



Playing With The Drummer

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Entertainment journalist Lita Matthews is on the verge of making it big. As in her-own-TV-show big. She just needs amazing inside scoop on the year's hottest celebrity wedding. Instead, her big break is becoming a big nightmare—all thanks to rock star Rocky Cardano. Who apparently hasn't gotten over what happened between them four years ago...

Rocky is pretty damn familiar with just how far Lita will go for a “scoop.” Hell, their unbelievably hot hook-up in Mexico years ago was the story of a lifetime. Rocky's learned his lessons. He'll do whatever it takes to keep her from the story—even if he has to seduce her to the point of distraction!

But Lita has always had a way of getting under his skin. Only this time, he won't be able to just walk away...

Playing With The Drummer Details

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Author : Robin Covington

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From Reader Review Playing With The Drummer for online ebook

Izy says

ARC generously provided by Entangled Publishing in exchange for an honest review

Rating ~3 stars

Lita Matthews and Rocky Cardano have a history unknown to their friends. They had an affair four years ago which ended badly to say the least, it left both parties heart broken and feeling betrayed.

Lita Matthews is a journalist, who is so close to getting own Television show. She's covering her best friends's sisters wedding as a assignment. Her parents are famous and she grew up in the Hollywood environment hence she's in a way jaded with all the games and manipulations and doesn't believe in love.

Rocky Cardano is a drummer for the band 'The Rift'. He avoids the press and media like they are the plague. He guards his privacy and doesn't want Lita to ruin his friends wedding with her schemes.

Lita and Rocky both met in mexcio where they were both hiding and dealing with some issues at the time, they didn't tell each other their real identity till after they slept together a couple of times. Finding out who the other person lead to arguments and ultimately their break up.

I liked Lita, I thought she was great though she could be a bit of hothead and slightly emotional. Yes, she made a mistake but she owned upto it and apologized several times, she grew up but Rocky didn't let it go. I did think that they moved too fast considering they not resolved any of their issues when they jumped back into bed which was what led their break up before (great sex but not much of understanding between them)

Lita and Rocky had great chemistry together and it was amusing to see their banter. which all had the undertone of heartbreak, anger and lust.

Quibbles:This wasn't listed as a part of a series so I thought this was a standalone but it isn't, its the third book in a series which meant that not only the characters had a history that was of-script but they were also it seems part of the earlier books and had some scenes there. So I felt I was missing quite a lot. Rocky's behavior near the end made me mad:

I mean really, I thought you were in loovvvee Rocky then what the hell dude? I needed him to grovel more. Lita should have made him work harder and that ending felt too easy.

Overall,though I had a couple of issues, it was good story if a little predictable and too easy at times.

Cocktails and Books says

How much of herself will Lita sacrifice to get the job of her dreams? Will she betray her best friends just for a chance at her own show? Although I can't say that I would struggle with a decision like this, in my book betraying someone's trust is wrong no matter how you sugar coat it, I can't help but sympathize with Lita's situation. Not only is this the job she's been working towards for years, she still feels this need to prove to everyone, including her parents that she's someone other than a celebrity's daughter.

First and foremost, I want to say that I have not read the previous books in the series. However, that being said, I had no difficulty following the storyline, the intricacies of the characters and their relationships with each other or their history. And boy what a history it is. Lita and Rocky have a history unknown even to their best friends, but the author does a phenomenal of letting the reader get a brief look at it without sacrificing the current story or making it so you need to have read the previous two books to be able to follow along.

It seemed to me that these two characters are all wrong for each other. Rocky is the reclusive musician with secrets he's hiding and Lita is, of all things a reporter. Both of her parents were celebrities, which of course means she has spent her entire life in the spotlight... not exactly the place a recluse want to be. Yet when they're not tearing in to each other verbally, these two are tearing each other's clothes off. Very much true to life, their issues are not insurmountable. They can easily be overcome if they ever actually sat down and spoke to each other instead of assuming and jumping to conclusions.

Although I enjoyed reading this story, I have to admit that it didn't wow me. It had all the markers for what I would consider a 5 star review but there was something missing that I couldn't put my finger on. Perhaps it was their insistence on not learning from their past mistakes, or maybe it was Lita's willingness to throw her friends under the bus for accolades from people who don't matter. I'm not sure. Something was missing though.

