



# LAID OUT

SIDNEY HALSTON

*USA Today* bestselling author

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**Perfect for fans of Monica Murphy and Cecy Robson, Sidney Halston's scorching new MMA romance proves there are no holds barred when it comes to seduction.**

Growing up an Army brat, Violet Channing could never meet her dad's high expectations. But in the eyes of her best friend, she could do no wrong. He even insisted that he should be her first kiss. Now Cain Sorensen is all grown up, hardened by years in special ops and always looking for a good fight. Tall, with striking blue eyes and impossibly blond hair, he's a modern-day Viking warrior. Of course, Violet's all grown up, too, and she's ready to surrender to his every command.

Cain knows he's bad for Violet. His work is dangerous, and his hobbies are downright deadly. As a private mercenary and a mixed martial arts fighter, he could never let such an innocent soul into his world. And yet his most grueling combat training is no match for Violet's killer curves, hot touch, and suggestive glances. Now all of Cain's most explosive fantasies are coming true—but once they cross the line between friends and lovers, there's no turning back.

## Laid Out Details

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Author : Sidney Halston

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Genre : Romance, Martial Arts, Mixed Martial Arts, Sports and Games, Sports, Contemporary Romance, War, Military Fiction

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## From Reader Review Laid Out for online ebook

### Jen says

#### 3 Second Chance Stars

*"I don't like those pants."*

*She looked down at the adorable navy blue pants before looking back up. "Why?"*

*"Cause they're in the way."*

*"In the way of what?"*

*"Of my dick. Take 'em off."*

I truly loved the premise of this “friends to lovers” book but Violet and Cain’s story took a while to get moving. She’d been in love with him, along with mutual best amigo Jeremy, for as long as she could remember. Cain’s always loved her but has never felt worthy. Big Exhale! The story picks up when they’re both unattached and dealing with the drama of finally being single and ready to mingle.

*And to add to the cluster fuck that was his miserable life, the one thing he wanted most in the world, was the one thing he could never have. His dead best friend’s fiancé.*

I have to give props where props are due and say I loved the dialogue in this book. This author does not do the awkward, no contraction bullshit I’ve unfortunately become accustomed to. Gah! I can’t tell you how many books have been ruined for me lately that consist of formal, stilted and old school banter. If the story’s not set in the Victorian age, the damn conversation better reflect that.

I guess my 3 star rating has to do with the pace of the story. It was slow and I just kept waiting for something, anything to pick up. Cain’s a badass ex-military, secret operative MMA fighter and Violet is a sarcastic bit of awesomeness with a heart of gold. If that’s not the very recipe for success, I don’t know what is! Still, the story was slow and fell flat for me in several places.

Bottom line, I loved the writing Ms. Halston brought to the table but I still wanted MORE overall goodness.

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*ARC provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review*

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### Amanda says

Holy crap!!!! I need a 24 hour nap after this book...I could NOT put this book down. Not to mention at one point I wasn't sure weather I wanted to keep reading or throw my tablet across the room. I knew from seeing Cain in the other books his was going to not only be the most intense but also my favorite book of the series and Sidney you did not disappoint me one bit! This book IS my favorite of this series.

As soon as I started reading this book I knew right away I was going to love Vi just as much as I already did with Cain. She was a breathe of fresh air...yes she had her insecurities, and she has her issues but she never once whined about them (as I have seen with characters in other books), and Cain...he's the mysterious bad boy who was epically broken and I am always drawn to those characters like a moth to a flame.

I also loved seeing the tension between JL and Enzo and I can't wait to read their book...it's looking to be extremely interesting.

Okay so if haven't read this series yet I HIGHLY recommend it...Sidney Halston is an amazing author, and I have loved every book I have read of hers.

*Advanced copy provided by Netgalley*

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### **Sabrina says**

**Ahem, \*Announcer Voice\* Ladies and Gentleman, I present to you Sidney Halston, bringing us, yet another, amazing MMA romance.**

Cain, Violet, and Jeremy were the best of friends growing up. But Violet couldn't help having a little crush on her buddy Cain. Before Cain and Jeremy went off to war, Cain and Violet shared a kiss that gave her hope of their friendship turning into more. But when Cain writes her and tells her the kiss was a mistake she gives up and decides to move on. Her and Jeremy start a relationship and eventually get engaged, leaving Cain on the sidelines.

