



No Flowers Required

Cari Quinn

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A sexy category romance from Entangled's Brazen imprint...

He'll give her everything she desires...except his identity.

Flower shop owner Alexa Conroy had it all before the recession hit and her customers fled to cheaper shopping grounds. Desperate to make ends meet, she sells her dream home and moves into the rundown apartments above her shop. When she spots six feet of sexy distraction—complete with muscles, piercings, and tattoos—ripping up flooring, Alexa knows the karmic windfall she's due just landed on her doorstep.

And the attraction's definitely not one-sided.

Dillon James, reluctant heir to the corporation about to foreclose on Alexa's shop, is not about to jeopardize their scorching chemistry by admitting he's not the building's handyman. But with only weeks until her business goes under and his identity is revealed, Dillon must find a way to convince Alexa cooperation isn't a dirty word, help her save the shop from his brother's greed, and persuade her that he's not the enemy...or risk losing the only woman who's seen the real him.

No Flowers Required Details

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From Reader Review No Flowers Required for online ebook

Exina says

Change was coming. Time to seize the day, and everything that came with it.

3.5 stars

As for the base of the plot, I had a little ‘*You’ve Got Mail*’ movie feeling. Alexa owns *Divine Flowers*, while Dillon and his family are the owners of the big, greedy *Value Hardware*, ruining Alexa’s business by selling cheap flowers.

Further episodes could also be great material for a romantic comedy movie, such as making out in the rain, or the auction scene.

Don’t get me wrong, **it is a pretty enjoyable, lovely story, with scorching hot yet emotional erotic scenes.** I’m sure I would enjoy a movie made out of it.

Characters

Dillon. He is described as a “bad boy”, a rebel. It was not perceptible. Outer features, like his tats, piercing and Harley are hardly enough to be a bad boy.

No, he was not a bad boy, but a piece of cake. He was all kind, helpful, affectionate, perceptive, and caring. He did charity work, made rooftop gardens, and aquarelle paintings. He had a perfect body, talent in manual labor, and sense of responsibility for the environment. **Perfect gentleman by day, perfectly dirty by night... Can you imagine?**

Maybe Dillon is perfect – too perfect, actually – but he is still likeable. Who wouldn’t trust a man like him?

Being with Dillon, more than anything else, made her believe. In romance. In hope. That not everything had to be difficult or hurt.

But **Alexa** is very mistrustful, with “sadness in her eyes”. But where does it come from? Selling her dream house is sad, okay, but hardly ruins her life.

You are not informed about former love delusions, or why had she built all those walls around herself. She is bitter, apparently with no reason.

I found Alexa’s behavior **a little overdramatic.** Her stubbornness and hostility toward *Value Hardware* was pretty narrow-minded too.

The backgrounds of the characters are vague, but their feelings and emotions throughout the story are amazingly well written. Actually, Dillon's is, not Alexa's. The characterization is a little unbalanced between the two of them. Dillon's character is more consequent and clearer than Alexa's.

Each event has a great timing in the **plot**, though sometimes I felt the filling parts, well, fillers.

The **erotica** is exceptionally spicy and filled with emotions, with **the wonder of the unprecedented uniqueness**, especially from Dillon's part.

All in all, it is a great story, with a likeable hero, a little hysteric heroine, pretty good romance development, and heated, sizzling erotica. Recommended!

**Originally posted on my blog on March 14th, 2014.
My favorite quotes on Tumblr.**

Wendy's Thoughts says

3 Sex Great, No Details Required Stars

* * *

Brazen is named ***Brazen*** for a reason. This is a publishing brand who lives up to its mission statement, I bet...I can only imagine when it was discussed in the conference room what the PowerPoint presentation looked like:

*Who the target audience would be
What type of formula would be needed
How to cultivate a following*

Which is not a bad thing at all. They have created a brand where you know when you want an easy, breezy, smexy read with a dash of heart... a Brazen story will usually deliver. There have been many extremely successful authors who have delivered different series following the Brazen form, launching a huge following. When every element is hit on target, there can be such a rush of fun in the reading.

