



The Reason

Jen Andrews

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Zoey James is in a funk. She has been through more in her twenty-three years than most people have experienced in their entire lives. After her ex-husband tries to take everything she's worked so hard for, she makes one rule: Never date someone she works with.

When her father's newly hired mechanic moves into the apartment above their family-run business, Zoey's lonely life is flipped upside down.

As a teenager, New Zealand native, Andy Tate's family is tragically killed in an accident, and he is taken in by his aunt and uncle. Andy is pulled away from the only place he's ever known as home, and moved halfway around the world to Northern California.

Ten years and one failed marriage later, Andy finds himself living in a new city, with a new job at James Racing, and living in an apartment next door to Zoey, his new boss's beautiful and damaged daughter.

After an interesting chain of events over one weekend, Andy and Zoey form an unexpected bond. Even though he's the only one who can get through to her, she will do all that she can to keep him at a distance and not break her one rule.

Will Andy be the reason for Zoey to start living her life again, or will she continue on her downward spiral, until she finally hits rock bottom?

The Reason Details

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From Reader Review The Reason for online ebook

Kat DM says

on behalf of Give Me Books Blog

The Reason is part one of the Just Say Yes trilogy. I thought the book started out kind of slow but after a few chapters that's when it got more interesting.

Zoey is in her early twenties and is recently divorced. Rob, her ex-husband was a mechanic at Zoey's family's business and that's also where Zoey works. She could have easily lost so much more in the divorce settlement but the only thing she lost was her pride and joy, the Chevelle hot rod her brothers restored for her. Music had helped her from not getting too deep into depression.

Andy is officially on my BFF list. He is new in town and just got hired at Zoey's family's garage, James Racing as a mechanic. As part of being employed there came with an agreement, he's provided with an apartment above the garage. It's Zoey's job to get it fixed and ready for him, so, they quickly make a connection that is far from just being friendly. Zoey isn't only doubtful of a new relationship, but especially with someone who is an employee of her father's. She's not willing to risk the business again it's something that could have happened with her ex-husband Rob.

Music was a huge part of this book. I love books that tie music into the storyline and this book was no omission. When Zoey couldn't explain how she felt about Andy, she had him listen to a song that perfectly explains why she was in doubt to get involved with him in the first place. Song lyrics make it easy to put feelings into words when you cannot express them yourself. They both tried to deny this pull they felt since the first time they laid eyes on each other. It's such a heart warming story but it's sort of a forbidden love story in the beginning and as you get to the middle of the story it changes both their lives in a good way.

It's a great romance story. I can't wait to read the next book in the Say Yes series.

Kendra says

Fantastic book, and a great start to the series! I loved every bit about the book, and Andy quickly became a favorite bbf!

Zoey is going through a personal funk when Andy walks in, quite literally. He's from NZ, has a sexy accent, and is covered in tattoos. Perfection. But he's got a lot of pain in his past too.

As they get to know one another, Andy is always by her side and is more than happy to lend a hand when her ex causes trouble. They both have feelings for one another, but Zoey refuses to date anybody that works for her dad, as her ex did and screwed her over in the end.

Fantastic story with a bit of a cliffhanger, but no worries, because the other 2 books in the series are already written and won't be far behind!

Janett The Pleasure of Reading Today says

This book grabs your attention within the first pages. What I read in the first couple of pages completely broke me and left me teary eyed.

Zoey James is your typical 23 year old on the outside, on the inside she's fighting depression.

She was taken from her mother at an early age due to neglect, she bounced from foster home to foster home until the age of 14 when she gets adopted by the James' family. Zoey works at her dad's garage and also is the owner of the auto part store next to the garage. She's trying to put herself back together after a bad marriage to a selfish jerk. She's been alienating herself from the people she loves due to her depression, but things soon start changing when she meets Andy, the new mechanic hired to work at her dad's garage.

Andy is a hunk, but he's also a caring man who becomes her protector. Originally from New Zealand, he came to the states with his aunt and uncle after a terrible car crashed killed his parents and sister. He's a sweet guy who soon takes to Zoey and becomes not only her best friend, but her rock. You can clearly see that the friendship lines start to becoming blurry, but Zoey refuses to date anyone who works for her dad due to the bad experience she had with her ex, who also worked there.

Would Zoey break her dating rule and give Andy a fair chance? Would Andy continue being there for Zoey even though he's getting the cold shoulder over and over?