After a mission goes wrong and Jeremy dies, Cain gets out of the Army and disappears, leaving Violet by herself. Years later they end up in the same town and Violet tries to reconnect with her old friend. Cain, now an MMA fighter and mercenary, feels guilty for wanting his dead friends fiance so he pushes her away and treats her like crap. He can't fight his jealousy when he see's her starting to date, though, and somehow agree's to helping her learn how to date. Violet is shy and awkward when it comes to dating so she is happy to have the help. But when the lessons get a little heated their new found friendship turns into something deeper.

Ladies, get ready to swoon! Cain is just *amazingly sexy* AND he rides a motorcycle AND he has his **cock pierced**. Okay, I'll wait a second for you to go change your panties...better yet, just don't wear 'em when you read this book ;)

But seriously, Cain was a great character. He was sweet with Violet when he wasn't trying to push her away and *sexy as hell* when they gave into what they both desired. He struggled with the guilt of loving his friends girl, but he really stepped up for Violet despite his guilt. He was overprotective and more than a tad possessive of Violet and it showed how much he truly cared for Violet.

Violet was shy and awkward but she put herself out there and wouldn't give up on Cain. She was *hilarious* and I found myself laughing like a loon so much during this book. She was insecure, especially because her father would always make her feel bad about her weight, but she wasn't ashamed of herself and I loved that about her.

Overall, this was a kick ass book and a perfect addition to the Worth the Fight series. I loved the friends to

lovers story and that we still got to see the rest of the WtF gang. We got little glimpses of Enzo and JL, whose book is next, and now I'm dying to read it!

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*ARC kindly provided via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Lexxie (un)Conventional Bookworms says**

#### **This review was originally posted on (un)Conventional Bookviews**

Violet and Cain have known each other their whole lives, but apart from sharing a kiss, twelve years ago just before Cain and Jeremy deployed for the first time, they have been best friends. Laid Out is a friends-to-lovers romance, and it is gritty and filled with tension. And both Violet and Cain had their own demons to live with after Jeremy had died in combat, leaving Violet without her fiancé and Cain without his best friend. Luckily, to dispel the dark aspects of the story, Bird and JL were there for some much needed comic relief.

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### **Mandy says**

4.5 stars

Cain and Violet were childhood friends. Cain has been in love with Violet forever but put his feelings aside because his best friend was also in love with her. Cain felt like his friend would make Violet happy so he stepped away. Violet and Jeremy happy together until Jeremy died in the war. Years later, Cain is back in town and he's still in love with Violet but doesn't think he should be with her - she will always be his best friends girl. To fight his feelings, he pushes Violet away but he has a really hard time staying away from the girl he loves.

I really enjoyed this story. There's something really special about this author's writing - she has this great way of adding humor to her books when you least expect it. A swearing bird - hilarious. This book is loaded with hot sexual tension - I couldn't wait for these to finally get together. This is really steamy but it takes a little while to get there. I loved these characters and the storyline - a friends to more romance. My only complaint about this one is that Cain did annoy me with how much he pushed away. Overall, I really enjoyed this story and can't wait to read more in this series.

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

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### **Three Chicks says**

3.5 stars

Violet and Cain have been friends forever...literally. The two of them and their friend Jeremy all grew up together on an Army base. Violet has always had a crush on Cain but it was Jeremy that she agreed to marry. Years later after Jeremy's death Violet is having a hard time suppressing her feelings, her very hot and heavy feelings for Cain. Problem is; Cain is just a little bit vague. He's sending more mixed signals than Violet can

handle.

Cain Sorenson has been head over heels in love with Violet forever but because his best friend was also in love with her he bowed out gracefully so that Violet could have the type of man he thought would make her happy. Lately though, Cain is having a really hard time keeping Violet in the friend zone. He's treating her like crap to keep her at a distance but it's not working as well as he would like.

When I first read the synopsis I thought "eh, okay...I'll give it a try...it sounds pretty good." I figured I would like it but I didn't expect to like it as much as I did. Sidney Halston give sexual tension and foreplay a whole new meaning! They sexual tension between these two is un-freaking believable!

Growing up without her dad, Violet only had he military dad who wasn't the most warm and fuzzy person. He constantly criticized her weight which gave her a major complex so Cain has his work cut out for him dealing with her body image issues but I love the way he handles that. Cain himself is very brooding and isn't big on conversation so while it was a little shocking to see him be so vocal about her body it was also refreshing. Now I'm not really one for the whole "dirty talk" thing and I really don't like that "P" word but jeez, Cain's "flowery" language and very direct statements had me clutching my pearls and needing a cold shower!