This story by Cari Quinn had many of the elements needed... she had a sexy male character with a fully fleshed out backstory, personal conflicts he needed to come to grips with and core of goodness. It also didn't hurt he was good with his hands not only in the manual labor of construction, plumbing and gardening... but also with the woman chosen for him by Ms. Quinn, Alexa.

We had the "cute or conflicted meet" where misdirection would take place causing the continuing time bomb waiting to break these two apart later in the story. There also was the quick, undeniable attraction between them... like off the charts style. Exactly Brazen.

What threw this off for me a bit... was Alexa. I didn't get enough understanding of her backstory. She was a flower designer who worked for the original owner of Divine. The owner leaves the store to her when she passes. Alexa now has been running the business for 2 years but with the economy and all the past bills the owner had been carrying... Alexa is close to losing the business. Her competition, Value Hardware, has cut into her business with lower cost items. They may not be as high a quality but they are financially more attractive to the consumer. It causes her to HATE Value Hardware. They own the lease on her shop and have been sending her hate letters about the past due amounts owed. She went to see Cory Santangelo at Value Hardware trying to get a little assistance with the lease of Divine Flowers with no result.

(Here are my Personal Issues- I wished she had been more secure and savvy in the business she was running. Even with economy and past debt, she wasn't savvy enough or was too singularly focused to adjust her ways for the times. Of course, if she had... then all of the elements in the book wouldn't have happened...but because of these factors... I had a difficult time with her regarding the business end of things and her inability to see beyond the immediate.)

The hook is Dillon, our fix it man, is Cory's brother and part of the Hated Family of Value Hardware. It just so happens he has taken James as his last name so when he gives his name to Alexa, he is telling the truth... but also is lying by omission. Which will be the ticking time bomb waiting to go off.

What does go off early and frequently was the sexual escapades between these two. Their first "get together" was movie worthy with rain, roofs and everything in between. There was hot and heavy chemistry and want between them only heightening the knowing of the fall when the truth would come out about Dillon's connection to the dreaded Value Hardware.

Dillon was a likable character doing good works for the community and trying to help Alexa in bringing business to her store. Every idea he gave her was a real winner and although it took awhile for her to see the light...(ugh), she finally was able to see what he suggested worked. Dillon wasn't all perfection, though... he knew he needed to come clean about the family ties...but kept being distracted by his growing emotional feelings for Alexa and hardening cock....

Although I personally had a few issues with Alexa and some of the set ups, over all this fit the Brazen brand.... easy, breezy, smexy- yup really smexy reading without too much time investment. Overall, it kept me reading to see what would happen...

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Brandie says

Infinite stars!!!

I'm so in love with this book. There are things I look for in a book that make it a favorite. This book had it

all.

The sweetest romance ever. Heart poundingly good. I could swoon at all of the sweet moments between Dillon and Lex.

Lots of steamy moments that were perfect. Just enough to satisfy and never cheesy.

A strong respectable leading woman who did NOT get on my nerves with her insecurities and annoying whining (like a lot of girls in books I've read lately). Alexa was independent but able to concede she needed help from others and let down her walls. Which she had to in order to fall in love with Dillon.

And Dillon. Oh how perfect is Dillon James. Sexy tattooed bad boy/handyman - YES. Sexy intelligent businessman with a heart of gold - YES! This guy was amazing. The best of both worlds. He found out who he really wanted to be while he helped Alexa build herself back up and have the confidence she needed to succeed. And although there was a minor set back - I was so pleased things didn't get drawn out and stupidly put off. When you are in love - you can get through anything.

I also loved the length of this book. Not too long, not too short. Was to the point but had plenty of build up and suspense. I didn't feel anything was rushed and the timing of their relationship was so smooth and perfect. It felt realistic and had my heart racing and wanting more every time I put it down.

I can't say enough good things about this book except I highly recommend. A new favorite on my list!

