



## Fighting for Devlin

*Jessica Lemmon*

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## **Fighting for Devlin** Jessica Lemmon

“A must-read for everyone who loves to watch a bad boy hero fall to his knees in the name of love.”—Lauren Layne

In a standalone novel that kicks off the irresistible Lost Boys series, a good girl and her boss get wild . . . together.

Devlin Calvary makes his own luck. Abandoned as a child, he was raised with bookies and gamblers. Dev runs and lives above a trendy club the mob subsidizes for him, enjoying the good life and mindless sex with a string of women all too ready to please him. Until, one night, he finds out how much it hurts to trust the wrong people. . . .

Rena Lewis sticks to the straight and narrow, determined not to slip up again . . . like the terrible night of partying four years ago that ended in tragedy. A waitress at Oak & Sage, she knows that sleeping with her boss is not a smart move. But when Dev shows up on her doorstep, beat up and clearly shaken, Rena’s not about to turn him down . . . or kick him out of bed.

Dev reawakens something primal within her—and something protective within himself. And Rena soon finds out that the heart she’d sealed away years ago still has the power to fight for love.

## Fighting for Devlin Details

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Author : Jessica Lemmon

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## From Reader Review Fighting for Devlin for online ebook

### Sabrina says

I'm going to keep this short because I'm trying to catch up on some reviews and I don't really have a lot to say about this book.

This was my first book by Jessica Lemmon and the first in her new Lost Boys series. I liked the writing style and I'll definitely be reading more from her but not sure about this particular series. I enjoyed the book but overall it left me a little bored and I'm not too sure how I felt about Devlin. It just didn't seem like we got to really know him and he was pretty one dimensional for me so I was left wanting more from him.

Honestly I can't really say how I truly felt about this book since I'm on the fence about it. Sometimes I found myself enjoying it a lot but then I would get bored and even annoyed when the angst level got way too high and seemed a little too high school for me.

Overall it was an okay story and I still recommend the book because through my issues I did enjoy a good bit of the story. I think I may give this author's Second Chance series a try and I hope it's more my thing.

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### Paige says

3.5 Stars

Fighting for Devlin is the story of Rena and Devlin who come from very different backgrounds but have more in common than they think. Rena is trying to be the "good girl" after one tragic night alters her life. Devlin is trying to dig himself out of his father's debts as well as make the two men that are now father figures to him proud. As a waitress at Devlin's restaurant, Rena is crazy attracted to Devlin but realizes that he is way out of her league. What she doesn't know is that Rena caught Devlin's eye but he knows he shouldn't mix business with pleasure and since all he can give his no strings pleasure, he stays away until he needs her.

One night the one person Devlin thought he could trust over all others proves that maybe he doesn't have the relationships he thought he did. With nowhere to turn, he goes to Rena. Shocked to see Devlin at her house in such a broken state, Rena tries to take care of Devlin but he doesn't let her. But what does start is a relationship both want but aren't sure how to pursue. When feelings develop, all bets are off.

I really enjoyed Rena and Devlin's story. I was intrigued by both of their backstories and as they were revealed, my heart broke for both of them. When Devlin tried, he could be so swoon-worthy but at times I was really frustrated with him and his lack of tact with Rena. There were a few instances that I wished she would just tell him off, but in the end, she did stick up for herself just in ways that I didn't expect and I really liked that. Together they burned up the pages of my Kindle. I only wished that I could have had more of them as the ending was quite quick.

This was my first Jessica Lemmon novel but it definitely won't be my last. I can't wait to see what story she comes up with next and I'm excited I have a new author to stalk.

ARC provided by publisher via Netgalley for honest review.

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### **Lisa says**

ARC received from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Review closer to release date.

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### **Julie says**

[image error]

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### **Claire Robinson says**

**2.5 - On the fence...** Stars.

I have not had the pleasure of reading anything by Jessica Lemmon, prior to starting *Fighting for Devlin* but I had heard good things from my other Goodreads friends, so had expectations of getting a good story from the first book in her new *Lost Boys* series.

