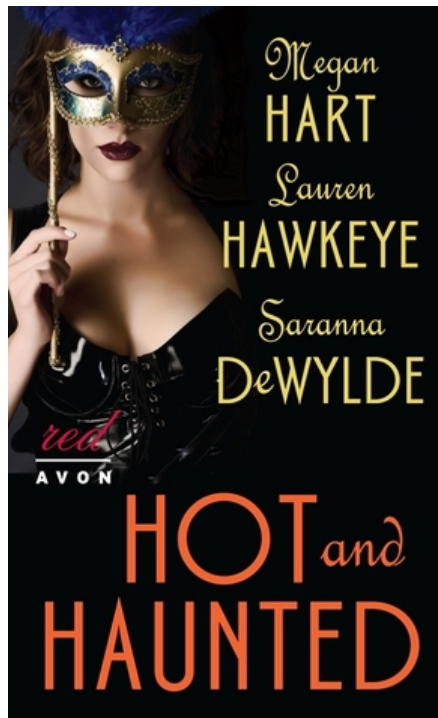




Hot and Haunted

Megan Hart , Lauren Hawkeye , Saranna DeWylde

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Hot and Haunted Details

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From Reader Review Hot and Haunted for online ebook

Carolyn Storer says

2.5 Stars

Ok, so this isn't a scary anthology, but it does contain lots of scary zombies, werewolves and a creepy love scene, so it still fits in with our All Hallows Eve month, right? ;D

NOTHING ELSE MATTERS by Megan Hart

I've heard so much about this author and have many of her novels on my kindle, but I just haven't got around to reading them yet. When I received Hot & Haunted for review, I was really excited to see that there was a short story from Megan Hart. I was interested in seeing if her writing style was my kind of thing, and I can say with certainty it most certainly was. I loved this story. For one it's about zombies, and two it contains a broken, complex heroine (my favourite kind) and two hot men.

The world-building is really fantastic, and it's really quite original in the world of zombie/post apocalyptic fiction. It's this world and the complex main character that just pulled me right in. When it finished (as it's pretty short) I was craving for more. Luckily I found an ebook serial from the author called The Resurrected that looks as though is set in the same world but with different characters with each story. Can't wait to read these.

Back to Nothing Else Matters. There are about three sex scenes in this short story, and although that may seem a lot considering it's length, they are so intricate to the story and to Liya's character that I didn't feel it was excessive. It even contained the dreaded "c" word, which I hate with a passion, but I loved this story so much that I just didn't care it was there. Whether it would have eventually irritated me if the story was actually a full length novel I'm not sure, but I'm definitely going to read her back list to find out. I just have to decide which one to read first: Another short story, of which I have four or Dirty a full length novel... (4.5/5)

PICK ME UP by Lauren Hawkeye

I enjoyed this story to a point. I can't complain about the writing as it was pretty good. The characters were also well rounded for such a short piece. 95% of the story takes place in a car with a young couple. You think you have them sussed out but as the story unfolds by flashbacks you realise that things are very different indeed.

This story had an almost a traditional feel about it. The kind of creepy stories we used to tell each other when we were kids, minus the sexual content. It's the creep factor and ending of this short that gave me that feeling and I'd be interested in hearing if others felt the same after they'd read it. All in all an ok read. (3/5)

LITTLE RED'S BIG BAD by Saranna DeWylde

Unfortunately, I couldn't finish this story. It was slow to start, and then the lust felt by the heroine for the hero happened too quickly and for no real reason other than he had a good body. I know it's a short story, but things should still be believable. Having read quite a few short stories now, I know it can be done as I've read some terrifically paced shorts. However, I think it was when the heroine was so turned on by just the thought of the hero, she had to pull off the road and masturbate using her iPhone vibrating app.

Miranda clenched her thighs more tightly together, desperate for relief. Above all, Miranda was a practical creature, so she surrendered. She pulled over onto a deserted dirt road, and after being quite liberal with the hand sanitizer, got out her iPhone. She slipped it into the neoprene sleeve and activated the iVibe app before tucking it into her panties with the edge of the phone against her...

