy adorableness, check.
- Sugary goodness, check.
- True wuv, check.
- Sexual tension, CHECK.

This book is sweet, funny, and hot. I was not expecting that last bit but it was really freaking **hot**. I mean, there isn't a lot of sex. There doesn't need to be. It doesn't take anything away from the book. **Still, I was overheating reading this.** My ovaries may have quivered. Oh, delicious unresolved sexual tension, you get me every time. It's a tricky thing, but there was the perfect amount. Precious balance, that. Not too much, not too little. It was just right.

Have I mentioned that this book made me feel like Goldilocks? No. Well, the "just right" thing will come up again.

It was kind of scary how much I related to Walter. Heidi Cullinan did an amazing job on her portrayal of all the internal conflict that results from having a manic depressive parent. I thought that was really well done. I fell in love with Walter immediately. At first he made me laugh, his POV is definitely amusing. He's a little broken, a lot vulnerable, and just about the sweetest bad boy. He's definitely not what he seems initially, and learning about his hidden depths as the book progressed was great. The way he grew as a character was even better.

Kelly is a cutie pie, a shy, idealistic cutie pie. Like a teddy bear, he is impossible not to love. Or snuggle. Walter and Kelly are clearly opposites. It's what ends up making them so perfect for each other. I don't want to give too much away about either of them, or them together. Because, for me, the best part was in learning about them, in watching them fall for each other, in watching them grow, in watching them work at a

relationship. I thought it was so perfect, the way they were together. Their interactions and dialogue were so sweet. I just loved them, together and apart. My heart felt full while reading this.

It seems clear at this point. This book has turned me into a sap.

I pretty much smiled my way through *Love Lessons*. It was amusing, it gave me a severe case of the warm and fuzzies, and it made my fucking heart melt. The book is cute, sweet, romantic, and I suppose you could say it's a light read. Although, there isn't a lot of external conflict but there is a lot of internal, a lot of self-reflection and growth, introspection that had me introspecting. So, it's light but it's got substance.

On to the epilogue, which I thought was perfection but some will loathe. I am a closet romantic. I mean, it shouldn't surprise given that I am a romance novel junkie. Still, I like to pretend I'm all bitter and jaded but sometimes a writer can lull me into admitting (and reveling in) my sugar addiction. This is one of those times. I'll admit the epilogue is sugary sweet. However, I thought it was the perfect amount, the "just right" amount. It had me drowning in warm fuzzy feelz. Perhaps I was hoodwinked and bamboozled by Kelly. Him, and his Disney happily-ever-afters sucked me in, and I found flawlessness in the tidy ending. Or, perhaps I was riding high on my reading buzz. Doesn't matter. I loved it. Kelly's words are actually purrrfect to describe the epilogue: "It was almost too cheesy, which was why It was so good—almost too cheesy. Right at the edge, which made it glorious."

Do I recommend this? Without a doubt, yes!

*ARC has been generously provided in exchange for an honest review.

5 Stars

{Click here} for the Love Lessons Giveaway!

More reviews at The Morning After Romance

*** Meli Mel * says**

♥ ♥ ♥ 4 STARS ♥ ♥ ♥



"Sometimes they never do, and that's a risk we take. But sometimes what they need most is to see us sitting still, patient, waiting. To understand that we're going to be there no matter what, that we're the ones who are always sitting there waiting, loyal, loving. Sometimes that's more powerful than any words."



All Walter Lucas wants is to live off campus. He is known as a casanova for his never ending list of hookups, and he just keeps adding more men to that list. But when they deny his request, they stick him in a single dorm with another young man who has a long list of his own, but this one is of his allergies. His name is Kelly, and his the complete opposite of Walter. Kelly is shy, a virgin, and waiting to have his Disney happily ever after with his prince charming.



"Walter, I can't. I feel things when we do this that I shouldn't. You don't feel those kinds of things, not with anyone."

Walter nuzzled Kelly's neck, then his ear. "Maybe I do, with you."