Reviewed by Iris for Cocktails and Books

Shannon The Romance Addict! says

Playing With the Drummer by Robin Covington IS THE 3RD Book in this series. while it "could " be read as a stand alone I think I would have "Loved it" compared to my "liking it" I just felt I missed out on some of the story and background stuff. But that being said Mrs, Covington did a great job with this story. I really enjoyed her writing style and this story.

Any and everyone who knows my taste in books know I love Rockstar/bad boy books. So this was right up my Alley.

The basic plot of the book without giving too much away was.....Lita Matthews is a up and coming Entertainment journalist she on the verge of making it big and getting her-own-TV-show only if she can get the inside scoop hottest celebrity wedding. Here steps in Rocky Cardano. One hot hookup in Mexico and Misunderstand later and we have this story. Its Lita trying to get a story and Rocky trying to get her.

Like I said It wasn't a 5 star for me but close I gave it 3.5 or 4 stars

Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says

3.5 Sweet & Sexy Stars

Four years hadn't cooled down any of the feelings he brought out in her. They were wrapped up in the freedom of their beginning and the death spiral of how they ended.

I haven't read a Robin Covington book I haven't enjoyed yet, and this was definitely no exception. There's only one thing that can make a lovers reunited trope better for me and that's make them jilted lovers. Now make the guy a sexy, bearded and tatted up drummer? And I'm done for.

Four years ago Lita met Rocky on a getaway in Mexico and spent 3 unbelievable and erotic nights with him. Three nights that were just enough to fall head over heels for him, and three nights that were enough for him to break her heart. And you know what they say about a woman scorned... In her heartbroken haze, Lita did a spiteful thing that forever broke Rocky's trust in her. Even though their circles are closely intertwined, they've managed to skirt around each other and avoid any interaction. But now Lita's friend is marrying Rocky's bandmate AND she's agreed to report on it with a positive spin that her friend so desperately needs. Too bad it will also bring her face to face with the one man that she's never been able to move on from. But Rocky isn't exactly over her himself...

Lita had been the brightest part of his life for those few days. And she still glowed on his periphery, minimized but never dimmed.

I really loved the first half of this book. The mix of hurt feelings with sexual tension hot enough to burn the pages definitely makes for a VERY interesting read.

It's obvious that both Lita and Rocky were equally to blame for the misunderstanding that happened those four years ago. Rocky thinks that Lita is a cut-throat reporter that will sell out her friends for the right scoop. And Lita just wants Rocky to see her for the woman beneath the career. And when these two finally give into the scorching hot chemistry that still runs between them? PHEW!

Rocky is this wonderful combination of sexy and yet just the right amount of sweet.

And Lita was a great heroine; tough as nails and yet endearingly vulnerable underneath the tough persona. The two of them together was fantastic as well.

So why not 5 stars? To be honest, it was more a personal bias than anything truly wrong with the book. I just found the last half of the book to be a little too predicable and at times too sweet and borderline cheesy for my tastes. I found the progression of their relationship to be too quick at the end as well. I understand that they have that history from 4 years ago, but it's still tough to believe the whole (view spoiler) thing.

But I'm pretty sure that readers that enjoy sweet and sexy contemporary romance will love this. I just tend to be pickier than most ;)

Robin Covington's books are always an auto-read for me, and I can't wait to see what she'll have in store next.

ARC courtesy of publisher in exchange for an honest review

For more reviews visit

Irene says

4 stars

Playing With The Drummer was a hot and steamy read, great second chance love story.

Rocky and Lita are both passionate people and seeing them reconnect made for a very good read. From the start you can see they had great chemistry and they truly belonged together.

I'm a big fan of Robin Covington and once again she's given her readers a wonderful and entertaining read.

Thank you to Entangled Indulgence for the advance copy in exchange for my honest thoughts.

Patricia says

Rocky and Lita have a past and now they need past it for multiple reasons. The most important reason would be that the passion never really burned out between the two of them. The flame only needed a little spark to burn out of control

.

Rocky has trust issues and a volatile past yet can't forget a magical three days in Mexico with a hot reporter but trust doesn't come easy for him.

Lita comes from Hollywood fame. Three days in Mexico changed her life till four years later she faces the hot drummer who broke her heart.

This is a wonderful love story with a little heat and lots of heart. The cast of characters are a great group. The storyline draws you in while moving at the perfect pace. Their story is far from a fairy tale but magical in the romance genre.