This is book 4 in the Worth the Fight Series. Now as we all know I don't like reading books out of order but every once in a while I come across a book from a series where I'm okay that I didn't read the previous books. This is one of those books. There were moments when I felt like I was missing something but it wasn't to the point where it affected the book in general. However, me being me I did google Sydney and found that there are three books before Laid Out and I enjoyed this one so much that I decided that I would read the first book "Against the Cage" before completing my review just to see if it made a difference in how I felt about the story....Nope still liked it, I got a little more background on the supporting characters but it had no bearing on Cain and Violet. I will say this though.....LOVED "AGAINST THE CAGE"! So do yourself a favor and go check it out. I also downloaded Full Contac (which I haven't started yet) and I intend to download Below the Belt.

Now as much as I like this book the one thing keeping me from giving it four stars? There were certain times where the story dragged a bit for me and I kind of felt like it took Violet and Cain a little too long to actually "do the deed"....but in the mean time they did everything else.! So, 3 and ½ stars for Laid out...definitely worth the read. Hmmm, I thinking of trying to locate some MMA fighters...I'm just saying.

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### **Gabrielle Whipple says**

I'm somewhere between sobbing hysterically and leaving work early to hump my boyfriend. One of the hottest sex scenes I've ever read is the "porn" scene. O.M.G.!! But, the book was also really sad. I recommend it 100%. Ms. Halston's books just keep getting better.

Cain:

Violet:

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## Jennifer says

ARC received for review

First half of this book bored me and was 3 stars. I love this series and it pains me to write that. I actually put it down at 50% and went to sleep. I guess I should have pushed through because when I woke up and finished it I couldn't put it down. The last half was amazing and is totally 5 star worthy. Make sure you have a box of Kleenex nearby. Can't wait for Enzo & JL, and Travis' HEA. I think Cain's friend, Iggy, needs a book too.

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## Liz F says

Review copy courtesy of the publisher via NetGalley.

This was another excellent entry in Sidney Halston's Worth the Fight series. Laid Out is a little heavier on the MMA aspect and on the angst but it was still a lot of fun. If I may though, I would recommend picturing Chris Hemsworth as the hero because that's who the author had in mind... even though the dude on the front is certainly easy on the eyes too! ;)

Violet was a pretty great heroine. She had a small role in a couple of the previous books but nothing major. I loved that Violet was nice and sort of bubbly but not irritating. She laughed a lot and was always quick to smile. I felt like she would definitely be the kind of girl I'd hang out with. She's no party animal but likes to go out with the ladies and cut loose every now and then. She seemed like a sweet, normal woman and I liked her immediately. She does have some body issues though and those are due to her father being a bit of a dick. He was never mean or abusive or anything at all like that. But he was a military man, raising a daughter by himself. He wasn't one to dole out praise and he kept on Violet about her weight but I really think he was working a little above his pay grade. He didn't do it to hurt her; I think he thought he was trying to help her. Unfortunately, it didn't help her and it messed with her self-image. It's a shame because to me, she sounded like a total knockout! She's got a pin-up girl body and she's sweet and fun too? What's not to like?!

Cain was a pretty complicated dude. He and his best pal, Jeremy, grew up as Army brats with Violet. They always had each others' backs and I thought it was really sweet. On one hand, I liked how Cain always had a thing for Violet but stepped aside to let Jeremy go out with her. On the other hand, I really don't like the "secretly in love with my best friend's girl" trope. I feel like the story can get bogged down by too much guilt and too much of the main characters needing the approval of others before going out. Luckily, this wasn't TOO much of an issue here. Well, the guilt was but there was a lot more to the guilt than just Violet being Jeremy's girl. Cain is taciturn and broody and is seriously fricking hot! This is how the author imagined Cain:

But I liked that Cain's perfect (in my opinion) hid a lot of guilt and turmoil that was inside him. It made him a lot more interesting!

The Sexy Time was decently hot and there was a sufficient amount of it. I didn't love that Violet was so

quick to forgive Cain every single time he ran away from her. Of course, if she hadn't been so quick to forgive people, she wouldn't have been the same character. I'm glad she finally put her foot down and stood her ground, even if it didn't go EXACTLY as she'd hoped it would! I think Violet and Cain had awesome chemistry and I love how he lightened up a bit when he was with her.

Like all Sidney Halston books, I loved this one. Here, there was a bit more of the MMA fighting in the form of underground, unsanctioned fight clubs. It wasn't too gory but a little blood was spilled. And I loved it! I have been dying to know what was going on between Violet and Cain for a couple of books now and this was pretty satisfying. But this could still be read as a stand-alone novel. Couples from previous books make appearances here but I really don't think it will matter for readers who aren't familiar with them. There were a few laughs and a few tears. More fighting than usual but nothing over the top. I definitely enjoyed this book and will be coming back for more as soon as the author gives us another one! :)

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**Elizabeth says**

**~FULL REVIEW NOW POSTED~**

**4.5 I love you better STARS!**

Laid Out is a fantastic fusion of second chances, loving yourself, finding forgiveness, and giving yourself the permission to be who you are meant to be. This is my first Sidney Halston read but it certainly will not be my last.