It started out ok, I like a romance which is built around a unique setting and illegal gambling is certainly something that I don't come across with any regularity, I think my issue is that everything else all felt a little too '*teen angst*' for me. Rena, is dealing with the usual tropes and background issues, which isn't a problem for me, but I need it to be well written and engaging, this just didn't pull me in, I should have been feeling empathy for the things she had been through, but it just got annoying after a while which is explained in my next paragraph.

There is a **HUGE** amount of repetition of certain thoughts and plot points through this story. A lot of the time it felt like Rena mentioned she hadn't had a date or been with a guy in four years in almost every other paragraph, add that to the fact her internal monologue read a lot of time like a young girl writing in her journal, and it was a struggle to really put her in a specific age bracket. Her best friend also didn't offer anything likeable or act very rational, in the mature adult stakes which didn't help either. The whole representation of the female race in the book wasn't very positive, or mature for the most-part.

Devlin was ok, your *A-typical* bad boy, darkly brooding with a past and a bit of an attitude. Circumstances are not going in his favour for a lot of the book, and I liked that part of it. But I struggled to really feel or see much of a connection between him and Rena, their maturity levels were just too skewed to work together that well as a cohesive couple.

I have mixed feelings about this book, there were glimmers of things I liked, but all-in-all it didn't really offer anything new or different to books in this genre that are already out there. The unusual trope wasn't really explored that much, and the relationship between them was just all a little bland. I would consider reading more from this author, I am not sure whether this series is for me though.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

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### **Danielle says**

I swear Lemmon writes the best bad boys.. They make me want to jump into every book.

This is the first book in a new series and I have to say it was a little different. We meet Devlin whose raised by around bookies and gamblers. He runs a restaurant where he meets a waitress Rena. Rena has gone through her own troubles but both these characters call to each other and the pull is strong.

I thought the plot was different and exciting with the whole bookie and thugs. I can say right now I don't remember reading a book with a plot like this. It wasn't boring and I was dying to see what would happen with Devlin and how Rena could save him.

Rena and Devlin balanced each other out well. What I think started was mutual attraction that turned into maybe just sex but as the story progresses you can see Devlin wants to be a better man for Rena. These two have some steamy scenes.

Lately I have been reading a lot of book with both characters pov and yup this one has it. It's always great to read what each character is thinking and feeling when so many things are going on.

This is a new series I am really looking forward to reading and I can't wait to see what happens along the way. This book doesn't end in a cliffhanger but the ending does set up for Caden's book which will be next. Yippee!

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### **Debbie I Heart YA Books says**

Fighting for Devlin is one of those books for me—you know—the kind that you can't put down once you start reading, and the characters become a part of your heart. Rena Lewis is the Little Red Riding Hood to Devlin's Big Bad Wolf. Except this Riding Hood has a few secrets, and one is that she's not scared of Devlin's Big Bad Wolf, she wants the bad boy. Yep, Rena walked on the wild side of life, but after a horrible accident that left Rena destroyed and heartbroken, she made a promise to herself to never really live or desire that wild lifestyle again. That is, until Rena meets her new boss, Devlin Calvary. And now Rena's wild side wants to come out and play with Devlin, the sexy bad boy. Devlin loves that good girl, Rena is his bad girl.

Rena and Devlin are on one wild and steamy rollercoaster ride that's taking their hearts fast to a forever love. But, like all rides, this one too is coming to an end. The only thing is Rena never expected she would get off the ride by herself. But Devlin making a deal with the last person on earth Rena could ever want meddling in her love life, forces their love and convictions to come to a head.

Rena and Devlin have the right kind of wild and sexy romance-- a sexy, not so innocence Red Riding Hood and a hot, dangerous, Big Bad Wolf fairytale love that has a happily ever after ending. Rena's love gives this lost boy a love he has never had, and Devlin's love lets the good girl bad side come out to play. I recommend

Fighting for Devlin as a must read.