Jennifer (Bad Bird Reads) says

At A Glance

An average contemporary romance.

The Good

I didn't know this was part of a series, so I haven't read the first two books. I am not sure if reading the first two would have changed my opinion, but *Playing With the Drummer* could be read as a standalone in my opinion.

Lita, the strong, ambitious reporter, and Rocky, the brooding drummer, had a magical weekend 4 years ago, then Lita made a mistake and Rocky has never forgiven her, like the little bitch he is. Whoa, where did that come from?

I loved Lita. She is obsessed with advancing her career as a reporter and gives zero fucks what people think. But she knows she isn't without her faults. She owns up to her mistakes and tries to make them right. Rocky really, really resents what Lita did all those years ago and it's hard for him to get over. Having her follow him and the band around with a camera and lots of questions isn't helping. Lita just wants to do her job: spin a positive story on the upcoming wedding of Rocky's band mate and her best friend's sister.

Lita and Rocky butt heads a lot because of Rocky's stubbornness, but eventually things mellow out and they realize their attraction and passion 4 years ago is still alive today. I started liking Rocky more when he began letting go of things, but the big drama near the end devastated me, and left me dying to plow through to the end as fast as possible. Even though the ending was a bit cheesy, it left me satisfied.

The Bad

There was nothing special about this book. I have read 100 like it before. It also got really cheesy in the second half. Lita and Rocky getting back together was too easy and so was the ending. It was like the first half was super angsty and they were pissed at each other all the time, then the second half was like everything is forgiven without anything really being resolved. I found all this very annoying.

The Snuggly

We get some sex and it was hot, but nothing special.

Final Thoughts

I feel like I can sum up *Playing With the Drummer* with 'nothing special but still decent.' I wouldn't tell anyone to buy this book but if you got it for free, try it out. Not really any music stuff going on, it's more like a behind the scenes story. Pretty interesting. Kind of recommended.

Quotes

"Four years hadn't cooled down any of the feelings he brought out in her. They were wrapped up in the freedom of their beginning and the death spiral of how they ended."

"Lita had been the brightest part of his life for those few days. And she still glowed on his periphery, minimized but never dimmed."

This review was originally posted on Bad Bird Reads

Jennifer Kyle says

DNF @ 25 Percent

When I requested this book it was listed as a stand alone on NetGalley and wasn't listed on Goodreads so I wasn't aware that this was book 3 in a series which I haven't read. Still I went in and I just couldn't connect with the characters or the writing on this story.

ARC kindly provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Jessica Alcazar says

The first I wanna say is that this book *can* be read as a standalone, *but*, if you read all three stories you're going to get a great package about rock-band members and the women who tamed them! :) lol

This was a fantastically scorching hot second chance love story! ***Lita Matthews and Rocky Cardano*** shared a moment in time 4 years ago. A scorching moment in time where they managed to burn up the sheets and at the same time douse the flames LOL So now it's 4 years later and they're back face to face

I loved that Robin Covington created tension between these two that added to their connection without it being angsty and dramatic. The book had it's moments, but for the most part, it was a really good *push-pull relationship* to read! They were passionate and sweet and really steamy to read.

HIGHLY RECOMMEND!

ARC provided by Entangled Publishing, LLC via NetGalley for an honest review

Emily (Mrs B's Books) says

****My thanks to NetGalley and Entangled Publishing LLC, for providing me with a free copy for an honest review****

Although this book is part of a series the story can be read as a stand-a-lone novel.

Both Rocky and Lita hooked up four years ago in Mexico where they had great fun and kinda fell for each other until Rocky found out about Lita's profession as a journalist and gave her the boot. Hurt, Lita exposed his hiding place to other journalists.

Since then Lita and Rocky have avoided each other, yet no other man or woman has ever come close to what they shared in Mexico all that time ago.

Back together again by circumstance, the attraction between the two heat up the sheets and the emotions that each other seem to bring out.

There is hurt, betrayal and more hurt along the way, but there is also true happiness as more than one couple find their true way to happy ever after.

Nicola says

Robin Covington is one of my auto-read authors and *Playing with the Drummer* is another fabulous addition to her repertoire. She never fails in bringing a man to fall in love with.