Violet is a military brat. Cain and Jeremy are her two best friends and all three do everything together. In true military fashion, Violet's father is a bit domineering. Because Violet is a little plus size, her dad is always giving her grief about loosing weight. Violet struggles with bullying from her peers. She has always found peace with Jeremy and Cain and it is Cain who gives her her first kiss (right before he and Jeremy deploy to Iraq). Although Violet has feelings for Cain, it is Jeremy who makes the move on Violet. Violet and Jeremy get engaged. Cain is left as a bystander and now "the third wheel". Then tragedy strikes and everything is turned upside down.

**Fast forward to the future....**

Violet is working as a nurse and is in a bit of a dating slump. Although she has amazing friends and a stunning personality she has a gaping vacancy in the love department. I love Violet's glowing personality. She isn't someone who wallows in her grief. Instead, she knows what she wants and she isn't afraid to go after it.

**"I don't want a man to fix me, I want a man that loves me just as I am. I don't need to be fixed. I'm not broken."-Violet**

Cain has been in and out of Violet's life. They share a volatile relationship because of the tragedy they have both lived through. Violet and Cain are friends and yet they both have unresolved feelings for each other. I truly adored the way that Cain was so protective of her. Deep down in his soul he knows that Violet is his.

**"Excuse us. She's mine." -Cain**

Even though his feelings for Violet are undeniable, he just doesn't think he is good enough. Cain decides that if he helps Violet meet someone else he will be able to move forward and forget her. Cain is able to talk Violet into spending a week with him exploring everything regarding matters of sex and the heart. She agrees. Once the deal is set, things between Cain and Violet get very interesting.

Overall, *Laid Out* was a read that I could not put down. I had to know what was going to happen with these amazing characters. The writing is in-depth and the characters are well developed. The pacing was a bit slow at the beginning of the read but as the plot unfolds the action increases the tempo tremendously. At first, I struggled with the back and forth between Violet and Cain. However, I began to understand the depth of each character's personality and it helped me understand the gravity of tension they both are feeling.

The first half of the book is stock full of tension as these two try to establish a common ground. In addition to the endearing friendship between the two, the sexual chemistry between Cain and Violet is off the charts! The journey that Cain and Violet make both individually and as a couple is a journey that I will not forget. I highly recommend this read to anyone who loves a friends to lovers story. I simply cannot say enough about my love for this book! I applaud this author for tackling so many serious issues (such as body image, PTSD, and a love triangle (of sorts)) all in one beautiful package. Additionally, I cannot fail to mention the boxing element that kept my heart racing! Bravo Ms. Halston! I will end my review with a quote from Violet. After reading this book:

**"Wow, my cup runneth over."**

RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 16TH, 2015

PRE-ORDER LINK: <http://www.amazon.com/Laid-Worth-Figh...>

**~ARC graciously given by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review!~**

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**Dali says**

*If the sexy angst doesn't pull you in the sweet drama will. *Laid Out* is a story of letting go of the past, forgiveness, introspection and a love that's been latent for almost thirty years.*

*"Her sunshine seeped into his pores, travelled through his body and wrapped around his heart like a vise. It was almost too much, her light reflecting against his darkness."*

Cain has loved Violet since he can remember, and there's no memory he has that doesn't include her. He, Violet and Jeremy grew up together in an army base. But Cain's loyalty and and feeling incapable of loving Violet the way she should be, courtesy of his strict military upbringing, has made him step aside and push the only woman he's ever loved into the arms of his best friend.

*Their teeth clattered again, and their nose crashed. It was awkward but as first kisses went – it was perfect. “Happy Valentine’s Day, Vi.” It was the last thing he said to her before leaving off to war. ~ Cain & Violet*

But life isn't guaranteed, especially in the Armed Forces, and an unpredictable attack on their team has left Cain hating himself with unsurmountable guilt over his friend's death.

Twelve years after he gave Violet her first kiss, Cain still feels underserving of her. He still can't consider being with her, but he can't live without her. He's overbearing and overprotective one minute and ignores her the next. The incessant mixed signals he sends has Violet more than a little confused. Can he ever find a way to be with the only woman he's ever loved and be happy?