There's so much wrong with this for me. I mean, really? She was SO turned on she couldn't wait until she got home, so she had to use hand cleanser, and an iPhone case? What was the point of hand disinfectant when she'd just tucked an iPhone case down her knickers? O_O

Little Red's Big Bad started out a bit slow, the insta-lust happened too quick and was unbelievable and the above scene just had my eyes rolling. (DNF)

VERDICT:

Hot & Haunted was an ok read. The first story, Nothing Else Matters by Megan Hart, made this anthology for me, by far, and I would recommend it based on this short story alone (especially as it only costs £0.99). However, by not being able to finish Little Red's Big Bad the overall rating was brought down quite a bit.

Heather Book Savvy Babe says

3.5 of 5 Stars

The Hot and Haunted anthology serves up three quick, hot stories, by three different authors. Each story is completely different from the others. They are not related in anyway, except for that they are all three hot, haunting reads. This anthology is perfect for the paranormal thriller reader who likes their stories with a side of sexy.

The first story is Nothing Else Matters by Megan Hart. This one is a post zombie apocalypse setting, and I found it quite intriguing. It reminded me a lot of the TV series, The Walking Dead, except for it had one point of view and better sexy scenes. I found myself really liking this story and would definitely be interested in reading more from this world.

Story number two is Pick Me Up by Lauren Hawkeye. This story, it's not paranormal, but it is pretty creepy. At first, I was just pretty lost in the story, trying to understand what Holly was trying to accomplish and why. She is playing a dangerous yet sexy game with Brody and the ending was completely unexpected and left me still a bit lost. This story was eerie and left me wondering what had actually happened.

The final story was my favorite of the anthology, it may be because of the werewolves (I love shifter stories). The story, written by Saranna DeWylde, is titled "Little Red's Big Bad" and is about Miranda, a US Marshal who is on the hunt for a dangerous serial killer who thinks he is a werewolf. When the killer escapes, an FBI joins the hunt and hits it off with Miranda. After becoming trapped in a snow storm, Miranda begins to believe that maybe there is more to the werewolf mystery than she first believed, and there is more to FBI agent Aden Brewster than first appeared as well. This story is hot and quick, but I fully enjoyed the chemistry between Aden and Miranda and how the mystery unfolded.

Overall, Hot and Haunted is a good read if you are up for short stories that are haunting, but still sexy. Anthologies can be useful for finding new authors. Since I enjoyed DeWylde's werewolf stories so much, I will just have to read more of her books in the future! I had fun reading the stories and give the book as a whole a rating of 3.5 of 5 stars.

I received this book for review

Beautiful_Jade says

This book contains three short stories.

Nothing Else Matters by Megan Hart and Little Red's Big Bad by Saranna DeWylde I would definitely like to read extended versions of. They had interesting storylines, good characters and hot scenes.

Pick Me Up by Lauren Hawkeye was just a mess. All over the place, nothing making sense. I still have no idea what was going on.

Stephanie says

Original Post at FANGS, WANDS and FAIRY DUST 10/9/2012
HOT AND HAUNTED: TRICK OR TREAT!

HOT AND HAUNTED

Saranna DeWylde, Megan Hart, Lauren Hawkeye

Publisher: Avon Red/Harper Collins (October 23, 2012)

Sold by: HarperCollins Publishers

E-Galley loaned by Harper Collins via Edelweiss. No remuneration was exchanged and all opinions, except as noted, are my own.

True Halloween pleasures don't come from sweets . . . Indulge yourself with some tasty tricks and treats from three popular erotica authors as they serve up tales of chilling, thrilling passion.

Megan Hart's NOTHING ELSE MATTERS

After surviving the zombie apocalypse, Lira wants nothing more than the sense of life that only lust can bring. Suddenly torn between two irresistible lovers, Lira must choose: the one who brings her carnal fantasies to life? Or the one who sets her ablaze again and again?

Lauren Hawkeye's PICK ME UP

Sure, hitchhiking is dangerous, but Holly just had to get away. Now soaking wet and stuck in a downpour with her roadside savior, she's ready for a little window-steaming and some role-play. It's all fun and games until Holly realizes she's met her match . . .

Saranna DeWylde's LITTLE RED'S BIG BAD

Hunting werewolves and being snowbound in a remote cabin with a sexy FBI agent are all in a day's work for U.S. Marshal Miranda Garrick. But when business mixes with pleasure, can she stay in control? Or will she be tempted by unrestrained passion . . . and tantalizing danger?

www.avonromance.com

Last month, in a review, I told Saranna DeWylde that I thought she was talented and she could do better than the book I had read. In LITTLE RED'S BIG BAD she does. Of the three stories in the book this was my favorite with a strong female lead and a mystery that did not play out the way I thought it would. It's fraught

with the sexual tension that only a scary crime and being snow bound in a blizzard can bring about. It was also quite dark.

