



Need

Stephanie Lawton

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Isaac Laroche is cursed. All he wants to do is hide out and feel sorry for himself. Never mind that he got caught sleeping with his seventeen-year-old piano student, or that he abandoned her when the truth was exposed.

Isaac's feisty high school sweetheart has different plans. Heather Swann has returned to their hometown of Mobile, Alabama, to regroup after breaking up with her troll of a fiancé. She's restless and looking for a diversion, but she bites off more than she can chew when she sets her sights on rehabilitating Isaac with her unorthodox sexual, mental, and physical plans.

The two quickly reconnect, but their happiness is threatened by family secrets, old vendettas and the death of a beloved father-figure.

Can Heather handle Isaac's baggage, or will her own come back to haunt them both?

Need Details

Date : Published May 17th 2013 by Inkspell Publishing (first published May 12th 2013)

ISBN : 9781939590077

Author : Stephanie Lawton

Format : Paperback 328 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, New Adult, Adult, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review Need for online ebook

Kayla at MyBookMuse says

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review

That was my reaction when I found out that we were getting more Issac.

Need is a companion novel to ***Want*** , so if you have yet to read ***Want*** then you will be at a BIG disadvantage.

Need picks up after the previous events in ***Want*** that have made Isaac the town pariah. In a small southern town, rumors and gossip travel fast, so to avoid further persecution, Isaac essentially becomes a hermit. He stops playing piano. He avoids the public. But Isaac has yet to atone for his sins.

It isn't until former flame and ghost from his past, Heather Swann, forces herself back into Isaac's life with some unusual 'atonement' methods, that Isaac finally becomes the man that ***I*** so desperately wished he was from the beginning.

But Isaac isn't the only character left to atone for their actions in ***Need*** . In true dramatic and Southern flair, the town of Mobile, Alabama is filled with scandals, lies, gossip, revenge, forgiveness, and redemption.

I have been waiting for Isaac's side of the story since he broke my heart into pieces in ***Want*** . He is a complex character with all these different layers, that the more I tried figuring him out, the more I found myself lost in his madness. With the help of Heather, and a little bit of *kink*, the revelations of Isaac and his past paint a story of a very broken man.

...and there is kink, but it is VERY tasteful, important to the storyline, and so so sexy....

After all this time I was able to connect with Isaac again. I wish I could have said the same for Heather. I think my lack of connection with Heather was due to my strong connection to Julianne from ***Want*** . But even knowing that, I was still really impressed and happy where the story ended.

I have to admit I was one of the many that emailed Stephanie begging for more of Isaac, and now I want to email her and beg for more of Julianne. What say you, Stephanie? ;)

Need is dramatic, sexy, beautifully written, and just an insane journey from the beginning to end.

4 stars*

Emily Elizabeth says

Need is not what I was expecting--in a good way! There is so much to the story that I don't even know where to begin this review! This hurt my heart, made me smile and left me feeling (almost) completely satisfied. *Need* is a wonderful ADULT companion to *Want*--this one has more angst and lots of naughtiness.

Look at this cover... The covers for these two companion novels are gorgeous! If I'm being honest, they are the reason that I took such a big interest in these books. The coloring is beautiful and they actually resemble the content of the novel. (I know, I was shocked, too.) Something about them just drew me in and I'm so glad they did because I really, really enjoyed *Want* and *Need*!

Isaac Laroche is in deep. Not only did he abandon the girl he loves when she needed him most, but his friends, family and neighbors have shunned him for his sins. Since he left Juli to deal with the aftermath of their publicized relationship, Isaac has become a shut-in. He finds an unlikely ally in his high school girlfriend, Heather Swann, who is also running from some familial issues herself. Just as Isaac and Heather embark on a relationship, the past threatens to tear it all down. They must face monster mothers, family secrets, death and past loves if they can ever hope to find happiness together.

Isaac isn't a bad guy; he's just been through the wringer more than once. Though I, as I'm sure all readers were, was disappointed in his actions at the end of *Want*, I was really hoping to see him redeem himself in *Need* and he did... for the most part. There were a few ends that I didn't feel had been completely tied. Heather is another key character in this novel. We were introduced to her in *Want*, but in *Need*, we get to know her very well. I, personally, liked her. She's a good match for Isaac--they have great chemistry and really care for each other. (Plus their naughty scenes are hawwwwt.) Isaac's uncle played a large role as well and he was probably my favorite character. He was charming and loving and had a great sense of humor. He was the perfect addition to the story. The antagonists in this book were nutcases and drove me crazy, but did the job they set out to do. I wish we had seen more of Juli and Dave, but even their minor cameo was great to see.

