



The Escort

Laura Marie Altom

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For fans of J. Kenner and Tracy Wolff, Laura Marie Altom's heart-wrenching new Shamed novel features two broken-hearted lovers who fall for each other—one dangerous, sizzling encounter at a time.

When the woman he loves marries billionaire Liam Stone, Nathan Black swears off dating, constantly being broke, and playing by the rules. His new gig's not exactly legal, but the cash will help him build a solid future. Then there's Carol Moore, Liam's personal assistant. She and Nathan always seem to get paired up at Stone family functions—and always seem to fall into bed together afterward . . . or even during. She's the perfect rebound. So why does Nathan want more?

After Carol's dreamy boss gets hitched, crushing any chance of them getting back together, she finds herself hooking up with the bride's best friend. Nathan is hot, adventurous, and makes her feel even better than chocolate does. But when one of their sexy games reveals the presence of a relentless stalker, Carol discovers that Nathan has a dangerous secret. And before long Carol is forced to choose between her safe old life and the bad boy who makes her feel like the woman she's meant to be.

The Escort Details

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From Reader Review The Escort for online ebook

R says

'The Escort' is book 3 of 4 from the 'Shamed' series. This book follows Nathan (who is in love with Ella) and Carol (who has been in love with Liam since their brief relationship many years ago). Nathan and Carol have a tryst during Liam and Ella's wedding to try and alleviate some of the pain they are feeling over the nuptials that are taking place. They soon realize that they like each other and would like to start dating. Nathan has a job as a grocery store stock person and is approached by a customer and asked if he would like to earn big money quickly. Nathan knows he can't treat Carol to the nicer things in life with his current job so he accepts the new job offer as an escort. Nathan loves the idea of earning so much money with such little effort but Carol does not want Nathan working as an escort and begs him to stop, but when he tries to quit his new boss has other ideas and refuses to let him leave her employ. Nathan's life goes from bad to worse when he begins to lie to Carol about having quit his job and the lies continue while putting their relationship in jeopardy. Will their relationship survive the deceit and lies that Nathan has been telling Carol or will it be too much for her to accept?

This is not a storyline that I have read before and was very excited to read this book after having read 'Control' and 'Possess'. Laura Marie Altom did a really great job again of writing this book and you will not be disappointed by her work. Book 4 in this series releases later this year and I can't wait!!

Lisa says

Kirstin's Review:

The Escort by Laura Marie Altom 5 out of 5 stars

I am officially a huge fan of Laura Marie Altom!

I liked Nathan in the first two Shamed novels, but I loved him in this one, where he is finally the main character, finding the love of his life and getting over Ella. And he just happens to find it with Carol, Liam's assistant, who also deserves her own chance at love.

The only problem that these two happen to have is Nathan's ego. He can't stand being a poor nobody with nothing to offer Carol but his love, which leads to him becoming a male escort as a quick way to gain confidence and money. But, it also brings a whole boat load of problems because anything that sounds too good to be true usually is.

So, if you loved the first two books in the Shamed series, you won't be disappointed by the third and you will fall in love with Nathan and Carol even more! Enjoy!

Christine says

I will start off by saying book 1 and 2 were fantastic in this series. I did enjoy book 2 of Liam and Ella more.., so with that said, I am wondering if that's where I am headed with Nathan and Carol! I was so excited for their story, but felt that Nathan was a bit of a child in this book as Liam was in the first. Nathan was a take charge kind of guy in the bedroom, but he was very stubborn with his pride. He did not want to receive any help from others, especially Carol.

I really liked Carol, I thought she was strong and independent and for the most part did not put up with his shit.

I did enjoy the sex, especially their first time together! I thought that was super fun!!!

I am hoping the next book turns into my favorite as the second book did.

Thank you Net Galley and publisher for this copy in exchange for an honest review.

Christina says

ARC generously provided by Random House Publishing via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

Even though I haven't read Books 1&2 it was to easy for my to catch up to the story.

Nathan and Carol find solace in each other after the people they loved got married. They started a casual relationship but it was evolved in something more. Nathan tries to prove himself to Carol, he wants to prove to her that he is worthy of her love even Carol tries to persuade him in any way that she only wants him. He decides to take up on a job as an escort and that's where things don't go as he planned.