Rocky Cardano - drummer with *The Rift*, we have a brute a man with a vulnerable edge to him. I loved every

overbearing, stubborn, gentle and sweet inch of him. And when reacquainted with the journalist covering his band-mates wedding, he's non too impressed - several years earlier she rocked his bed and then sold him out. With the wedding being Lita's chance to make it big and the fact she's BFF with the bride's sister giving her all the access she needs, she needs to make this the most perfect scoop of her career as long as grudge-holding Rocky doesn't ruin it for her. The grudge-holding rock-god who is like a moth to a flame...

Together Rocky and Lita generate passion, heat and some real sizzling bedroom antics. Their history brought heartfelt touching moments and there were some lovely surprises to their journey. I can't fault it. And with the epilogue tying things up perfectly, Robin has ended the *Head over Heels* series on a real high note.

“You are every song I have written or ever will write. You are the melody that keeps me awake at night. Your heartbeat is the only percussion, the thing that drives me.”

Whilst *Playing with the Drummer* follows on from *Reforming the Rock Star* by Christine Bell (#2) and *Resisting the Musician* by Ally Blake (#1), it could be read as a standalone.

4.5 stars.

Copy received courtesy of Entangled Publishing for an honest and unbiased opinion

Bette Hansen says

Fantastic book!! Rocky is a rock n roll star but he hates the press and avoids them at all costs. Lita is an up and coming journalist with aspirations for her own TV show. They met four years ago and had an amazing weekend that neither has forgotten but their differences were to great to get over. Now they are thrown together again at the wedding of his band mate and one of her best friends. With the sparks still flying will they survive this time together?? I loved these two and you could feel the chemistry coming off the pages! I couldn't put this one down and highly recommend it to everyone.

Elle the ClosetRomanceReader aka Leftie aka Shoebelle says

3.5 ★

This is the 3rd book in the series but it is a standalone. I myself have not read the other 2 and it was fine.

Lita and Rocky had a weekend together 4 years ago when they managed to embed themselves into each other's psyche and alienated each other at the same time by the end of it. Fast forward 4 years later and there's much distrust and hurt between the 2. So it's about overcoming that while dealing with the heat between them 2, and with what's happening with their friends' wedding and their personal/work lives.

Lita has her head on her shoulder for the most part. Rocky is your typical reclusive sexy musician with a past.

It's a quick delish read. You can feel the tension b/w the 2 and not in an overly angsty way, which was good. It did feel that some things were resolved pretty quickly, which I was ok with, as well. There's a whollotta sweetness going on... This is a first Robin Covington read for me, and I would definitely not mind reading more of her stuff.

Complimentary ARC received from Entangled Publishing

Mandy says

I love a rockstar romance. There's something so sexy about a man in a band and Rocky Cardano is hot! Rocky and Lita have a history, they had a little fun together a couple years ago but things didn't end so well. I wish I would've read the other books in the series before reading this one though, it might've helped develop the connection between these characters a little better but overall, I really enjoyed this one and look forward to reading more by this author!

****ARC provided in exchange for an honest review****

Carla Krissinger says

I was fortunate enough to be gifted this book in exchange for an honest review!

This book can be read standalone, but I would highly recommend reading the first two of the series, *Resisting The Musician* by Ally Blake and *Reforming the Rock Star* by Christine Bell as those stories all work together in creating a really fabulous fairy tale for a Rock band and their feisty women!

In the last installment of this series, Robin Covington brings the drummer, Rocky, to the forefront, a place he does NOT like to be. Rocky has been living his life in the shadows even though he is a big rock star. Enter Lita, the rich and famous daughter of a model and a producer, who wants nothing more than to anchor a big time news program. See the problem?

Only these two have history, and not necessarily a good one.

Forced back together for their friend's wedding four years later, and Lita working to bring a positive spotlight on the happy couple by doing an exclusive behind the scenes video, makes for a grumpy Rocky, because he just does not trust that she is doing good for the couple. But also a Rocky who is trying desperately not to cave in to his attraction for Lita.

Robin did a FANTASTIC job about bringing the moody and brooding drummer to life. The drama was well written, the attraction was convincing, the heartache was so damn lifelike, I actually cried. I have been reading Robin's books for a while now and I think I can safely say that she keeps getting better and better with each word written.

This series is fun, energetic, easy to read. With a little bit of everything thrown in.