Stephanie Lawton writes another addictive story in *Need*. She has strong prose, and excellent storytelling skills. Though there were a few details that struck me as a bit too much, *Need* was an extremely realistic, and original contemporary. The plot moves pretty smoothly. The development is slow and sexy. That being said, there were some parts that moved a bit too slowly for my taste and a few issues that weren't expanded on enough, but I was so involved in the novel that I didn't realize anything was missing until the end.

I would definitely consider *Want* a new adult novel and *Need* is **ABSOLUTELY** an adult novel. There's dirty words, dirty words and people doing the dirty. Tread with caution, but give these stories a chance for sure! You'll be hooked from the very first page.

This review can be seen on my blog as well.

I received an e-copy of this novel from the author for my honest opinion and review.

Jamie Manning says

I'd rate it 10 stars if I could! Full review to come!

Here's my full review!

Oh, what can I say about Stephanie Lawton's latest novel, *NEED*. A whirlwind bundle of love, passion, anger and sex, all rolled into a pretty pink basket of perfect prose that will slip right inside your mind and take up root, *NEED* gives hot a whole new name.

The story picks up after *WANT*, the novel that introduced us to the love-him-but-hate-him-more uber jerk, Isaac Laroche. I will be the first to admit that after *WANT* was over, I wanted to find Mr. L and give him a swift kick in the jittles. So I was a teensy tiny bit apprehensive about *NEED*, seeing as how it was a story all about him. But knowing how brilliant Stephanie is with a pen, I dove right in. And Holy Mother of Pearl, did I do a complete one-eighty.

In *NEED*, Isaac epitomizes redemption. Seriously. From the very beginning, my anger and disgust toward him melted away, replaced by sympathy and hope and, yes, love. There, I said it: I love Isaac Laroche (*WANT* fans, bear with me). Oh, Isaac. You, sir, are a tormented soul. His pain, his self-torture, his *NEED* to repent for past sins--they are all over this novel, bleeding onto every superbly crafted page like a stuck pig. Here are just a few of the the countless lines that so precisely show Isaac's hurt and depression:

Robert: "You can't stay away from it forever. It's part of who you are."

Isaac: "Don't want to be who I am." (gah!)

Robert: "You know I'll be there every step of the way to help you."

Isaac: "Yeah," I drawl, "but you're the only one." (sniff!)

Isaac (to Julianne): "No," I tell her. "No more tears. I'm not worth a single one." (heartbreaking!)

Isaac (to Julianne): "Please leave room in your life for me, even if it's only as a friend. I need you." (aww!)

Gah! Can't you just feel his pain? His hatred toward himself? The struggle Isaac has with himself and what society has made him feel he's done is perhaps the strongest element of this book, and the main reason I just know it's gonna be a massive hit.

Perhaps the most surprising thing about *NEED* is the presence of Heather, Isaac's ex. In *WANT*, she was a bit player, a part of his past that I felt was better for being just that: his past. So when she first appeared in *NEED*, I was wary. Oh, was I wary. I wanted Julianne!!! Ahem. As I was saying...

Heather is the perfect compliment to Isaac, and it is she that ultimately saves him from himself. She's a breath of fresh air in his life (in the form of some pretty risque, sexy good times, lemme tell ya!), and you can't help but fall head-over-heels for her just as you do for Isaac. By the end of this novel, I was literally praying things would work out for them. I won't tell ya if they did or not. I'm mean like that...

One thing that surprised me about this book was the number of times I literally had tears in my eyes. It's rare that it happens to me (*THE FAULT IN OUR STARS* comes to mind), but when it does, it's oh-so-good. And *NEED* is chock-full of tear-jerking moments, believe me. I so badly wanna go into vivid detail about said moments, but I won't. Suffice it to say that there are many. And they are painful. But oh man, are they damn good.

On top of an at-times heartbreaking story of redemption and love and hope, NEED is also filled with humor and laugh-out-loud moments. Since they're not spoilery, I wanna share just a few lines that made me spit Diet Coke:

For once, I'm drooling over thighs and breasts that have nothing to do with blondes or redheads.