I really liked this book, it had chemistry, and Nathan was an honest character that wants to prove himself.

I felt that the epilogue was cut off; I would like to have read more about their ending.

Crystal Zapata says

Well let me start by saying I absolutely loved book 1 & 2. I was really excited to get my hands on this 3rd installment and it did not disappoint.

I'm so glad we get the full story on Nathan and Carol. The chemistry between the two in the beginning was bitter sweet. As Nathan was hopelessly in love with Ella and Carol with Liam. But they find solace in each other and sparks fly.

What was supposed to be a onetime thing to get through their heartbreak, turns into something more.

Something exciting and hopeful. Nathan wants his happily ever after and dives head long to get it. Carol knows happily ever afters are for dreamers not damaged people like herself. She struggles with the feeling of rejection on the inside but portrays an ice queen on the outside. Only Nathan sees right through her façade. After their one night of heavy passion Nathan does everything he can to be the man worthy of a person like Carol. Only Carol wants the real Nathan, not some fake version who thinks she's only after a billionaire like Liam.

Ahh the struggle for love and happiness is real people! If you've read the first two of this series, you should definitely read the third. It's great!

Linda says

I have been really enjoying this series and this book was no exception!

The Escort, though it does keep us updated on Ella and Liam is Nathan and Carol's stories. You should remember Carol as Nathan's assistant and right hand woman, but also she has held a torch for Liam for several years. Nathan is Ella's friend, whom she made the move with Ella from Arkansas to California, helplessly in love with Ella and waiting for his chance.

The story opens with both of these characters attending the wedding of Ella and Liam and both obviously distressed by it, Nathan can not stand the thought of being at the wedding any longer and seeing Carol just as distressed suggest they both get away, which a suddenly aggressive Carol and a more than willing Nathan take to a very sexy next level.

Both Carol and Nathan have their issues so this is anything but an easy relationship that forms, Nathan is stubborn and very prideful, he has issues about his financial status and being able to treat Carol on his dollar to the life she has become accustomed to, none of which matter to Carol, she is just as at home with a pizza and beer as a fancy night out and has no issue with paying, for Carol her issue is that she wants to be loved without the fear of that person leaving her life, everytime she allows herself to love that person leaves and breaks her heart!

Nathan makes a bad choice in looking for quick money and becomes a male escort, which Carol finds out she obviously hates, but Nathan can not simply walk away, the woman who owns the service has her goons make it more than obvious that walking away is not an option, one good beating and threats against Carol keep Nathan on line.

Unfortunately that means he is lying on a never ending loop to Carol and the lies create distance and a rift between these two people who have come to love one another.

Their issues are not all on Nathan, Carol has her own that compound everything and though Nathan does lie to Carol it is through his belief that he is keeping her safe from Uma and her goons by doing so!

Can these two recover from the lies? Can Nathan escort her? Will they get an HEA?

For the answer to this and other questions, you just have to read for yourself!

ARC graciously provided by loveswept via netgalley for an honest review.

Jimnlori says

This is a smoking hot romance by Laura Marie Altom. This is the first book in this series that I've had the privilege to read and was pleasantly surprised. This book is more edgy and raw than I've found in some of her other books, but expected with this story line. I will definitely be looking forward to reading the other books in this series that I've missed.

Carol and Nathan turn to each other for comfort when the people that they love the most marry each other. Their relationship may not have started out the normal way, but they can't deny the raw intensity that they feel for one another.

Making their relationship work beyond the physical aspect is going to take work for Carol because opening up doesn't come naturally for her after having every man that she has ever trusted hurt and leave her.

For Nathan it's going to be a struggle also because he lets his pride get in the way and being the man that he is he believes that he has to take care of everyone and everything even if it isn't best for him.

I was given an ARC for an honest review. All conclusions are mine and mine alone.

Jessica says

See more of my reviews on my blog [Thoughts At One In The Morning](#).