This is a beautiful story and as I was reading it, not only was I thinking of Zoey, but the thousands of kids like Zoey who grow up being neglected or/and in foster homes. Jen does a great job showing Zoey's insecurities and fears, her vulnerability, but she also show us that behind all that, there is an amazing woman ready to give life a second or third chance. The secondary characters are the perfect complement to the storyline.

This is only the first book of the series and it leaves us with a big cliffhanger, I almost screamed at 4am when I read it. A totally worth it read.

I received an ARC from the author for an honest review

Karen Peacock says

I loved this book! Zoey was a very smart girl that invests in a garage with her father. Andy is a mechanic that comes to work for Zoey's father in the shop. For the two of them, it was an instant attraction. They began a journey to get to know each other and explore their feelings. Both of them have had emotional journeys to get to the place they are today. This heartfelt book is filled with pain, compassion and ultimately love.

Jen has a way of weaving an emotional story so that you are sucked into it from the very beginning. I found it was very hard to put down. It was a very emotional read with a surprise ending, yes folks there is a cliffhanger and it is one of those endings where you want to find out what is going to happen to this couple. I really enjoyed the imagery that Jen creates in her story. I felt like I could picture everything clearly as I was reading. I can't wait to see where this series is going and I look forward to reading more from this debut author! Keep your eyes on this one folks, Jen is going places!

Neilliza Swaffar says

Reviewed on Behalf of Give Me Books

This book started out a little shaky for me, I wasn't sure what to expect. It started out with an 8yr old Zoey, not being cared for by her drugged out mom. It was a very heartfelt start of the book. Zoey spent her life in and out of adoption, until she was adopted by a loving family. A family that loves her as their own. In the process, she also gained brothers who all love her the same. The whole family are in garage business fixing cars, which Zoey learned to love herself.

Then there's Lovable 28 yr old Andy from New Zealand, my new book boyfriend. Andy also had a hard past, he lost his whole family in a car crash and he's the only one who survived. The difference between him and Zoey is, he was loved by his family very much before their tragic accident. After losing his family, he had a hard time dealing with life. He started sleeping around not having a care in the world. Until he realized what he became, he swore to himself he will never mistreat women again. Then he moved with his Aunt and Uncle to the states.

Years later...

Andy moved in as the new hired mechanic for the family business, this is when the story started to get really interesting to me. The first day they met, Zoey and Andy felt a connection right away. That same day they were out Andy saved Zoey from her crazy ex-husband. Since that day they were inseparable, they started spending a lot of time together and became fast friends. Mutual attraction was definite, they couldn't stop themselves from feeling anything but love for each other. Since Zoey had a rule to keep everyone at a distance, she tried to keep away from Andy when she realized where they were headed. Until one day she finally gave into her feelings for Andy and they decided to take it one day at a time. I mean Andy is just perfect, his kind, loving, protective, funny and gorgeous. Who in their right mind wouldn't fall in love with the man? Of course I can't forget the music in the book. I love how Zoey and Andy use music to communicate, like the title of the book The Reason. Music really does heal your heart and your mind.

Things were going great with Andy and Zoey until another accident happens...a big cliffhanger at the end. I hate cliffhangers, but I am so in love with Andy and Zoey's story I can't wait to see where the 2nd book will take them. Until the next installment...

Penny Zenner says

I loved this book and can not wait for book two Just Say Yes!!!!

This Coull Chick says

This was an great debut novel for Jen Andrews; I really liked the writing style and found this to be an enjoyable way to spend the afternoon!!

Synopsis

This is book one of three for characters Zoey and Andy.

Zoey James is in a funk. She has been through more in her twenty-three years than most people have experienced in their entire lives. After her ex-husband tries to take everything she's worked so hard for, she makes one rule: Never date someone she works with.

When her father's newly hired mechanic moves into the apartment above their family-run business, Zoey's lonely life is flipped upside down.

As a teenager, New Zealand native, Andy Tate's family is tragically killed in an accident, and he is taken in by his aunt and uncle. Andy is pulled away from the only place he's ever known as home, and moved halfway around the world to Northern California.

Ten years and one failed marriage later, Andy finds himself living in a new city, with a new job at James Racing, and living in an apartment next door to Zoey, his new boss's beautiful and damaged daughter.

After an interesting chain of events over one weekend, Andy and Zoey form an unexpected bond. Even though he's the only one who can get through to her, she will do all that she can to keep him at a distance and not break her one rule.

Will Andy be the reason for Zoey to start living her life again, or will she continue on her downward spiral, until she finally hits rock bottom?