Walter is very cynical when it comes to love. But, he decides to show Kelly that the only way he'll ever meet his "the one" is by going out there and looking. The more time these two spend with each other, they closer they become. I loved watching their relationship form into best friends status, and then to so much more. I loved the pace of the romantic storyline, as well as the character development. There was only one part where I did feel the story slowed down too much for me. I loved the tension between them that a great slow burn. I loved the banter and just the overall connection. I was falling for both of them. They were just so damn adorable together. I couldn't get enough of these guys.



'Need. It was need.

I want Kelly.

I need Kelly.

His heart beat so hard it felt like he was going to have an attack. It wasn't anything, though, next to the pain of what he realized that fervent beating meant.

I love Kelly.'



I liked that we got to see who Walter really was. He was hiding behind his cocky mask so that no one would see the hurt and uncertainty he was feeling inside. I loved that Kelly was able to bring him out of his shell and help him see that he is worth loving. The part that I mentioned before that caused the story to slow down for me was when they tried to help a professor at the school. I wasn't able to stay interested in it, but I did like that we got to see how caring and unselfish Walter really was. Overall, it was a really great book. Yes, it was overtly sweet, especially near the ending, but damn it...it wouldn't be a Disney happily ever after if it wasn't. I loved it so much it melted my heart for the both of them. I can't wait to read the next book in the series. I totally recommend giving this one a read to all those hopeless romantics out there.

Shelley says

2.5 Stars

Okay, please don't hate me all you Heidi fans.

This was *okay*, but dear lord was it boring, after 60% I was so bored, bored, BOOOORED!

Everything was Disney movies and college politics and dull, dreary, everyday draaaahhmma.

I won't even mention the epilogue (well I am, but I'm not, if you know what I mean) because Heidi likes her OTT happy endings, but that's not what I'm moaning about. It just ... ends, no climax, no reveal if you like, just ...oh, we'll be fine and then the OTT epilogue.

Urgh no thanks, just pass me the one with the kinky cowboys instead please.

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

Pre-ordered and a big **thank you** to Samhain's wonderful customer service that allows me to forget about the book until a nice email is in my inbox reminding me that it's **here** ! :D

And I'm going to Buddy read this with Lucy! :)

OK, first update Samhain didn't send me an email this time. Not good, here I am praising them left, right and center and they don't send me an email. *sadz*

4.5*

Now to the book!

Short version **I loved it** . I am a sucker for sappy and sweet and Disney HEA! And this one delivered! I almost couldn't believe this was a Heidi Cullinan book, it felt so different from her other stories.

Kelly appears to be a hot mess, every allergy known to man, sheltered and naive, waiting for Prince Charming and he wants the Disney fairy tale.

So of course, I loved this kid! He is the **best!**

Then we have Walter, he appears all together and seems to have it all, but he's just as messed up as Kelly, just in a very different way.

I also appreciated that although Walter had family issues, no one was just all out evil or a caricature, it felt real.

This was an excellent friends to lovers story, a story of coming out, looking behind the curtain, love, all kinds of love, friendship and loyalty.

Of finding love **“Sometimes the ones we love are like butterflies, flitting all over, and we have to sit and wait patiently for them to land. Sometimes they never do, and that’s a risk we take. But sometimes what they need most is to see us sitting still, patient, waiting. To understand that we’re going to be there no matter what, that we’re the ones who are always sitting there waiting, loyal, loving. Sometimes that’s more powerful than any words.”**

And I have to add, at least for me ***BEST FIRST KISS EVER!***

Kelly, really is a sweetheart, I think Walter described him best this way : **“I think that’s my favorite thing about you. You’re a happy-seeking missile. The damndest thing is, you almost always find it.”**

Walter is wonderful, caring and so damn good. I really felt for him and am so glad he found Kelly and that he finally has someone who puts him first. **“Don’t you think it’s time someone gave up everything for you?”**

So, I got my HEA and my sappy side is now sighing in happiness and I am sure this will be a reread for me!

