



Starstruck (Harlequin Blaze #508)

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Recipe for a super sizzling Christmas:

Mix together the following:

--one woman determined to heat up the holidays with a hunky new date

--a sexy suave millionaire

--an even sexier old friend, just to spice things up

Garnish with a sultry kiss under the mistletoe and watch all sexy hell break loose!

Alyssa Chambers has visions of sweet temptation dancing in her head. Should she choose the hot playboy who can give her everything she's ever wanted? Or indulge in some holiday cheer with her good friend

Christopher Hyde, a man who's turning out to be everything she's ever wanted?

Once she shares some amazing holiday, ah, spirit with Chris, the choice becomes even harder. How can she risk their longtime friendship--even for the best sex of her life?

Starstruck (Harlequin Blaze #508) Details

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Author : Julie Kenner

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Dawn ♥ romance says

I liked how this Christmas book started out with security minded attorney Alyssa wanting a new relationship but not with free lance writer, best friend, and neighbor Chris because he is not marriage material. I didn't like that the main conflict was based on their insecurities rather than events.

TINNGG says

3.5 actually.

Hate to tell heroine this but straight guys rarely are interested in just being friends unless they consider you to be as appealing as a root canal. Also, friends in general rarely put up with harassment about their finances and work habits. Ergo, the whole bit about him being only a friend is a bit delusional.

So our h, figuring out that the H is going to be at an opening for a resort owned by someone she's hoping to land as a client (and possibly other things as well), convinces him to take her along. Only the suite isn't exactly the sort of suite they thought it was. And now she's gotta try to ignore that her other best friend - the H - is hot, that she accidentally got a peep show some time back when he was showering, etc. Oh yeah, and that she kissed him while plastered a day or two before.

She fails. Of course, he doesn't exactly discourage her, since he's been trying to figure out how to get past her barriers.

Eventually, he tells her he wants more than a fling. She gets upset. Storms off. They spend time thinking about it, and finally decide to negotiate.

It lost half a point for her being obtuse and/or dumb enough to think she could have her cake and eat it too. Even if they hadn't had the weekend of hot sex, sooner or later, he'd have gotten tired of being overlooked based on her hangups and she'd have lost the friendship anyway.

Jenny T. says

More light reading....This modern romance story is set in Texas and New Mexico around Christmas time. There's an element of "friends with benefits" which develops into more. I enjoyed the amusing dialogue between the characters.

Netanella says

Meh. Life is too short to read books that you don't enjoy. Reading should be a pleasure, not a chore. DNF

Mojca says

A story with loads of "meh factor". It just didn't pull me in. Two people who have been friends for two years, are very much attracted to each other, but don't want to act on their "feelings" for fear of destroying their friendship.

Actually, he can't do anything, because he's firmly planted on the friend train (he could've made a move before, but didn't want to be the rebound guy), and finally decides to act only when he realizes she's getting ready to seduce someone else.

She doesn't want to act on anything between them, because she's tried the whole friends-to-lovers thing and it didn't work out. She lost both the lover and the friend. Also, she operates on a strange and extremely warped logic that just because he doesn't have a steady job (he's a freelance travel article writer currently working on his second book) and doesn't save anything he gains – he appears not to have a retirement plan – he's not marriage material. Yeah, that makes sense. Not!

Anyway, once they get to New Mexico, he on a job, she's just tagging along to seduce the other guy, who it turns out she doesn't want to seduce after all, all bets (and clothes) are off, but there's still that whole money-thing, and the fling-thing between them. He's too similar to her father with his monetary "issues" (childhood trauma!) so the fling is perfect for her, he wants something more. Yadda, yadda, yadda... Which makes for quite a frustrating read.

Definitely "meh".

Blue Dragon says

I like a number of the author's other works and find her character interactions amusing. Unfortunately I couldn't get into this book and ended up skimming it. I really think the "meh" factor is more from my shifting taste in genre. I've never really related to the female characters in traditional romance novels. I think I need to just stop reading this genre because it's not fair for me to read these stories only to rate them low when the writing is fine and the problem is more my lack of interest.

Krystal says

Title didn't match the book, the cover didn't match the book. This hardly counts as a harlequin. Worst plot ever. Skiiiiim.

Jessica says

Just finished this with a 'meh' feeling as well. I'd given up on Blaze, but thought I'd give this one a try as the

friends to lovers trope is one of my favorites. The characters were too cardboard, the conflict too one dimensional, and the resolution too boring. Maybe I'll try categories again in a year or so . . .

Sarah says

This is the first Blaze novel I've liked. I think that has to be bad luck on my part because I enjoy other Harlequin lines and in theory I like the general parameters for the Blaze line.

In this case Dallas attorney Alyssa Chambers is really noticing her single status as Christmas approaches. She and her best friend make a pact to find true love. Little does Alyssa that true love lives across the hall in her best friend Chris's apartment. Sure she can talk to Chris about anything, but the unstable jet-setting life of a travel reporter is not what she is looking for in her happily ever after. When Chris gets a ticket to the opening of the resort of her potential business client, Alyssa jumps at the opportunity to further her career without thinking about how the close quarters may change her relationship with Chris.

Instead of suddenly blowing up, the conflict in this one simmered throughout, which I ended up not minding because the characters were just so nice and obviously meant for each other that I didn't want them to have one of the big blowouts so common in these novels.