I enjoyed THE SPACE BETWEEN US by Megan Hart. But, I don't like Zombie stories, nor am I a big post-apocalyptic fan. So, while there's heat and emotional turmoil from page one, the Zombies and the apocalypse turned me off. Lovely characters though, screwed up, but really interesting.

Lauren Hawkeye's novella PICK ME UP SURE reminded me of the hitchhiker ghost stories I've heard since I was a youth. Pure sexual escapism, the story falls short between motivation and action by the character. When I was done, I still wasn't sure what had gone down.

This is a short, Halloween-Themed anthology. All in all it was a mixed bag for me — mostly because of my personal preferences. It's only in e-book formats and at a \$1.99 it's a great treat for your older e-trick-or-treater girlfriends (with the cost of a stamp and cards these days, this isn't much more and will last longer)!

Andrea says

Three sexy, creepy stories to steam you up!

Nothing Else Matters, by Megan Hart, is the story of Lira, a survivor of the apocalypse. The world has gone to hell and the only way Lira knows to escape the terror is through sex. Anthony, a fellow survivor, is the man she turns to when she needs to turn her brain off and her body on. The author did a fantastic job of writing very steamy and easy-to-visualize scenes. This story definitely makes me want to read more from Hart.

Pick Me Up, by Lauren Hawkeye, was the story I was most excited to read. I am a huge fan of her book, My Wicked Gladiators, so my hopes were high. I did like this, but I spent the first chapter or so completely confused as to what was going on. Regardless of what the situation was, the sex was great, as I've come to expect from the author. Once the big shocker was dropped, the twist that made Pick Me Up so creepy, I was hooked. To read a story with alternating dread and being turned on was an interesting experience.

Little Red's Big Bad was such a mind trip. It started out like a freaking scene from The Silence of the Lambs and I did NOT think I was going to enjoy it at all. But then the focus switched to Miranda and Aden, two Federal Agents trying to capture a serial killer. The scenes between these two were fantastic. Miranda was basically panting after Aden from the moment they meet, not even able to keep her hands off herself while thinking of him. OH, and I learned about an iPhone app that I never even dreamed existed! As you might have guessed, there were elements to Little Red Riding Hood, and I loved it! So even though Little Red's Big Bad started out iffy for me, the awesome sexual encounters and the surprise ending made me love it.

Hot and Haunted is three short, sexy stories that will leave you surprised and breathless.

Suzy says

The first book i have never been able to finish...this thing SUCKED!!! I expected it to be decent didn't even come close.. and i finish reading books even if i dislike them i'm always convinced it's bound to get better...nope :(Epic fail

Letitia says

Overall Rating: A- ... Heat: Sizzling

Just in time for Halloween, Hot and Haunted is full of sexy and scary delights. Spooky and a tad creepy, while also managing to rev up your libido, this anthology was such a wonderful surprise! If there is such a thing as erotica-horror, then these three tales are excellent examples of it. And while I may have picked this one up because of Miz Hart's name on the cover—I'm happy to have found two new author's I want to read more from!

Nothing Else Matters by Megan Hart – Rating: A

The story takes place in a post-apocalyptic world teeming with zombies, where every man and woman is simply fighting to survive. One such survivor is Lira, our heroine. Immune to the spores that change people from human to one of the Resurrected, Lira is in charge of making runs to gather up food and supplies for her small group. A job that definitely takes its toll on her... and makes her crave skin to skin action with her lover/boyfriend, Anthony, whenever she makes it back alive. Which is never a guarantee, so those two always make the most of their time together.

Nothing Else Matters has a vivid end-of-the-world setting, a heroine who is strong and adaptable, a hero who is understanding and isn't afraid to say 'I love you', zombies, sex, sex, and more sex. It quickly engages you and draws you in. It will turn you on and, well, freak you out as well. If I was a nail biter, a few scenes would've had me chewing on them pretty darn good. Miz Hart's story packs quite the compact punch.