Macky says

Well what a delightful read that was. I never doubted this one because it had so many things going for it from the word go. It's by Heidi Cullinan so that's a given. Its set in college. I love college stories. At this moment in time the reviews average 4.3 and best of all its MC's are made up of a gorgeous shy, Disney loving, allergy ridden virgin and an equally good looking, popular, devil may care, anti relationship, walking sex magnet Mr Popular... Opposites attract at its best, so the thought of these two guys holed up together in a single dorm room on campus hinted at lots of sexual tension and sparking chemistry which is something I *really* love in a romance and had me totally excited about starting it.... and that's where IMO the beauty of this gem lies.

When Kelly and Walter are together, which is often, the connection they have just jumps out at you and the UST leads to some fantastic memorable, tummy tingling moments between them that I found myself going back to read again straight away just to relive that delicious feeling again, my favourites being the lesbian party, **THE FIRST KISS * sigh*** (that alone deserves to be put in bold capitals) and a lovely non sexual but really romantic moment when one of them (not saying who) looked at the other whilst he was oblivious and had an epiphany,...that split second when suddenly everything becomes frighteningly clear and you're hit in the gut with the realisation that this person is it for you! Its not a long drawn out scene but the emotion in those few lines was palpable enough to etch it into my mind.

If I'm totally honest it was the drawn out will they /won't they section of the story that I enjoyed the most and Heidi kept that going for a fair part of the book until of course the inevitable happens. I guess the actual love scenes aren't as raunchy as some of her other books but even if they're not as frequent as usual from her, they're still hot, toe curling and sensual enough to satisfy and made all the better for having to wait for them. (view spoiler)

If I had one tiny quibble, its that towards the end there's a small section of the story that I felt just lost the magic a tad and because of that I was going to go with 4.5 stars but it ends with a gorgeous sigh worthy epilogue and as I've been writing this review I realised just how much I adored Kelly and Walter and their " moments" so its getting the full tummy tingling 5 stars from me. Loved it!

Amy says

All the stars for Walter and Kelly! I absolutely LOVED this story! Walter and Kelly were the perfect couple. They were both so freaking cute. Walter is a reformed manwhore who has no interest in relationships. And Kelly is a Disney fanatic looking for true love and a happily ever after. Fate pairs them together as roommates. I loved the slow build of their relationship. And I loved the epilogue! Cannot wait to read Fever Pitch!!

Jenni Lea says

This book was way different than any other book I have read by this author. It was very sweet and had a YA or NA feel to it. While I liked the story and I felt it was well written, it is not a favorite of mine. I think I prefer the main characters to be quite a bit older and more seasoned. It was still a great story although very, very long.

3.5 stars rounded up to 4

Heidi Cullinan says

This is on audio now, if you hadn't heard that news.

<http://insatiablepress.com/product/lo...>

<http://www.audible.com/pd/Fiction/Lov...>

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

Only \$0.99 at Amazon right now!! 8/3/15 <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00CZ8MCG0>

Another fabulous read by the always reliable Heidi Cullinan! I mean, what is there *not* to love about a college freshman virgin from the sticks and a male player reforming his ways?? Truly nothing. And a Disney theme to boot?? Yes please!!

Clearly this book had some of my favorite tropes and it delivered in a big way. I was needed something light to pick me up and this good old-fashioned M/M sappy romance did the trick! Very sweet, very slow-burn (which is a WIN for me), "Love Lessons" was all that I hoped it would be.

Now, it wasn't perfect. I had some issues with the pacing (it dragged towards the middle and the end) and I grew a little bored of the college campus politics. I also ended up comparing it to two of my FAVORITES from last December, Christmas Kitsch (which I praise far and wide, like it's my job) and Blame It On The Mistletoe (which was nearly perfect for me as well and with no pacing flaws). However, while this won't make my favorite's list, "Love Lessons" certainly deserves to stand tall and proud in the same field as those two other juggernauts.

I'd recommend this book for someone looking for a lovely NA read with a long buildup to sex and plenty of relationship development. It was nicely done and another winner from Ms. Cullinan.

MLE says

My friend has been on me forever to read these, but I was having trouble getting into it. Kelly just seemed too pure, and innocent, and Walter like too much of a player. I was pleasantly surprised once I got passed the initial bit how much these characters grew, and changed. I liked that Kelly had strong ideas, and a love of Disney movies, but he was so much more than that. I liked that they had to learn to understand each other, and that it was a story about them both growing, and learning about themselves and each other. A really nice start to the series, and I can't wait to read more. I should have listening to Elspeth sooner.