**“Maybe if you stand your ground and little longer and he sees he can’t just squash your emotions with his cavemanish ways, he’ll actually break down and finally voice his feelings.”**

Violet mourned her fiancé, but several years have passed and now she wants to move on. The problem is, her insecurities keep shadowing her and she doesn't know how to date. Counting on her now ornery and taciturn best friend, Violet has enlisted Cain to teach her. But their deep-seated and strong emotions are bound to surface. Can she communicate with him so they can both lay their feelings bare?

*“She made it clear that he hurt her, and that wasn’t something he could live with. He’d masked his emotions for years, he could do it again.”*

Cain is all kinds of hot, caring and brooding and I adored how he loved Violet so absolutely. It was plain as day to see, so I had trouble with the delayed gratification I knew these two would get when they finally got their problems solved. Although it did make for incredible sexual tension between them, I felt it took forever and I wanted to slap them both silly while they were sexily dancing around each other.

**“I worried about you every single god forsaken day that I was away from you.”**

**“What? But you nev –“**

**“I never told you because you weren’t mine. What the f\*ck was I supposed to do? You were my best friend’s girl.”**

Violet is such a sweet, forgiving person. It was very easy for me to imagine her wholesomeness. I felt terrible for the way her very strict father planted so many insecurity seeds in her due to her curvaceous figure, but I loved that she had two very wonderful friends that loved the very best parts of her and even after some hard trials and struggles she found happiness with the man that knew her best even if he wasn't good at expressing his feelings... or so she thought.

**“I’ve always been sappy,”** He took her hand and placed it over his heart. **“In here. I’m mush**

**when it comes to you.”** He then placed her hand on his head. “I’ve practically written poetry about you in here.”

There was a lot of angst and drama between Cain and Violet. I found it hard to believe she was so blind to how much Cain loved her. Even when one moment he was a complete bastard and then the most swoon-worthy of male specimens the next. But there was such an incredibly profound love, they had so much beautiful history together, not to mention some truly hot sexy, panty melting moments that I just couldn’t put their story down until they found their happy ever after.

**“I wish for you to one day feel consumed by love. I hope that you can come to me and say without regret or hesitation, that you are owned body and soul by a man.”**

There’s also laughs, excitement, smiles and tingly girly parts in this MMA book and book. I’m glad I found this series and author and look forward to her next book.

*Book Facts:* Laid Out is book #4 in the Worth the Fight series by Sidney Halston. It’s written from both points of view. Can be read as a standalone, although it’s easier to understand the dynamics between the supporting and interconnecting characters if you read the books in order. The story has a happy ending and no cliffhanger.

Actual rating: 3.5 stars

\* I was given an ARC of this book courtesy of the author via the author’s publicist. The excerpts are from that copy. \*

More reviews \* Stalk us on FaceBook \* As well as Twitter \* Pinterest Board for Book Teasers

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### **Sidney Halston says**

I hate to pick a favorite book since they're all my babies. BUT, I really enjoyed writing this book, especially Cain's character. So...I'm not picking but....

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### **Pheonix Fanfiction says**

0.0% Got an arc from netgalley :D so excited for Cain n violets book :D out tonight but hoping to start on the train tomorrow :)

4% “**Happy Valentine’s Day, Vi.**” It was the last thing he said to her before leaving for war.”  
Awww Cain! :D the lead up to this book has been amazing - I can't wait to finally get their story! :D I'm pretty sure I'm gonna love it!

6% Almost immediately, he made her feel at ease. For the first time in a long time, Violet felt happy

**being on a date.**

Aww yay! I'm happy for vi but is it just me who wants cain to come in? :P

**7% Violet pushed back her chair, which fell in the process, and ran full speed to Cain, who wasn't looking and wasn't prepared for the full frontal attack he was about to receive. He still held the heavy duffle bag when he turned around and Violet threw herself against him. She never doubted he would catch her. He dropped his bag and wrapped his arms around her waist.**

Awwww vi! :D I love her reaction to seeing him especially as they haven't really been getting on and I love even more that she didn't even think before doing it - it was her first instinct/natural reaction! <3

**11% She said remembering his exact words.**

Oh cain! Why'd you do that?!? if it's why I think it might it's gonna hurt my heart! :( I'm really loving this already! I've reread the vi/cain parts in the previous books so am sooo excited and in the mood for their story! <3 so glad I got an arc!! <3

**15% Instead she looked at his sad blue eyes that looked so lost, and she just wanted to pull him into her arms and fight off anyone or anything that would make this giant of a man miserable.**

Awww Cain - though I love that vi can have that kind of affect of him! <3

**16% It was a secret that ate at his soul daily. And to add to the cluster fuck that was his miserable life, the one thing he wanted most in the world, was the one thing he could never have. His dead best-friend's fiancé.**

Oh Cain?! I need to know what happened! But what I do know is that whatever happened you're wrong! I'm loving Cain - he's trying so hard to be the friend he thinks he should be to Jeremy :(

**17% "I know Tony's seen it because he didn't seem surprised when I brought it up. He had a two minute meltdown when he thought I'd looked at Cain's cock. For those minutes I didn't understand half the shit he was yelling so I couldn't defend myself. His accent went full-out and half the words were in Spanish."**

:O seriously?! Wasn't expecting that but I fucking love it!