Pick Me Up by Lauren Hawkeye – Rating: B

Holly is a woman scorned, out for some revenge. Standing in the middle of the road in a white dress while it pours down rain, she waits for some unsuspecting man to rescue her. That man ends up being Brody, a hot geek that's totally unprepared for the passenger he picks up. After getting his car stuck in a ditch, Holly and Brody get to *really* know each other while they wait for a tow.

Pick Me Up puts a new spin on hitchhiking, that's for sure. And even though it isn't so much a 'feel good' story, it was still very steamy and titillating. My only issue was Holly, as she isn't a terribly likeable heroine. She says and does some things that made me feel sorry for Brody. I'm also not 100% sure about the ending (which I believe was deliberate)... it kind of ends on a creepy note! Still, those two could give Jack and Rose (*Titanic*) a run for their money on steaming up car windows. Whew!

*The only non-paranormal story in this antho.

***Little Red's Big Bad* by Saranna DeWylde – Rating: A-**

Miranda, a U.S. Marshal, is being taunted by a serial killer. But not just any serial killer—one that believes he's a werewolf. Tasked with hunting him down, Miranda is joined in the hunt by Aden, an agent with the FBI. When they become trapped in a cabin, surrounded by giant snow drifts with no way out, Miranda and Aden put the case on the back burner and give in to their burning lust.

Little Red's Big Bad was full of awesome drama and absorbs you into the chase immediately. The chemistry between Miranda and Aden is immediate too. It's there, quietly simmering, until it finally boils over. So hot. I also really enjoyed how the psychological condition of lycanthropy played a big part. Is there or isn't there actual werewolves? Smart twist on it. And the ending, well, I'll admit I actually *aww'd* out loud. I plan to check out Miz DeWylde's PNR series, *10 Days*, as soon as possible!

-- *A Romantic Book Affairs Review.*

Find us on Twitter and Facebook too!

Lisa says

Although it wasn't my plan to read this I still picked it up and gave it a chance. I just didn't expect to love/hate it so much. I'll explain fully later. I think I'm just scarred by that second short story. Holy shit I was all: Waaaaaaaah?! o_O

REVIEW

True Halloween pleasures don't come from sweets ...

I'd have to say that even days after reading this anthology that it is still on my mind! Just absolutely terrifyingly awesome!

Nothing Else Matters by Megan Hart

Megan Hart is a personal automatic-read/buy for me. I've read quite a bit of her stuff and I have to say that this has that same heavy feel, but with a little post-apocalyptic action going on. The whole people-being-turned-into-zombies-after-being-infected-by-plant-matter was superbly well done. Hart's writing is also – as per usual – pretty much damn well flawless. Her storyline just flows at a pretty decent pace that just had me reading and reading until the next thing I knew it was all over. I'll also be honest and say that I'd like to read more of this particular story, but that I'm also scared because I'm not sure if it will a happy ending. Hart's depiction of a post-apocalyptic world is pretty much spot on and rather terrifying, too! Loved it!

Pick Me Up by Lauren Hawkeye

A little psychological thriller with a bang...

We all know that hitch-hiking is a rather dangerous thing to do. I mean, we don't know the person behind the wheel of the car that we'd like to get a ride from. That person could be a serial killer or something and you may not be getting out of that car in one piece – let alone alive!

So in this piece we see how sometimes hitch-hiking can be our secret fantasies come to life... and how, well, it can still turn out for the worst. All I can say is: Expect the unexpected. This one left me reeling and pretty much freaked out, but it was rather interesting... and hot and scary!

Holy shit, I still can't get over how much this story kind of messed with my mind and left me saying: Whaaaaaaat??? I had an eyes wide open look on my face. I definitely had a love/hate relationship with this story. I just don't want to give too much of it away. You'll just need to trust me and read it yourself.

Little Red's Big Red by Saranna DeWylde

This one was unexpected, but very good and very sexy. The writing was great and the pacing was good, and the story was very much engaging and entertaining. It's an adult, modern version of Little Red Riding Hood that features a U.S. Marshall as Little Red, and a prisoner/cult leader – seemingly – as the big bad wolf, and a sexy FBI agent hottie that had our heroine doing everything but howling at the moon. Sort of. It certainly had its twists and turns and I didn't expect to enjoy it as much as I did. I have never read anything by this author before, but I will say that after reading this I definitely will be looking into reading more of her stuff in the future. A very enjoyable, fantastically thrilling read!