Vio says

DNF 40%

Jumping for cover, sorry guys. Another buddy read gone bust, only this time I was wise enough to quit while I was ahead. Love Lessons will be that other book that everyone loved but me. Picky, fussy, grumpy or moody take your pick. My patience seems to be wearing thin lately, I was bored and exasperated, its a very slow moving story. It also didn't help that one of the characters Walter annoyed me, another strike. Sugar is all well and good but white death is too much.:(Yes, I did skim the rest of the book and that epilogue is a no.

Susan says

4.5 stars

Wow. I REALLY did NOT expect to LOVE this book THIS much!!!! It was just SO GOOD!

Is it sweet? YES.

Is there angst? Minor. Very minor.

Is there smut? Minor. Very minor.

Is it the typical YA formula? On the surface it might seem it, but it actually goes much deeper. I wouldn't call this "YA".

Is it emotional? Yes, at times.

Is it HEA? See question 1.

This is a really different book than I'm used to from Heidi Cullinan. Honestly, the woman knows how to write a HOT story. Love Lessons, however, is more about the emotional connection and the growth from friends to lovers of 2 young men dealing with their pasts, figuring out their presents, and planning their futures. It's a sweet, lovely, yet powerful story about finding yourself, finding your partner, finding your joy.

Kelly is a college Freshman, a virgin, and pretty much the MOST ADORABLE KID EVER! He will join my "House of Huggables" (with Ryan from ICoS, Parker from American Love Songs, Conner from Social Skills, and Elliot from Catch My Breath...the HoH is getting crowded!) And though the story starts with him and his issues, it develops into him as a source of strength for his boyfriend and his family. Oh, and he LOVES Disney...so, duh...he's awesome.

Walter is a player, a commitmentphobe, a bit of a rebel rouser. He immediately takes to Kelly, befriends him, and does what he can to look out for him. This protectiveness is SUPER attractive and makes me want to be besties with him. When he finally realizes he's in love and he can count on Kelly...gah...open the floodgates...what a beautiful part of the book. I loved it.

The two of them as a couple make me HAPPY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

TINY, minor, the-only-reason-this-isn't-5-stars beef with the book: the epilogue. Goodness knows I love me an epilogue...but this one was almost...well...just...you'll see...

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED if you can handle the sweetness!

Dan C. says

Once again, I got the first peek at this book. It is, without a doubt, my favorite thing my wife has written. It pushed all the right buttons and made me feel all warm and gooey inside. You all better pray October gets here quickly. :)

Elsa Bravante says

DNF 20%, aburrido y pretencioso. El tema me encanta, el libro, no.

Kaje Harper says

I loved Walter - he's a guy who's working so hard to keep life running smoothly, not just for himself but for everyone he cares about. His depressed, moody mother back home. His favorite professor. And when he's assigned to room with the from-a-small-Minnesota-town freshmen, Kelly, that quickly includes his new roommate.

Kelly is a good guy who's a bit overwhelmed by the transition to college, and all the things he thought it would be and isn't, including a dorm with disdainful jocks, and food that threatens to set off his allergies. Walter, from his vantage as a jaded junior, can empathize. And when Walter wants to help, he throws himself into it, heart, mind, time and bank account.

Walter wants Kelly to find the good things about Hope College, including a positive intro to dating and sex. Although not with a player like Walter himself. But Walter doesn't give himself enough credit for his intentions or his own worth, and what he thinks is the easy route in his own life, is really protecting himself from the pain of caring too much.

This is a slow-building romance, with some good secondary characters, notably the professor whose support is the rock Walter stands on to get through his degree. The shifting of that ground under them provides some of the interest in both plot and emotions here. There is a bit of "I'm not good enough for the virgin guy" about the story, but here it felt done right, without melodramatic angst and with gradual forward momentum. Kelly is a little too good to be true, especially in his progression to confident public figure toward the end, but he is a sweet guy and exactly what Walter deserves. And Walter. I loved Walter. This goes on my favorites shelf.