I'm no mind reader, but I'm sure all of us just mentally peed a little.

Uncle Robert's closet looks like Mr. Rogers and Colonel Sanders had a textile orgy.

hahaha! Oh man, I'm laughing again as I'm writing this! Seriously, too darn funny. That is the brilliance of Stephanie Lawton: her ability to take a painfully real, heartbreaking time in someone's life and infuse humor into it. Because honestly, don't we all tend to do that in our own lives? Use humor to cope with loss or pain? I know I do. And I recommend you all do that. Or at least give it a try, because humor can help our minds accept things we otherwise couldn't. That's how the painful pages littered throughout NEED are digestable--through humor. I think without Stephanie's genius, I couldn't have finished this one, truly. Some moments were just... Okay, I'm stopping now, before I start crying again.

The one final thing I can say is this: Beyond the pain and accusations and loss and Southern aristocracy, NEED is ultimately a story about redemption. And that, no matter how seemingly undeserving and out of reach, it can always be had for those willing to work for it.

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

This is a tale of a bunch of bat-shit crazy people. I'm not even joking.

Need picks up not long after the end of *Want*. This is Isaac's side of the story. I won't spoil whether or not he gets the girl from book 1, but I will say that there's a lot of fallout from the events of the previous book.

"Really? Do you get funny looks at the grocery store, even though you make sure to go late at night when you won't run into so many people?"

Something that surprised me was the amped up eroticism. I felt like we'd gone from zero to sixty in no time! We'd witnessed a more muted sexuality in book 1, yet book 2 was a full-on sexy adult book. I'm not necessarily complaining over here, as the sex scenes were quite intriguing to read about (especially one involving vibrations from a piano - holy hotness). The changes did make sense, given that the focus was now on a fully grown man instead of a young woman on the verge of adulthood. Even though I didn't mind the extra emphasis on sexuality, I did find myself missing some of the subtle and lyrical tone of writing which made book 1 so special.

The greatest strength of this book might also compete for its biggest weakness. Isaac's current state of mind made for a heartbreaking, emotional read. I *felt* his burden in the beginning. He had been through so much and wanted to right his wrongs, but he didn't understand the way to go about doing so.

Need to hear that she forgives me for being so weak and reckless.

On the flip side, his state of mind also brought us to a point where I wasn't sure if I even liked him any more. There's a cutoff for a reader where once that line is crossed over into excessive, we stop giving credit for hardships.

"You're nearly thirty. Time to grow up, Isaac."

That quote summed up the direction I wanted him to head in. We did get there eventually after a bizarre journey, but there were some hairy moments that caught me off guard up to that point.

The big question for readers had to revolve around wanting to know what was up next for Isaac. Would his journey include the lovely Juli from book 1, or would his path go in another direction? I will say that I am happy we got the chance to see what happened to him.

As usual, the writing of Lawton's was beautiful and unexpected. I was slightly disappointed to see the second half of this book take a turn into a few contemporary romance standards, but the author still managed to salvage enough of her own personal flair to make me feel like I wasn't reading another cookie cutter book.

The only scene I will majorly complain about is (view spoiler) Something about that disturbed me and I wish it hadn't been there.

Do I think that (view spoiler)

Overall, I felt like I got most of what I'd asked for as a reader. It didn't come about completely in the way I would have preferred it, but I'm still grateful for the closure.

Between the Bind says

4.5 Stars from Between the Bind.

**Need* is the second novel in the *Want* series. I would absolutely recommend reading *Want* before continuing with *Need* because so much of Isaac's story is based around the events in *Want*. If you haven't yet read *Want*, there will be some spoilers in my review.*

And if you haven't read *Want* yet, DO IT! Here, I'll make it easy: [CLICK ME!](#)

Need begins directly after Isaac and Julie's "break-up," or, you know, where he left her on her own defending their unconventional relationship in front of the entirety of the town's elite. *scoff* We find Isaac working through his broken heart by quitting piano and working as a landscaper - sweating out the pain and exhausting himself into sleep each night.

The only constant in Isaac's life now is his Uncle Robert (who I love and adore). Isaac's family is disgusted by his relationship with his 17-year-old piano student and refuses to talk to him, but Uncle Robert understands the uniqueness of Julie and Isaac's situation and doesn't give up on trying to bring the family back together. When watching the town exiting church from his car on Easter Sunday, Isaac runs into his old girlfriend, Heather.