My Thoughts:

When Carol and Nathan attend the wedding of Liam and Ella, it's a rough night for both of them. You see, Carol loves Liam and Nathan loves Ella--so seeing the two people they care about more than anything get hitched is devastating. Carol turns to Nathan and suggests that the two of them hook up. He thinks she's joking, but she isn't, so they do. They think it's going to be a one time affair, that they shouldn't do it again, but they end up enjoying each other's company. Unfortunately for Nathan, he isn't in a place to court a lady, so he feels like he needs to step it up when it comes to his career, which leads him to becoming an escort (the kind that literally just escorts ladies to events, nothing else). Carol isn't thrilled about this, even though she knows the details. She doesn't want him to do this forever, but can Nathan get out of it and still keep Carol?

The Escort was a bit of a wild and crazy story. I enjoyed it for the most part--there's a lot of honesty to the story. I liked how Nathan was an average guy and not some big shot who makes hundreds of thousands a year. He was real, which of course, was his downfall at the same time. The story itself was a lot different than I anticipated, but in a good way. There were a lot of ups and downs, and some poor choices, along the way. Plus, there's a twist you don't immediately see coming, but it makes perfect sense when you get there. All in all, a unique story from Laura Marie Altom!

My Rating: Pretty Good

Judy says

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for an ARC of this amazing book!!

Absolutely LOVED this book! It hit the ground running just like I love!! Ella and Liam are getting married which is great unless you are Carol or Nathan. Nathan loves Ella and Carol loves Liam. They decide to have wild monkey sex to help them get over the wedding (at the venue), however, that doesn't work too well. Nathan feels he isn't good enough for Carol and decides he's going to be an Escort when an offer is put to him. And that's where the story line takes off! This book had it all!! Sex, mystery, love, hurt among other things!! You must read this book, you won't be sorry!

Anita Byars says

A great story filled with love, lies, intrigue and suspense. I loved that this story was from both their point of views. There was so much going on in this and a great story was created. This was entertaining with drama, intensity, adventure and a whole lot of sexiness.

Nathan and Carol are miserable, Ella and Liam are getting married today on a beautiful beach at sunset and each of them have been the love of their life. In order to forget about the wedding and this terrible day they

slip away together and have meaningless sex.

Nathan leaves immediately after, not wanting to see Ella and Liam after they are married. Nathan is taken by Carol but even though he is gorgeous he has terrible self confidence due to his job of being a shelf stocker at the local grocery store. Barely making enough money to get by week to week with no car and no goal in life. How can he compete with Liam when he is a Billionaire and Carol's boss. He can't even afford to take her out to eat.

Carol is Liam's long time assistant and ex-girlfriend who has secretly been crushing on him since they broke up. She is such a workaholic she has no life outside of work and she definitely thinks Nathan is Hot! As these two come together for more hot sex, the chemistry is amazing. But when Nathan is approached by a customer of the grocery store to be an escort his time with Carol has to take the hit in order for him to learn manners and get sophisticated. Although Carol tries to warn Nathan about his new line of work, Nathan can only see the dollar signs he will be making. When Carol give Nathan an ultimatum about leaving his new line of work he says he will give up for her. But what will Carol due when she finds out he has been lying to her and she is in danger? Will they get their HEA! Will Nathan ever get the job that he wants and needs to help support Carol. You will have to read this to find out. You have got to check out the ending in this story, it will blow you away. Loved this story where it went and how it all came together.

Received a copy through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Keri says

So after reading the previous two in this series, I am down with the angst that the author throws in each story. Nathan and Carol were pretty flipping hot together and once Nathan decided being a total jackass wasn't in his best interest I liked him better, but honestly I didn't really like him with to begin with. Now, Carol had a past I wasn't expecting, but that's a good thing mainly. All in all this was a pretty steamy, drama filled read. If you liked Liam and Emma's story then I see you enjoying this as well, but don't expect the same level of amazingness bc in no way is Nathan Liam.

This was a complimentary e-copy provided by the author and publisher in exchange for a honest review.

Carol-Ann says

Absolutely Fablous Romance Read!

Another fabulous Romance read by the lovely Laura marie Altom, I loved every minute of reading this book the creativity and flow of the words from chapter to chapter,A very gripping storytelling love lies and deceit what more could you want from a story! I loved the character's of Nathan and Carol loved there chemistry and relationship all though Nathan lies and deceit are about to be found out!

Mignon Mykel says

Received a copy of title in through TASTY BOOK TOURS exchange for an honest review.