An ARC of this title was provided to me free of charge by the publisher Avon via Edelweiss in exchange for my honest opinion. Many thanks!

Reviewed at Fic Talk

Ann Lorz says

I would have to say that my favorite of the three stories was Saranna DeWylde's hers was my favorite. I would read her again. Hart's story was okay, not a bad read. I didn't read the Hawkeye, because, I'm not a fan of first person.

Francesca the Fierce (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

This review was posted at Under the Covers

Nothing Else Matters by Megan Hart - 3.5 Stars

This story was not so different from what I would've expected to see in a post-apocalyptic paranormal erotic story from Megan Hart. Even in a short story, the romance is never simple. I don't want to spoil things and tell you what happens :) just that I found this story was sexy but gruesome at the same time. Megan's zombies are pretty disgusting as they spread the "virus" by having spots on their faces explode. If you breath those spores in then you turn into a zombie. It's almost a believable scenario. Our heroine Lira is kick ass, she goes out looking for, hunting and killing zombies. But she is also jaded. I think through this story she

does grow a little and starts "feeling" but there's more ahead of her. I am giving this a 3.5 because I was not as connected in all the "hunting for zombies" scenes and maybe wanted those to be shorter or less descriptive or maybe they should've included more people and interaction. Overall I did enjoy the story. It was dark and sexy.

"She spent her days with death; fucking made her feel alive."

Pick Me Up by Lauren Hawkeye - 3 stars

Honestly this story was the spookiest of them all. From beginning to end you don't know if you are watching a train wreck of a girl with maybe mental problems who is a tad unstable and crazy but maybe finds love in the most unexpected of place, or if she's just a crazy lunatic serial killer. And I'm going to leave the story at that. I really had no connection with the characters of this story, but I think the author did her job in pulling my emotions in all different directions and giving me goosebumps at the end. This one was also the most erotic one of them all in my opinion.

Little Red's Big Bad by Saranna DeWylde - 4 stars

Now this was my favorite story. I liked the heroine from the get-go. US Marshal Miranda Garrick has been working on the case of a serial killer who was supposed to be behind bars. But he's escaped and he's made it known that he's got it bad for her. Rumor has it he's a werewolf, and she's his little red riding hood. I loved the play on the fairytale! Miranda was kick ass but vulnerable. When she has to work with hunky FBI agent, Aden, sparks fly in a major way. But he's got more than one secret. For a short story, this was incredibly engaging, intriguing and sensual. There's a bad guy, a great story, some mystery, some action, and plenty of *waggles eyebrows* hot stuff happening. I will be checking out the rest of Ms. DeWylde's work. I've been meaning to from before and this just convinced me I HAVE TO.

Excerpts included from The Forbidden Lady by Kerrelyn Sparks and Turn to Darkness by Jaime Rush

*ARC provided by publisher

Jessica says

The first story was about zombies and I was not a fan even though I normally love Megan harts writting. The second story was my kind of twisted. This was definitely erotic and there is something wrong with the main character. I definitely would read more stories by this author. The third story was good, but somewhat predictble. There was one aspect of the story I couldn't have guessed and I liked that aspect.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Kitty's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4 Stars

NOTHING ELSE MATTERS by Megan Hart

In the first book of the "Hot and Haunted" anthology, we visit with Lira and Anthony after the world has been attacked and virus has been spread killing humans only to resurrect them to spread the virus even more. Kira, Anthony and a few other humans have taken refuge in a Synagogue and Kira is their only salvation. The only one who has come in contact with the virus and has survived. That is, until she meets Mac, a

soldier who has defected and is trying to warn any humans he can that the military has decided to wipe out everyone in an attempt to stop the virus from spreading.

I love anthologies. The stories are short and to the point. Ms. Hart had this storyline moving constantly. It was quick, witty and packed with some really hot sex. It was also a love story between Kira and Anthony ... a story about trust and love. The only way Kira can get the sight and sounds of the Resurrected from her mind is with sex. Sex with Anthony and then sex with Mac after he rescued her. Something they both needed. When Mac shows up at the Synagogue, Anthony knows but he loves Kira enough to understand why and move forward and trusting Mac to get them all to safety.