What I thought

Zoey got on my wick a bit, and man, she has some issues, and I can totally see why. The dream at the beginning was very well done, and gave you everything you needed to see why Zoey was such a screwed up mess, she has so many real issues and I really worry that this relationship is going to be codependent. I love the fact that she knew something was wrong and sort help for it, real help to, not just a friendly chat at a bar with her friends. I love that she wanted to take things slow, even if at one point I was screaming "Just get it on already." But I can so see why she isn't too quick to jump into anything. The girl has been burnt many times before!!

I loved Andy and I loved that he was covered in tats, and into cars. Can't get enough of that!! I loved him with the little kids too, seriously drool worthy, love a man that can get down on the floor and play with little kids!! He really did have a good ole kiwi bloke feel to him. He had his ups and downs in life and I can't help but think they could have been explored more, but this is only book one and there is more to come.

I loved how the little things were done right. Andy is from New Zealand, so when he talked about his mum he said his MUM not his MOM. You can really tell that Jen has knowledge of NZ, how we talk, take off shoes off all the time, how we like to say mate and a few other things, although bro was missing ;) I love how she didn't make Andy sound like Barry Crump (google him) and make us out to be all backward sheep farmers.

I am not sure why but I just didn't feel the love between Zoey and Andy, I get the instant attraction and then liking each other, but I just didn't see the jump to love happen. One minute she liked him and he liked her, the next they were all in love? If she had come to that conclusion after New Year's I think I would have found it to be a bit more believable, IMO. I am not a fan of instalove at all, I think it needs to be built a bit

and I just didn't see it here.

To me some of the dialogue felt a bit stiff and wooden, not bad by any means, just a little off, and only really when she was talking to her dad and brothers. I love the interaction with her friends that was real and honest, I call my friends bitches and other not so nice names all the time.

There is a cliff hanger at the end of this book to, but that didn't bother me too much, for two main reasons 1: I knew about it ahead of time and 2: there are two more books to come, so unless it is something so outrages that is going to side swipe me, the cliff didn't piss me off at all;)

Anyway this really was a great story and I would recommend that is you like contempt romances you should read it, Jen is a debuting author and I see so much potential and talent there, she rocks, I think she has a great talent for knowing people. For instance with a sense of abandonment as a child it makes sense that as an adult Zoey would attach herself to the first man outside her dad and brothers that showed her any love at all. There are lots of little things about the human physic in this book that would be missed in others. She is also a really nice person and I hope she doesn't hate me after this review.

Dayreader Reviews says

I was provided an ARC by the author to provide an honest review.

I really enjoyed reading this debut novel by Jen Andrews, this is the first book in her trilogy Just Say Yes. She really grabs your attention quick and doesn't let it go until the very last page. I quickly got wrapped up in this novel; I connected with Zoey and felt empathy for her. After being neglected most of her life and a series of bad decisions, she finds herself in depression. I loved her inner dialog with herself. This felt like a realistic story, which so many today are so over the top and would happen to the average person, that's what made this story great.

The characters are well developed and the writing is great, I really felt every emotion Zoey was going thru. It does leave you with a doozie of a cliffhanger and makes you want to keep up with the author for her next release date

Christina says

Complimentary copy provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Zoey is in her early twenties and is recently divorced. Rob, her ex, was a mechanic at Zoey's family's business, where Zoey also works. She could have easily lost so much more in the divorce settlement, however the only thing she lost was her pride and joy, the Chevelle hot rod her brothers restored for her. Is Zoey willing to put herself out there again and risk entering the dating pool?

Andy is new in town, having just accepted a job at Zoey's family's garage, repairing and rebuilding hot rods. As part of his employment agreement, he is provided with an apartment above the garage. It's Zoey's job to get it furnished and ready for him and in doing so, they quickly make a connection that is far from just friendly. Zoey though is not only leery of a new relationship, but especially one with an employee of her father's. She's not willing to risk their business again, something that could have easily happened in her

divorce with Rob.

Music plays a big part of this book, right down to its title. I appreciate books that tie music into the storyline because it is almost an added dimension to the story, and this book was no exception. Song lyrics make it easy to put feelings into words when you cannot express them yourself and Ms. Andrews uses this device artfully.

The Reason was a fun, sweet read. It was well written and the characters were likeable and well developed and the storyline was engaging and moved quickly. My only knock was that Zoey's angst got to be a little bit too much after awhile. Andy seemed to be a great catch with no ulterior motives, but Zoey continued to second-guess herself. The Reason was a fun, steamy, four star read. I definitely look forward to more of this series!

Anny hernandez says

I was provide a copy of the book by the Author/Publisher for an honest review.