After reading the first novel, I wasn't sure that I would fall for Heather the way that I did. I mean, I loved Julie so very much and a little devilish piece of me wanted them to work it out while the angel on my shoulder says NO! Dave is the one! Nice guys, Jenna, nice guys...but surprisingly, Heather was the perfect companion for Isaac, exactly what he **needed**. Haha, get it?!

Heather quickly rips through Isaac's life like a wild force, repairing that which is innately damaged in him and hoping to steal his heart on the way. Going through her own mess of family and relationship problems, Heather was easily relatable and very likable. I loved her matter-of-fact attitude and her honesty, even in moments best suited for delicacy. Heather was a straightforward and refreshing heroine.

Heather's mom, Marcie Swann, makes another appearance in this novel. Still easy to hate and manipulative, we learn a lot more about her background and the Swann's history in general. I loved the road Stephanie took with this family history. It is unguessable (spellcheck says this is a word...I wasn't quite sure).

Overall, I loved Isaac's journey of self-discovery and hearing his voice in *Need*. The self-absorbed man who had never healed from his childhood abuse begins understanding himself through Heather's tough-love, intense control and surprising tenderness. There were so many heart wrenching moments through *Need*, literally, my heart wrenched. Such a touching and beautiful story while remaining uplifting.

There are some super hot scenes in this novel, so YA readers be aware. *Need* was wonderfully written, with relatable characterization and a uniquely captivating love story. Ms. Lawton combines the perfect amount of humor and despair, love and forgiveness - a must buy for sure!

Mitchii says

Hmm, a companion novel you say? But I'm more of a Dave fan.

Melissa says

So I got an advance copy and I've got to tell you this book is smoking! Isaac comes off as a jerk by the end of the previous book. Stephanie gives us a lot of back story in such a way that you don't see it coming, so I understand Isaac better and worship the mind that is Heather! God Forbid I'm ever on her bad side!

Rebecca Hart says

Review also appears on my blog: <http://rebeccahartwriting.wordpress.com>

4.5 stars for this decidedly grown-up sequel.

After reading and enjoying the first book in this series, *WANT*, I wasn't entirely sure how I would feel about a sequel featuring Isaac after the events that closed the first novel. As someone who really rooted for Dave when it came to Julianne (yes, I like nice guys), I was concerned I wouldn't be able to really relate to or sympathize with Isaac as a main character.

I need not have worried. Ms. Lawton was able to draw me into Issac's angst and really feel for him, despite what a cad I thought he had been. By the time he'd run into Heather again, the author had me squarely on his side and feeling badly enough for him to want to root for him to find happiness.

I don't do spoilers in my reviews, so I will keep the plot points talk to a minimum, but I will say that this book is definitely more maturely written than WANT. There are some interesting "adult" oriented themes here that would appeal to a more mature audience. Saying that, I did feel the shift to an NA genre from the original's YA stamp was warranted, and made sense for the story when you consider Issac was a great deal older than Julianne in the original story.

I really enjoyed getting another glimpse into Stephanie Lawton's skewed deep south society. Being born and bred in Upstate New York, I've often wondered if life in the south is really that interestingly dysfunctional.

NEED earned 4.5 stars from me. Shy of five, mostly because despite my general life of Heather, I never really felt connected to her the way I was to Julianne in the first novel. I am, however, willing to concede that some of that is my own bias -- having enjoyed WANT so much.

I would not hesitate to recommend this one, and if you read the first novel, it is a MUST READ.

Zoe and the Edge says

[The only note of complaint that I'm goin

Anna Banana says

3.5-4 stars

Maybe I'm at a disadvantage because I haven't read the first book, Want but when I saw this book I just knew that I had to read it NOW. And honestly, a big part of me was a little scared to read Want because of how it ended so I figured if I enjoyed this one I'll just go back and read the first one. And while I didn't read the first one, I didn't feel lost at all during the book.

I don't know the full length of how Isaac was before but he definitely grows a lot throughout this book. I didn't really know what to think of Isaac at first; he was such a mess and his emotions were all over the place. But as the book went on I really liked Isaac and became invested in his story.