But can I just say I LOVE TONY AND FRANCESCA! I love so much that we get to see the previous couples! <3

**20% He leaned in, his voice husky, "Trust me. I have a tongue." With his forefinger and thumb he pinched her chin and closed her mouth**

:O I think my face pretty much looks like vi's! That was one hell of a response to Vi's question/teasing <3 <3

**22% Cain laughed hard for the first time in a long time, even though he also had an urge to bang his fists against his chest and claim his woman to the world. But, really, she was a goofball and these moments made his chest constrict and the love he was trying so hard to bury deep inside of him to seep out.**

Aww Cain!! <3 I'm loving these two so much! <3

**23% In a dreamy yawn thick with her southern drawl, she asked sweetly, almost reverently, "I want to see your pierced cock."**

Haha go vi! :D <3

**24% You need to stay away from her or tell her you're in love with her. We both know that there's no**

one sweeter than Violet. She's not going to tell you what I'm telling you because she's too worried about hurting your feelings and well...she's just too damn nice. But you keep being an ass to her over and over again. I don't know why she puts up with it. You're a dick and an ass, Mr. Viking-dude. You," she poked his chest, proudly, "are a dickass." She laughed to herself. "Oh, shit! I just invented a word! It's a good word. Dickass."

Hahahah I love JL and go her for sticking up/protecting her best friend! I love her even more for that! :D <3

25% "Vi, I've told you a thousand times, just 'cause I don't talk much, doesn't mean I don't listen. Every single crazy-ass word that has come out of that mouth—and there have been a lot of them since you talk so much—I've listened to. I've remembered." She placed her hand over her heart. "God, my cup runneth over." It had been years since he'd heard that saying.

Awww Cain!! <3 <3 perfect and that saying of Vi's is adorable haha <3

32% Cain: I'm sorry. Violet: Holy shit. Did you just apologize? Cain: Holy shit, did you just say shit? Violet: LOL. I'm coming over.

Hahahahah I love these two - I can't wait to see more of their story! <3

34% I need to get this out before I lose my nerve. I'm attracted to you. I think I've always been, actually. I mean, how can I not be, you're really hot, Cain." She shook her head. "Ugh! Why can't I stop babbling? Anyway, I just wanted you to know that I'm attracted to you. Life is too short to play games, I think I learned that with Jeremy. So, I know this may be weird or whatever, but I just wanted you to know that. I feel things when I'm with you that I've never . . . my body gets . . . well, anyway, you get the point."

Aww vi! I love that no matter how nervous you are you said it! Now cain just needs to realise that being with you/loving you is not betraying Jeremy - he'd want you both to be happy! <3 however I feel that may take a long time for him to get to that point meaning its going to make my heart hurt :'(

37% Tony placed his hands on Cain's shoulders. "This isn't an intervention. You're my brother, you're hurting. We just want you to know that you have people you can talk to. You've got friends." The back of his eyes stung. The only true friend he'd ever had was gone. Dead. And it was his fault. He didn't want or need any more friends. Emotions he'd withheld for so many years were rearing its ugly head.

Oh Cain! :'( I really fucking LOVE these men!! <3

40% God, the man could command a room. It was as if his mood set the mood for the rest of the people. And in his Army uniform, perfect posture, and intimidating stature, he looked almost regal. He smiled and when he got close he held his hand out to her, completely ignoring Richard's presence. "Excuse us. She's mine." Cain said and her heart actually stopped.

Cain!!! So hot!! <3 <3

45% But instead, he extended his hand and shook it with a wink. She quickly scowled and huffed, "Cain! Words."

Hahah go vi! <3

46% "I'm vulgar, Violet. I'm dirty and rough. I know what I like and how I like it and I have a cock that's dying to get inside your tight little pussy. You wanted to know how it was like. Well, little girl, that's how I'm like. You've never seen me in this context. You signed up for this. We can stop whenever you want if I'm offending you. But you wanted me to talk and this is how I talk." He lifted his eyebrow. "Careful for what you wish for, huh?" She straightened her back.