I just finish reading this book and I love it, O.M.G. I couldn't get enough of it I want more, I love the characters, love the way they communicate with each other, and love it how they both open up to a second chance at love, I am gone keep this short since I don't want to give anything away.

The story begining with a very young Zoey, she is only eight years old and she's at home by herself, when something happened, she goes to her next door neighbor for help, but once she knock on the door she get scared and leave, her neighbor follow her and once she is helping Zoey out, they hear the door open, that's when her mother shows up with strange man, that's when the neighbor took her to her house and Zoey life change, now Zoey is a young woman she has her own business, but also is in the middle of a funk, remembering what its was to grow up in foster home, and her fail marriage all she want to do is to be alone, but that changes when her adopted mother tell her that they need to fix the apartment for the new mechanic, on the day that the new mechanic show up Zoey was not expecting for Andy to be one sexy man. Andy needed a new fresh start that's how he found the one that he has with Zoey father, Andy is also divorce and is taking life day by day, the more that he spend time with Zoey the more that he fall for her.

I love reading about Zoey and Andy, love it how they communicate and heal each other with music, love it how they understand each other, and their flirtation way that they act love it, cant wait to read more from this series, Author Jen Andrews THANK YOU for introducing me to this amazing characters and this awesome book love it.

Monica Cullip says

This story was gifted to me in exchange of an honest review.

Zoey's mother neglected her horribly as a child, never showing her any love, attention or for the most part never having any food in the house. She spent the next few years in foster care before being adopted. A young marriage also ends badly and her ex-husband Rob tries to take the business that she and her adoptive

father have started. She vows never to marry again and also to never ever ever get involved with anyone that works at the garage.

Then a new mechanic comes to town. Andy. He is staying in the apartment above the business and it is up to her to get it ready and make him feel welcome. They spend some time together shopping for groceries and other necessities for his new apartment. Andy saves her from a nasty encounter with the ex-husband Rob at the store. Rob is evil and has a nasty mouth on him. Andy is there for her when a brick comes sailing through the front window, he holds her hand and comforts her. He becomes her friend. She has never had a male friend before.

She finds herself falling for him but she fights it. She is hurting and Andy is hurting too. They both have feelings for each other. Her family tells her to take a chance, but she just can't. She has so many emotions in her that are scaring her from being with him. She owns her family so much and her stupid actions once almost cost them the business. She just can't take that chance again.

The author did a great job with this story. Zoey has so much love to give but she is living with so much guilt. For things that simply were out of her control. Yes her ex-husband was a horrible person but it was not her fault. She needs to let go of her guilt and move on with her life, open herself up to living and loving again. Andy is there for her, he has feeling for her and he would be perfect for her. I loved how the author made her so vulnerable yet underneath we can see is strong. I am hoping for a happy ever after for the two of them. This is the first in a series and I am eagerly awaiting the next one. I would rate this story a 4/5.

Jenn says

The Reason is book one in the Just Say Yes series by Jen Andrews. I was quite shocked by this book. It was absolutely incredible! The moment you open the first page and start reading the prologue, you will be hooked.

The character were well developed and so incredibly well written that I felt every single thing they were going through, whether it was good or bad. For an author to have this ability is rare and Jen Andrews, definitely has it. The plot will leave you on the edge of your seat due to all the passion, love and angst you will feel.

This story is a story about second chances at finding love. Both Zoey and Andy had been married and divorced; however, with the help of each other they may be able to find that happily ever after.

"His voice dropped to a whisper as he spoke, and he took a seat in the chair next to the desk. Andy gently took hold of my hand and rubbed his thumb back and forth across my knuckles. "It's not going to keep me from falling in love with someone who makes me happy."

Life has been hard for both of these characters. They both suffered something very traumatic during their childhood, that has stayed with them all through their lives. Fate and love bring these two damaged souls together during an act of pure selflessness.

Andy has moved around the world trying to find some place he can start fresh and ends up living right next door to Zoey. He also ends up working at Zoey's family business, which of course means that him and Zoey will continually keep getting closer.

"Slowly, I opened my eyes and moved my hand down his body. He was naked, freshly showered, and

absolute perfection. I explored his tattoos with my fingertips, tracing the tribal outlines over his chest.

This book leaves you hanging with a powerful cliffhanger that will leave you begging for more. It also leaves you asking the question, will love be enough to get them through another trying time?

Jen Andrews wrote a terrific novel. I loved every single second of it! If you have not read this book yet, what are you waiting for? This book is a must read for anyone who likes a true romance novel.