When Carol and Nathan first meet, it's at the wedding of the people they'd both been crushing on -- her, Liam, and him, Ella. Both fancied themselves in love with the other person, but Liam and Ella found love in

one another and now Carol and Nathan are dealing with the lingering effects.

Carol is a well-to-do woman. A self-made woman. Liam took a chance on her years ago and she was able to rise from rock bottom.

Nathan had everything, but now finds himself working minimum wage jobs and can't find a way to keep his rent and bills paid, let alone going out for meals.

When they meet at the wedding, sparks fly. When they get together after, both are still incredibly drawn to the other but the biggest problem?

Nathan's pride.

When Carol offers for them to go down the road from his place for dinner, Nathan knows that he can't afford it so he simply says 'no'. Carol, though, takes it as rejection, thinking he doesn't think he's good enough for him -- he is, after all, gorgeous.

Nathan finally confesses his money woes but when Carol states she's ok paying for things, Nathan's pride gets in the way again. He will not date her while he's in this predicament, but he'd love to be friends. He has an odd offer lined up, though, so he figures it's only a matter of time until he feels he's good enough for Carol.

Nathan begins working for an escort company -- simply for events, mind you, something that he reiterates to Carol when she raises a brow and is concerned. Nathan now has money coming out of his ears and he flaunts it.

Which is primarily why I disliked him.

It was one thing when Nathan had his pride and was embarrassed to want to be with a wealthier woman but barely scrapping by, but the moment he gets a black card, a fancy car, and money to do whatever he wants with, he flaunts it. Grins like a little boy and waves the card around. Carol was right to be skeptical, but equally, she was right to be annoyed by him.

However, under Carol's self-righteous facade is a woman with secrets and pains -- secrets and pains that eventually she shares with Nathan. When she does, Nathan turns into that protective, loving kind of guy I love to read about.

Knowing that I like this author's writing style, I pushed through, hopeful that I'd get past my distaste for a seemingly immature Nathan. And for the most part, I did. Nathan's pride is a huge obstacle throughout the story, and money (his lack of it) a recurring theme -- a theme that he hides behind to protect Carol. But Carol? Carol doesn't hide, she fights for what she wants.

2kasmom says

Nathan Black meets Carol Moore when the love of his life is marrying the love of hers. They have the pain and serious attraction between them, but honestly, what else? As they get to know one another, they are pleasantly surprised at the outcome.

Nathan wanted nothing more than to be with Ella forever. Then she married Liam. Carol understood the pain this caused and swept him away for a hot moment in time. The next time they see each other he is embarrassed to tell her he is too poor to take her to dinner. So he makes some rash decisions and sells his soul to make better money.

Carol just wants someone to finally love her for what she has to bring to the table. Liam helped put her in the right path, but obviously was never meant for her. She starts to feel that she has a chance with Nathan. He is just gone all the time and works all these strange hours. What is a girl to think?

Nathan finds he is truly falling for Carol. Unfortunately, the devil his soul to also knows. Threatened and scared, he continues to lie to Carol for her own safety. Can he convince her they have a chance at a future when they have so many lies between them? Trust becomes a real issue for this couple.

What an amazing book! This story had so much going on I thought about taking notes! I was loving all the characters and the suspense, though. If you enjoyed the first two books in the Shamed series, you will definitely love this one! This book can be read as a standalone read - but why do that if you can enhance it by reading all three? I loved it and found that I cannot wait to see what happens in the next installment.

***This ARC copy was provided by Netgalley.com and its publishers for an honest review only.

Julie says

It was nice that Nathan and Carol finally had a novel of their own, and what a story it was.

I've always liked Nathan in the previous Shamed books and this time he decided could do better for himself and then Carol wouldn't think he was just a loser if he she could see he was doing well, so took a job as a male escort to make some fast money and to boost his ego. But he forgot the cardinal rule that 'nothing is free', and his money and fancy apartment come with obligations he gets tired of and soon wants out, but getting out is harder than he anticipated.

This love story is also a thrilling drama, as Nathan is caught between a rock and hard place as he try's to turn his love life in the right direction, and Carol is as strong as ever but is mystified by Nathan's behaviour.

A great addition to the Shamed series, I throughly enjoyed it. 5/5