Okay I love it when Cain talks! <3 <3

52% “You need to stop with the weight comments. Swear to god, babe, one more and I’m going to be really pissed.”

You tell her Cain! <3

55% She smiled that fucking blinding smile he loved and hated. Hated because it brought him to his knees.

Oh Cain!! I loveee the effect vi has on him! <3

59% “You haven’t had that Violet. Jeremy had that. You haven’t. I heard how he spoke about you. I know that he loved you in a way that consumed him completely. You didn’t. I don’t mean to upset you. I’m telling you that because I want you to find that.” “I don’t know how to take that. You don’t think I loved Jeremy?” “I think you loved him. I don’t think you loved him the way you want to love the person you’re destined to spend the rest of your life with, though. I don’t think you felt the same passion for him he felt for you. I don’t think he knew you. The real you. The Violet that didn’t want her bread buttered and her food ordered for her.”

I think Cain’s right! And I also think he stepped back not because of violet but because Jeremy was his best friend/brother and he knew how he felt about vi and didn’t want to hurt him even though he feels the same way :( oh Cain - you’re the sweetest man ever! I love you sooo goddamned much! <3

63% He grabbed her ass and moved it higher, causing his ring to hit what was apparently the perfect spot because she was clenching his dick with almost unbearable amounts of pleasure. ‘Fuck, Vi. I’m going to come if you keep squeezing my dick like that.’

<3 this is so hot!! <3 <3 <3

64% Twice. Twice she’d lost her heart to Cain.

Oh these two! :( :( oh Cain! Tell her - you’re just making both of you miserable :(

65% “Violet. You know I’m no good at talking. I panicked too. I want you in my bed again. Last night was hell. I walked down the fucking hall to your room a dozen times but I was too much of a coward to face you. I thought that maybe you regretted it.”

Awww yay! I love that these two are mostly saying what they think! I love that they’ve known each other for years and are comfortable with each other! <3

66% He was so turned on by her actions he almost came right then and there. “Just keep doing what you’re doing.” Was all he was able to grunt out, his fingers laced in her hair as she laved, sucked, and nipped his cock over and over while her hands pumped him relentlessly. “Oh God Violet,” He groaned. “Last chance before I come in your mouth.”

I love that violet can do affect a man like Cain like this! So hot! <3 <3

68% “You want to scream don’t you?” He whispered. Her eyes were shut and she leaned toward him, pushing against his hand, concentrating on being quiet. Not so much because she cared right now about who heard her, but because he’d threatened to stop and she really didn’t want him to stop. Cain is so fucking hot! I love it - I can’t stop highlighting! <3 <3

70% And before he could finish his sentence, Cain snapped.

Oh shit! I hate Jim -\_- and something tells me when Cain snaps, he SNAPS!

73% “There you go. I’m naked. In the light. In front of you. We can move on, don’t you think? If there is any apprehension now, it certainly isn’t coming from me.”

Awww! GO VIOLET! <3 <3

76% “You were like a son to us. It felt like we lost both our boys that day.” “Honey! You just told me to shut my mouth and here you are drilling him.” “Oh, hush. It’s different.” She said pointedly to Marshall before turning her sweet gaze back to Cain. “I-I uh” He cleared his voice. “I’m sorry. I just—it was too hard.” His voice came out like a croak.

Oh Cain! :( and poor Mrs Edwards too! :( though I love that they say it how it is and they obviously love Cain a lot! <3

78% This was the end. The worse part of it was that it didn’t just feel like the end of the trip or their sexual relationship. It felt like the end of them. And she didn’t know what to do to fix it.

Oh god :( this is going to break my heart :(

83% “He died. My brother, he died, hating me.”

Oh Cain!! :( :( he’s hurting my heart! :( 2 brothers in love with the same girl - I wish I could blame Jeremy but I can’t - it was just a horrible situation :( :(

84% “But . . . it feels so different than it did with Jeremy.” Violet stood there silently with tears in her eyes. “Of course it does, honey. You were practically a kid back then. You loved Jeremy, I don’t doubt it. But it was a first love. The man he was turning into, the woman you’ve turned into—would that woman chose Jeremy or Cain? That’s the question you have to ask yourself.”

She’s right vi - listen to JLs saying! She’s right! <3

87% At the opposite end there were some bleachers and as they turned the corner Violet saw a group of very angry very large men, with their arms crossed, staring at the group of misfits.

Hahah I love these men! Though I don’t think they’re too happy with their women hahaha <3

88% “Stay up. Stay up.” Violet whispered, her hands over her mouth. “He’s a professional Jiu Jitsu fighter. He’s better on the floor.” Violet looked at Travis for a moment before turning back to the cage and whispering, “Get on the floor. Get on the floor.”