When Heather is first introduced I wasn't sure how I felt about her. She's just so different from any other character I've ever read before. As I kept reading I realized there's more to Heather than I first thought and she's actually a really great girl. And perfect for Isaac. I think it was really cute how Isaac and Heather used to be high school sweethearts that reconnected. It definitely shows that they had and always will have a connection and I really felt like they were happy together.

I know many of you are probably wondering what happened to Julianne but don't worry, there's plenty of her in this book as well. While the story isn't focused on her I think the readers will be satisfied in knowing how

she's dealing with the aftermath of their relationship.

While I enjoyed this book overall, there were times where I got a bit bored and stopped reading for a bit. I think fans of this series will definitely enjoy knowing what happens next and if you haven't read these books yet I'd definitely recommend it.

***Received copy in exchange for an honest review.**

***This review also appears on my blog**

G says

I fucking hate everything I'm crying someone hold me please I don't know what to do with myself now that it's over can someone please do something about what's happening to me can somebody please I'm dead.

Okay. Wow. Okay. Stephanie Lawton has just gone from *A Very Good Writer* to *Queen*. Not only she manages to make me care for the one character that I wish I could have punched during *Want* but she also keeps everything that I loved so dearly about the first book. Although she just changed genres. I didn't even realize-- I just-- I need a moment here.

(view spoiler)

I apologize for the general lack of coherence. Maybe I'll give it a couple of days and reread it, but I just have lots of feelings and they're all positive and *can this woman write a redemption arc* and I just love everything and can somebody hold me seriously I'm shaking.

[All I need now is a story focused on how Conrad and RJ end up awkwardly getting together? Maybe? Please? That would actually be a dream fulfilled why can't this happen.]

Terri Rochenski says

I know some peeps didn't care for Isaac's character in *Want*, but I was drawn to him - to his emotional turmoil and tortured soul. He's one of those brilliant artists I've never understood but have always been intrigued by.

On to the goodies.

Yummies: Emotions. This puppy is quite the ride, probably one of the most since *Ten Tiny Breaths* IMO. Sure, the story line is great, but it's being immersed within Isaac's conscious that propelled this story forward for me.

Characters are fleshed out and come to life on screen (or paper if that's what you've got). Ms. Lawton is a master at showing us the people she's created, not just through description, but thought processes, words, and actions. **THIS** book is an excellent source for teaching the show vs. tell principal so many argue over.

Setting, like I said in my review of *Want*, is perfect for this story. You can tell Ms. Lawton is from the south

because she has such a grasp on the lifestyle - the mystery of deep secrets the south holds for a yankee like me. It's a great world to lose oneself in.

And the steamy ... Yeah.

I could go on and on, but I'll leave it at that. ;)

Yuckies: As if.

Recommend: Need I even say it? This story will sweep you up in its emotions and leave you breathless with a NEED for more.

Annabelle Blume says

Let me begin by saying that I kinda thought Isaac could just go ahead and DIAF when Want, the NA companion to Need, ended. Yet, when I finished Need, I was a fan through and through.

"But Annabelle, you hate a**hole guys masquerading as heroes," you say. I know, I really do, but the author didn't cop out and didn't ask the reader to forgive Isaac for his sins based on hotness alone. Lawton masterfully transforms Isaac Laroche from a childish, self-serving coward into a man who takes responsibility for his actions and stands on his own two feet. With the help of Heather and some of her rather, ahem, unconventional methods, Isaac realizes what he thought he wanted wasn't at all what he needed.

Lawton handles this character growth with such a deft hand that you don't even realize it's happening until you reach a point where you say, "Damn, this guy has finally figured his sh*t out." That, my friends, is something rarely seen genre fiction today – especially romance. Even more, this story has a true happy ending, not just throwing the characters together against all odds for the sake of the perfunctory HEA. For me, the emotionally healthy ending is the only true HEA, and Lawton does not disappoint.

I think I actually jumped around my room in joy during certain parts of Need. I find so very few authors who craft with real story arc and character growth. Plus, she uses five-alarm-fire sex scenes to achieve this in realistic and emotionally beneficial ways for her characters.

Some entry-level BDSM fun, the uncovering of even more social politics and secret lives than you would imagine, and lots of emotional upheaval make for a fantastic debut in the world of erotic romance.