PICK ME UP by Lauren Hawkeye

Well, I was a little confused with this story in “Hot and Haunted”. That is, until the end. Ms. Hawkeye kept you on your toes throughout this little ditty. Brody finds Holly stranded during a torrential rain storm, almost hitting her with his car. But, was she really stranded, what is her end-game? Holly goes from hot to cold, sexy to embarrassed, sane then insane throughout the story. Brody is an optometrist, a little geeky and falling for the act that Holly is putting on.

See, Holly’s fiancée cheated on her (I think) so she is out looking to get her revenge on him with a stranger. Standing in the middle of the road with a white dress on, she plans on stopping the next vehicle that comes by – male or female – it didn’t matter to her. Brody swerves to miss hitting her and ends up in a ditch. Taking Holly into the car starts her plan and her seduction. Everything ends with them rolling around in the mud, with Brody giving orders and Holly begging for more. But, was Brody set up, is she really who she says she is, is her fiancée really the one in the pick-up truck?

Yes, this story is a real mind-fuck! I’m still not sure what Holly was up to or if the stories she told Brody were real or not. The writing was clever and fast-paced and really had you thinking throughout. Is there an HEA, well probably not for Brody!

LITTLE RED’S BIG BAD by Saranna DeWylde

Yum, werewolves! Hot werewolves, sexy werewolves, bad werewolves. Gotta love em!

In the final story in “Hot and Haunted” we get to meet red-headed U.S. Marshal Miranda Garrick who has been called in to track escaped serial killer Dean Harvey Webster. Enter FBI Special Agent Aden Brewster. Miranda works alone but really has no choice but to allow Aden to help in the investigation. What happens in the snow-bound cabin is wild, fun and oh, so very, very hot.

Aden has leads on Dean that can’t be ignored and leads the two of them to the cabin in Alexandria, MN. Aden is hinting at Dean being a werewolf – preparing her for what is to come. She’s not convinced but becomes a little concerned when all the wolves start howling as they are making their way to the cabin in the whiteout. After a wonderful night in front of the fire, with Aden showing Miranda that “skin to skin is the best way to keep warm”, all hell breaks loose. Dean has found them only after Miranda makes a big mistake in judgment. What happens is fast, furious and eye-opening to Miranda. But, what she still does not know is that she has been bitten 3 times.

I loved “Little Red’s Big Bad”. It was witty, playful and fun. Ms. DeWylde kept the action moving and the sex hot and heavy making this quick, erotic read a real joy!

Review copy provided for an honest review.

Lexie says

Prelim Review: This was a disappointment for me. I'm not sure if its because I read an advanced reader's edition and thus something got lost in the digital world, or if the stories really did just end as abruptly as they, but none felt like they had a resolution.

Of the three, Megan Hart's "Nothing Else Matters" was the most interesting, though it felt under developed due to its length. The world she created, and the character of Lira in particular, was definitely intriguing. I wanted to know what made Lira immune, what the sickness was(which sounded a lot like the Rage Virus from 28 Days/Weeks Later) and what happened after.

Lauren Hawkeye's "Pick Me Up" was confusing, uncomfortable and rather distasteful to me. I'm not sure what the point of it was. Holly was either a pathological liar, a psycho or got her jollies by being recklessly suicidal. She spins story after story--she's a high paid stripper, her and her boyfriend kill hapless morons who pick her up for sex, she's the jilted woman (twice! Two different men cheated on her WITH THE SAME WOMAN) and at the end I'm left wondering if maybe she's just insane.

Saranna DeWylde's "Little Red's Big Bad" definitely engaged me. This one falls short because of its length as well (each story is under 40pgs each) so when it got going it was almost over and then well it was over.

Were these meant to be teasers for longer works? Does anyone know? If not "Pick Me Up" in particular had to have been missing the last bit of story because it literally ends with a car pulling up, the guy Holly just screwed getting worried and Holly shrugging her shoulders and saying 'Ah that would be my boyfriend'. WTF?

Abby says

This book was just ok. The stories weren't suck you in and grab you ones and even though I knew they were short, they ended abruptly. This book didn't do too much for me, but they weren't bad stories.

Wren says

Aug 2015 - I sat in Chapter 1 for months, it just didn't capture me at all. I loved Fling & Spring Fling (Avon Red anthologies) but this one just didn't do it for me. I don't know if it was the writing style this time or the storylines... It just fell flat. This will be a DNF sadly.