Mirjana **DTR - Down to Read says**

*****3 Stars*****

Quick, low angst, entertaining and smut-tastic! Since I didn't have much time to spend with my kindle this week, this was the perfect book for me to squeeze in some reading time to scratch my reading itch.

Dillon was swoony (I love me a man with a tool belt), but it took me a while to warm up to Alexa (yes, I know....me and my heroine issues), but one thing I liked straight away....the woman was no prude!

The climax was a little underwhelming, but I'm glad that the author didn't draw out the drama.

I know exactly what I'm going to get when I pick up a Brazen, which is why they're my easy breezy guilty pleasure reads, and this book fit the bill nicely. I definitely recommend this one if you're looking for a quick, steamy and entertaining read.

Patty says

A fast, great read. I did not connect with the characters and I felt like the ending was rushed. However, I will continue with this series.

CC says

I do not know what has happened to me. The Brazen books that I used to like, no longer work well for me. This one was ok, but the last 30 mins (I was re reading via audible) made me want to punch something! I got that he was lying. I knew it would have to come out. Heroine was a pretty tough broad. I figured she would give him hell. He deserved it! Do not care that he was remorseful and he meant well, he LIED. He should not get off the hook easy. He should have to grovel!

While I hate a liar, I seem to hate someone who rolls over to one more! So while I should be upset with the hero for lying, I find myself more upset with the heroine. Ridiculous I know. All in all, it was not that bad and I enjoyed it up until the end. But something rubbed me wrong about the wrap up. If I go into all the things that bothered me, I would give away the end...

Safety Gang Safe.

♥Rachel♥ says

3.5 Stars

No Flowers Required was a fun, flirty, fast read.

Alexa Conroy is in a bit of a pickle left with a struggling business, Divine Flowers, a high end floral shop which in a depressed economy is not doing too well. She has just sold her dream house to pay off the businesses backed up bills and just moved into an apartment above her flower shop. Just one more problem is Value Hardware, a large store drawing business away by their promises of flowers at a discount. To add insult to injury, the owners of Value Hardware own the building that houses her shop and apartment, and with every overdue notice, her hatred of them grows just a little more.

Enter Dillon James, his family owns Value Hardware and the building Alexa lives in is his baby. He's renovating it personally with a focus on making it green for the benefit of the environment. Yes, his family is big business, but he is trying to make a difference in the world with his money. When Alexa mistakes him for the building's handyman, he goes along with the mistaken identity. It's nice for a change to have someone interested in him for him, and not for his money. He keeps up the charade when he finds out the hatred Alexa has for Value Hardware because he really likes her and is worried once she finds out who he really is, she'll cut him loose.

No Flowers Required reminded me a lot of the movie You've Got Mail with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. I loved that movie so, while this story was a bit predictable, I enjoyed it. I would've enjoyed this story more if I liked Alexa more from the beginning. Up until about 40% of the story, I didn't really care for her. She was pretty unlikeable and very rude to Dillon. Personally, I don't know what he even saw in her at first. Maybe that she was feisty? At any rate, she ended up softening and becoming much more likable and sweet, which is a good thing because I usually don't like a story if I can't connect with or like the main character. Dillon on the other hand was a complete sweetheart the entire story. The fact that he was HOT, with delicious tattoos, and could fix things didn't hurt my appreciation for him AT ALL! I leave you with a steamy quote:

He cast a sideways glance at her, and the tipped toward each other like bowling pins pulled by magnets.

Her lips were so close, a breath away. If he leaned in, if he just could taste her once---At the last second, he jerked back. Christ. Her pupils were dilated, her lips parted. She'd been ready for that kiss. Hell, she'd wanted it too.

Renégade ♥ says

4 1/2 stars

It was funny, it was sexy, and I really enjoyed Alexa and Dillon's romance and the dynamics between them!

I'm looking forward to reading the other books in this series in future.

(I definitely want to know more about Cory and Victoria. I often get a kick out of the enemies-to-lovers trope!)