Laurie Treacy says

(Rating: 4.5) "I've been cast out from my job as organist at my life-long church. Within twenty-four hours, all my students' parents called to cancel their lessons. The Mobile Symphony asked that I remove myself from the committee for the Mobile Sonata Contest."

Issac Laroche is now broken. After the scandal about his affair with his seventeen year old student Julia was made public, he escaped into himself. His friends, his family, his neighbors avoid him. The black sheep has become a social pariah. All he had was his Uncle Robert, his one saving grace. His Uncle suggests getting a

job which requires some sort of manual labor so Issac can "forget" any "urges" he may have. After Juli, he's a mess. And he should be. After reading what he put Juli through and his subsequent abandonment of her in the first book, *Want*, Issac should be ashamed. Need is his story.

"People could forgive what happened between you and Juli. What they have a hard time digesting is your reaction. You ran. They understood why you ran when you were a teenager, but you're nearly thirty. Time to grow up, Issac. Time to be the man your father would've expected you to be. The kind I expect you to be." Uncle Robert has always been in Issac's corner, his true supporter, and his words hit home. Issac begins to see what he has to do if he wants to remain a resident of Mobile. An old girlfriend, Heather, approaches him after Easter Sunday mass and they agree to meet to talk. We learn what happened after the homecoming dance between Issac and Heather's mother, Marcie Swann, when she catches the couple in a compromising position (when they're both 17). From here, they rekindle their friendship, but after Issac takes her advice on asking Juli for forgiveness and the plan backfires, he suspects Heather's mom in pulling her strings. Is she?

This was when the story took a strange turn and it took some time for me to see where it would go. Heather stands up to Issac and becomes a type of dominatrix, ordering him, using sex as a reward, and yet her efforts to change him begin to work. At this point, Issac has lost so much, he'll try anything. I found Heather's switch from sweet Southern woman to domineering seductress weird but she knew Issac best. She spoke the language Issac listened to--sex--and in her own way, demonstrated how he needed to begin changing his life. Their scenes, especially when she wanted him to treat her like Juli, were not only steamy but moving. Her vulnerability and need to have Issac forgive her for her mother's abuse of him at seventeen, came through. I wanted to learn more about her and her backstory (besides what she reveals later about her family).

"Perhaps it's a sign of my immaturity, but it occurs to me that she cares. My actions affect her. When I'm not around, she thinks about me. Part of me still doesn't believe that I'm significant enough to matter. I am nobody, forgettable, yet her tears say otherwise. So do Mama's, and so do Juli's. This is a revelation." The heart of *Need* is Issac's transformation from immature jerk to an upstanding man. His uncle helps him tremendously and even gets Issac to go home for Sunday dinner to mend his family ties. From this part on in the novel, I couldn't stop reading. Could. Not. Stephanie Lawton is excellent in penning heartbreak, highly emotional scenes and wringing feelings from the ordinary and conveying them to readers in her lovely, lyrical prose. The funeral scene and reception was poignant and beautifully written, combining Issac's pain and wit together with the uniqueness of Southern personalities and genteel behavior. Issac's relationship with his niece Jayne was also touching, showing another side of him. Family is important to him, but so is Heather.

"When the song ends, I stand to rejoin my family, but on the way I stop next to the casket and place my hand on its smooth surface. I say a silent prayer. I will make you proud. I will be the man you knew I could be." Ultimately, *Need* is about direction and what one messed up, immature young man must do with his life. Right his wrongs, reconnect with his family, be forgiven and forgive himself, get back to creating music, and fall in love--again--with his first love. I may not have liked Issac in *Want* but I liked and connected with him in *Need*. Powerfully uplifting, sexy, and gripping, I fell for a Southern guy named Issac. Thank you, Ms. Lawton, for bringing us Mr. Laroche's story. (<http://www.readergirlsblog.com/2013/0...>)

Miss says

I was looking forward to reading this book until the author sent me a message asking me how I'd obtained

my copy of her "unreleased" book. I was then told that I must be in possession of a pirated copy and that she would appreciate my assistance in finding the source.

I purchased a LEGAL copy from Amazon on 5/13/13. I emailed the author and provided my invoice as proof that I was NOT in possession of a pirated copy. Author responded (blamed it on Amazon) but did not issue an apology for her assumptions which was in bad taste. This is the first time I've ever had this type of correspondence by an author and it was rather odd.

I don't often return a book that I've purchased but in this case I feel justified in doing so.