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### Ivy Deluca says

**The Good :** What do you do when your life seems to be going one way and then one incident - you get your butt kicked by two bookie's goons, for example - changes your perspective? Devlin is busy running his successful restaurant while collecting bets for his "uncle" Sonny. It's not the usual college setting like a lot of new adult romance, so kudos for that. This story is told from dual POV, though I still felt like I knew Devlin better than I did Rena by the end of it. I enjoyed the idea of the gambling angle, and how Devlin's torn between the life he's known and the possibility of just running his restaurant without this illegal activity hanging over his head. The sexual chemistry certainly works and the sex scenes generated good heat. However...

**The Bad :** I just didn't think there was much of an emotional connection between Devlin and Rena that isn't explained by hormones. Rena has some time spent on her sad history, but mostly, it's her obsession with Devlin's looks and bad boy charm, which made the first quarter of the book feel a little repetitious. They barely speak to each other, except when Devlin is using Rena (though he feels a bit of guilt about it) to collect bets from customers. Had there been some time spent in letting them get to know one another beyond their sexual connection, perhaps I would have liked it more. As it is, I was just bored.

**Everything in Between :** Devlin and Rena are nice enough characters, and while they have their moments, a lot of it could be attributed to their age and inexperience. If there is one overriding issue with the story, it's that it's drawn in shallow strokes. The gambling is part of it, but it never felt very dangerous. The romance never goes very deep and the big obstacle fell flat for me. There is a setup for another book, but unfortunately I was completely turned off by her friend Tasha and Cade did nothing for me.

It was ok. The sex was good, the plot was alright, but I didn't connect with the romance and that's the heart of it all. I'm not sure I would continue with the series.

\*\*ARC provided by publisher via netgalley for review\*\*

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### Samantha says

I must admit I had high hopes and was let down quite a bit. Devlin and Rena's story had such potential but it fell a bit flat for me. There was a bit too much not making sense which I couldn't ignore. Overall, the read was enjoyable which is why it gets 3.75 stars from me.

Devlin's a young business owner but also has his hands some less than legal stuff. He notices Rena, his new waitress, but never intends for anything outside of noticing to happen until he ends up on her doorsteps bloody and beaten. He takes interest in her and she's more than aware of him.

Rena takes the waitress position since her crafts place she used to work at went out of business. It's impossible

for her to not notice Devlin for several reasons including the fact that he's eye candy. She begins an odd sort of relationship with him that turns to love, bettering him in the process.

I found it relatively easy to read so the writing was horrible but maybe the overall layout of the story couple with the writing style is what annoyed me. I'm unable to pinpoint exactly what it was that made me struggle to love the story. I also felt that it pushed towards the end which I'm finding I feel a lot these days when reading and I need authors to knock it off!

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### **sue says**

I was expecting much more than what I got with this one, that's why when I recommend books I hold my breath they like it, we all have different ways of reading a book [if you know what I mean] so my expectations were higher than what was delivered, now, that is not the books fault, its entirely mine.

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### **Carol [Goodreads Addict] says**

Fighting for Devlin is book one in the Lost Boys series by Jessica Lemmon. This book was generously provided to me in exchange for an honest review by NetGalley, Random House and by Jessica Lemmon.

Devlin Calvary's mom left when he was very small and he was raised by his dad. But at age eighteen, he lost him as well. In the midst of his grief, Devlin was taken in by his dad's friend Paul. His dad's bookie, Sonny, to which his dad owed a considerable amount of money, also took him under his wing, helping him to take over running his father's restaurant, Oak & Sage. In return, Devlin acted as delivery boy for payments back and forth of Sonny's dealings. Both Sonny and Paul had been like father figures to Devlin and he feels obligated to the both of them. Business is good at Oak & Sage and he has just hired a pretty new waitress, Rena Lewis. Devlin knows that it is important to stay away from the hired help. But he can't help but feel pulled to Rena for some reason.

Rena is struggling trying to learn her new job as a server at Oak & Sage. And she can't help but to notice her sexy new boss. But he is clearly out of her league. Four years ago, Rena might have thought of herself as a wild child. But something tragic happened, something she feels completely responsible for. So she has spent the years since trying to be the good girl, trying to make amends. Still, she can tell under that suit and tie, her new boss is anything but the good guy. There is definitely a bad boy there. But then, her new boss showed up on her door step, beaten and bloody, needing her help. Rena didn't hesitate to open the door and let him in.