Bethany says

That was my kind of dirty fun! No Flowers Required was pretty steamy, especially with Dillon smokin up the pages. If my apartments handyman was that hot, I would be breaking things in the apartment all the time! :)

Jessica ?~ Book&Coffee Lover ~? says

Ok were do I find a 'handyman' like Dillon?!?

Simply loved the chemistry between Alexa & Dillon! And let me tell you the love scenes were smoking sizzling hot!! No wonder they needed the rain ;)

Too bad we didn't get a Epilogue :(would have liked to know if they get married, if there gonna be babies etc.. lol BUT I was told by Cari Quinn herself that there are gonna be more books in the Love Required series and in those were gonna get a peek at Dillon and Alexa's life! :)

XxTainaxX says

No Flowers Required sets up a great plot with issues that are very relevant to small businesses today. The characters are personable and relatable. The sexy scenes had me turning on the fan to lower the temperature in the room!... Especially when about a specific tattoo that drives a sexy someone's lust levels through the roof (you'll have to read to find out deets) :-p Dillon is a very strong male lead and through Cari's writing, we are able to see how very much he desires Alexa. He is also diverse, as most of us are in real life. He likes his tattoos, bikes, and piercings but he also digs helping out the less fortunate, a greener environment, and helping his friends/family succeed. Dillon's main supporting character has a very discernible personality, making it easy to feel emotion throughout the plot by placing yourself in Alexa's shoes. There is something redeemable about the brooding, workaholic Cory. I would love to read more about him. I would have liked to

have seen a little more character development in Alexa. I feel like we get to see just a piece of what she is capable of and I didn't feel as much depth through action as I did with Dillon. If you want to add a healthy helping of heat to your day, this is the book for you!

Mindy Lou's Book Review says

The author pretty much had me at hello when she described Dillon.

"tight jeans and a black T-shirt stretched tight over a taut back meant for fingernail marks"

Talk about an attention grabber! When she mentioned the tats, well that was just icing on the cake. I like that he called Alexa Princess. I also like that his character wasn't the bad boy the author led us to believe in the beginning. He's actually one of my favorite type of Hero's. He didn't fight his attraction to Alexa and he went out of his way to help her failing business because he wanted her to succeed. He was a hard worker and was just a genuinely good guy.

Alexa was a little bit harder character for me. She was the heroine that has a hard time letting people in. She wasn't excited about Dillon's suggestions to help better her business and she had already seen that he wanted to help when she learned the truth of who he was, yet still pushed him away. Thankfully the author didn't keep us waiting to long bringing these two back together,

Dillon was really what had me in this story and made this worth the read for me. ARC provided by NetGalley.

Jennifer (TexasDiva74) says

Everything about this book was so good, from the smokin' hot love scenes to the characters themselves. Cari Quinn perfectly portrayed the feelings that we all get in a new relationship, from excitement to insecurity about the other person's feelings. I highly recommend this book!

twelvejan [Alexandria] says

Dillon is such a perfect boyfriend.

Emily says

After selling her house and relocating to above her flower shop, Alexa Conroy has done everything in her power to save her shop. Her biggest hurdle though still taunts her, super store Value Hardware can provide cheap alternatives, while not the sort of arrangements she would do but her customers seem to be flocking to her competitor.

Her new apartment is in desperate need of repair, thanks to the help of super sexy Dillon James with his

tattoos and hard core body, Alexa is finding a pleasant distraction from her current woes.

Dillon knows he should come clean with who he is, one of the owners of Value Hardware and that it is his brother who is helping force her out of business. He tries, but when a kiss leads to a little bit more, he can't find a way to come clean. He better figure it out quick though because he is finding he doesn't want to be far from Alexa's reach.

Cute story, Alexa is a little bit of a drama queen but it seems to meld well with Dillon. Dillon wants Alexa to succeed and goes out of his way to help her when she needs it. The story is setup to have another sequel in the series.