Stephanie Marshall says

This book was a refreshing romance of boy meets girl and what could be considered love at first sight or fate. Zoey James is just living; at this point she is not really experiencing life. She has had a lot of bad luck in life, stemming from her childhood growing up in the foster care system, to her divorce from her first husband. Zoey keeps herself busy with her business with her family. She has been distancing herself from her friends and family, slipping into a deep depression. Then one day she meets Andy Tate and her world as she knows it is turned upside down.

Andy Tate has had his own troubled past, with the sudden death of his parents and sister. He is coming to stay and work with Zoey's family business as a mechanic at their shop. Andy is gorgeous, nice, and almost too good to be true.

With Zoey's past history with her ex-husband and her lack of love in her life until she was adopted into the James's family, she has trouble relating the feelings that she is experiencing around Andy.

Zoey shows amazing strength as a young woman who has overcome many horrible situations in her life and is still trudging forward. Throughout the book we are shown many of her insecurities in regards to a potential relationship with Andy.

What I found admirable was the fact that she did not rush anything and took the right steps in taking care of herself and her depression prior to trying to move forward with any kind of relationship with Andy that might be more than friends. That being said; Andy has the patience of a saint. Zoey is trying so hard to guard her heart, that she is pushing Andy further and further away. Her behavior was quite frustrating at times. But if the author hadn't shown the internal battle Zoey was fighting, the story would not have had the depth and meaning that it portrayed.

I really enjoyed how Zoey has such a connection with music and is able to express herself through different song lyrics. The fact that Andy picks up on this part of Zoey's personality is touching. I fell in love with the characters in this book. From Zoey's parents and her protective brothers, to her best friends that she goes to dance class with, and finally to her next door neighbors, they all play such a wonderful part in Zoey's life and her ability to overcome her past to have hope for a bright and happy future.

Jen Andrews you have a hit with this book. This book is a testament why you should live for the here and now, don't live in the past or wait for the future. <3 I can't wait to read the next installment to see what is to come with Zoey, Andy and the rest of the James Family.

Michelle says

ARC provided by author in exchange of honest review

*****4 "Say Yes" Stars*****

Just Say Yes and go read The Reason by Jen Andrews. There is no reason not to read this terrific debut book. What I love about this book is how Ms. Andrews was able to integrate music into the storyline. Song lyrics played an instrumental role in how Zoey James and Andy Tate communicated and expressed their feelings. They say music heals. Well in this case, it not only healed a broken spirit but it awakened it to finally LIVE and START ANEW. For Zoey James, she finally has a reason to LOVE and believe in second chances.

Zoey James did not have a great childhood growing up. Her birth mother neglected her and after years in the foster care system, she was finally adopted into a loving family. Twenty-three and divorced, she had every reason to close her heart but call it fate or whatever that all changed when Andy Tate walked into her life. Andy is 28 years old and from New Zealand. Like Zoey, his life is not perfect. He lost his parents and sister in a tragic car accident and is also divorced. For Zoey, she didn't expect the new guy hired to work for her dad would be the one to turn her world upside down. For the first time in a long time, Zoey met a guy whom she could picture a future with unlike her ex, Rob. Sounds easy right...but what if your fears holds you back from opening up your heart? Or if you have an ex that continues to stalk you? Will Andy give her the reason to take a chance at love?

I absolutely adore Andy Tate. Personally, I thought he was just perfect. He was sweet, gentle, patient, protective and understanding. You would be a fool not to fall in love with Andy. So it was inevitable for Zoey to not fall for him. Their chemistry and relationship was palpable and sweet. I loved the slow development of the relationship. It was great to see that they started off as friends and took time to get to know one another. I loved how Zoey was able to let Andy in and see her insecurities and fears. For some men, some would walk away knowing that she has baggage but he didn't let Zoey's past deter him.

I adored The Reason and found myself devouring this book in one sitting. This book had all the FEELS!! It made you truly believe that life is full of second chances and it's just up to us to take a risk at love. Andy and Zoey reminds us all there is a reason for everything. We may stumble and fall, but it's all about taking a chance. When we thought the couple were finally on the right track, Ms. Andrews had to end their story with a twist of events. So if you were thinking a HEA, then I'm sorry to say this book ends with a cliffhanger. I can't wait for the next book because I need more Zoey and Andy! If there is anyone who deserves happiness, it's Zoey so I'm hoping she finally gets her chance at HEA with her Kiwi Man. <3

Jen Andrews

Suzana says

3.5 stars!

Nice and solid read, but that's all ...

The beginning of the book was great, but after that nothing much happened until the end ... and it left us with a cliffhanger ...

Overall it is a good book ...