That night changed everything between Rena and Devlin. The attraction between them is so strong and it is only a matter of time until they can't fight it anymore. And let me tell you, they have some sizzling hot chemistry. Devlin is most definitely a bad boy and he brings something out in Rena that has long since been buried, reawakening her in so many ways.

***“I’m not what you’re used to. But, I’m what you like.”***

Devlin's life becomes more complicated as he is betrayed by one of the people he trusted the most. This in turn forces Devlin to make some important decisions, trying to remain loyal to the people that helped him in his time of need. But then there is Rena. He knows he should stay away from her. But he can't. He knows he'll end up hurting her, but he needs her.

***“I thought of Rena, and the way she fit against me like a missing puzzle piece. Like she’d been cut and sanded to lock into my chest. Like she’d been created to be mine.”***

As Rena falls more and more for Devlin, she has to decide if this is a life she can fit into. But since Devlin came in to her life, she can't imagine it without him.

***“I could have had safe, I reminded myself as I tasted him. I could’ve had nice. I could’ve had a guy on the right side of the law.”***

This was my first Jessica Lemmon book and I have to say that it won't be my last. Devlin is most definitely a bad boy but his situation is one that he inherited. I have to admit there are quite a few times I didn't like him very much or the choices he made. But when the right woman comes in to his life, he sees something different for himself. He sees a future that could happen. Can he get out of his dealings with Sonny? Could he be happy with a good girl? Would she be happy with him?

This book was full of sizzling hot sexy times and plenty of sweet moments as well. I definitely will be watching for the next book to come out in this series.

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### **Alyse says**

DNF.

These character's reminded me of my friend's dating in high school. No thanks.

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### **Mandy says**

What I liked about this book:

- Interesting story line involving illegal gambling. Devlin helps run an illegal gambling operation through his restaurant. He's kind of the enforcer when people don't pay and he has to collect.
- The sexy scenes were smoking hot!
- Interesting side characters - I can't wait for Cade's book!

What I didn't like about this book:

- It took until about 60% for me to actually like Devlin at all. He was a huge jerk to Rena for a lot of the book.
- I didn't like that Rena put up with so much from Devlin in the beginning. I felt like she was weak and let Devlin use her in the beginning.

Overall, there were things I liked and things I didn't like about this book but it was an interesting story with some good steamy scenes. I think I would've enjoyed this one so much more if Devlin wasn't such an ass at the beginning. I get that he's a bad boy but I really didn't like how he treated Rena at first. I did really like the resolution at the end and the way Devlin transformed by the end of the book. I am really looking forward to the next book in this series.

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

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### **Kika says**

One thing i hate is when an author tries to set the scene for a future book in the current book i'm reading... It seems like a cheap marketing scheme and i don't like it at all. If you would just focus on your current book then maybe you'd be able to write a whole, emotional story. I'm pretty sure we'll be hearing from this author for Cade's and Tasha's story soon.

I didn't know whether to rate this book 2 or 3 stars, it's more like a 2.5 to be honest... The story was OK, but the main characters, Devlin and Rena, were kinda blunt. There was no depth to their characters and i couldn't connect with them. The first 20% of the book was kinda repetitive especially with Rena's inner monologue about how hot Devlin is and how fucked up she is after (view spoiler)

Overall, a superficial read that i wouldn't recommend. Not bad, just not my cuppa.

PS. Sorry about the short, plain review but i just can't...!!!

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### **Bette Hansen says**

I absolutely LOVED this one! With one of my favorite authors venturing into the NA world I wasn't sure what to expect but I must say she did an amazing job. It's not the typical college campus NA story, it's so much more with one very yummy bad boy and a good girl with a wild side she keeps hidden. My one negative critique would be that while Devlin and Rena definitely had chemistry, I would have liked to see a bit more about their emotional relationship rather than just the physical. With that said, it was still a book I

couldn't put down and would definitely recommend to others.  
Can't wait for Cade's story!

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