Oh violet - I know I shouldn’t but that just made me laugh! <3

89% Violet tuned everything after that out since Tony was yelling in Spanish and Francesca was replying in Portuguese and Violet was 100% sure they didn’t understand each other.

Hahahahah I fucking love tony and francesca! <3 <3

90% “Was! Cain, I was Jeremy’s fiancé.” She stepped closer and held his face in her hands. “Honey, you have to let it go. I have. It’s hard. I know it is, but he’s not coming back. He wouldn’t want to see you suffering. He would’ve wanted you to be happy even if that meant being with me.” “I can’t!” He roared. “I can’t” “Why not?” She sobbed. “Because I killed Jeremy!” It was as if she was punched in the stomach. She physically took a step back. “I was supposed to have his back.

Oh Cain!!! :( these two are breaking my heart sooo bad! :(

If Jeremy was standing right here right now and I had to pick I’d pick you.” “Don’t say that!” “You have to let me love you, Cain. You have to.

Oh vi!! I can’t stop bloody highlighting! <3 <3 listen to her Cain! Please listen to her!

91% “I’m sure there’s a blonde, blue eyed, Harvard grad somewhere with a clean vocabulary that’ll make you a great wife. I’m obviously not that girl, so you can go fuck yourself you pretentious asshole.”

???? Okay now I can't wait for JL and Enzos book! <3

93% Cain didn’t hear anything. When he’d been in Iraq, there were a few FUBAR moments when an explosion nearby would literally suck out all the air from the area. Time slowed down, voices became muffled and it seemed as if time passed by around him while he stayed stagnant. This was just like that. Jack continued to move his mouth, but the words were not making it into his ear. “Cain!” Someone was shaking him. “Cain!” Then suddenly, the noise came back in a woosh. “Cain!”

Omg what the fuck?!?!?! No seriously what the actually fuck is going on!!!! :'( :O

94% Tony’s eyes glossed over and he let go of Cain’s shoulder as Cain got out the car. He’d come back, not fixed because that would take years, but feeling better only to find himself in hell.

Oh Cain! I can't believe you did that - for her! I'm actually tearing up - what the fuck is going on?!? This can't be right! :'(

97% The sun needs the moon and vice-versa. Some days you’ll be moody and some days it’ll be me. We can be each other’s suns on those days.”

Awww PERFECT! <3

98% I’ll tell you all these things before I get down on my knees and beg you—not ask you—but beg you to marry me. I’ll follow you anywhere, Violet. You may have to be my voice, since I’m not good with words, but your voice is all that matters to me.”

Oh Cain! Violets right you don't talk much but what you do say is perfect and amazing! I love you so fucking much! <3 <3

100% “It’s already my home. You’re in it. So, it’s my home, Vi. Wherever you are, that’s where I live.”

Cain!!, <3 <3 perfect! So perfect! That ending - Jesus my heart totally shattered! But the best of the series - I loved it! So so so glad I got an arc! I literally can't say anything but perfect! I fell head over heels for Cain n vi right at the start - Everything I love in a book! <3 <3

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### Cristina says

A beautiful story involving a MMA fighter...

...and a female main character that's plus size and proud of that (almost all the time)...

...what's not to like? :D

*\*ARC generously provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review\**

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## **RJ says**

DNF 30%

Wow, two asshole H's back to back. My next book has to have a sweet H.

Reasons for DNFing:

1. Hot & cold/asshole hero. He kept pushing her away and seems to be doing that till the end. Man up and get what you want! He thinks it will be helpful if he sees her dating again and offers to help her seduce other men. -.-
2. Heroine with no backbone. Her character was supposed to be "too forgiving" but she let the H walk all over her and let him come back again and again.
3. OW drama. H thinks about calling his past FWB that he's been sleeping on and off with for years and later he brings a date to the bar they were all meeting at. Nothing happened so far but I honestly wouldn't put it past him to try to sleep with another woman to forget the h and I hate that uncertainty when it comes to my heros. I was seriously worried that any minute now he's gonna call some past hookup.

*Or maybe he just needed to get laid. It had been far too long. Perhaps that was the reason he was so tormented. Excessive horniness could make a man crazy, right? He needed to call Paige. She was a friend—well, really just a woman he'd been sleeping with on and off for a few years. It was a no-strings-attached non-relationship, and after this morning he knew it was beyond time for him to give her a call. She had a nice smile, too; maybe she could help him get his head out of his ass.*

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