



Necessary Roughness

Julie Brannagh

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Tanner Cole's football career was over in less than thirty seconds one Sunday afternoon. After a lifetime playing the sport he loves he's been forced into an early retirement. Between figuring out his plan for the rest of his life and dealing with the pain of his injuries, this grouchy hottie isn't in the mood for the perky physical therapist who makes him in ache in more than one place.

Jordan Mueller doesn't have time for a sulky ex-NFL player, even one who looks like Tanner. She's done with falling for the bad boy without a heart. When she's forced out of her apartment and offered an opportunity too good to pass up, she agrees to move in with Tanner. She's only there to speed up his recovery. No funny business, even if her body is telling her otherwise.

As Tanner and Jordan spend more and more time together, they begin to see each other in a new light that threatens to change everything. But when the ghosts of girlfriends past reappear, Tanner must decide if he's willing to put everything on the line for a shot at a future with Jordan.

Necessary Roughness Details

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From Reader Review Necessary Roughness for online ebook

Jessi says

Tanner Cole was a football star until one bad tackle took him out of the game. Now he's just struggling to get through rehab and move on with his life. Too bad he doesn't really know what he wants to do. Physical therapy is not one of the things, he knows that. Too bad his physical therapist is dealing with his own mending after a car accident which means that Tanner is about to get reassigned.

Jordan loves her job. No, like really, enjoys going to work every day. Until she meets Mr. Full-of-Himself Tanner. Him, she doesn't like. His house, she does. And since she needs a place to live (not a great plot point) and he has space (and the hots for her), she moves in. So that she can be his in-house physical therapist. Or something. Living together leads the two to believe that the sparks between them might be more than just annoyance with each other.

Wow. This book REALLY struggled with pacing issues. The first 2/3ds was just a discussion of how much Tanner and Jordan really disliked each other with some growth toward friendship. Then, suddenly, in the space of 10 or so pages, they're suddenly desperately in love and dying to be together even though they're geographically apart. And whatever happened with Star? She was set up to be a much larger plot point and then just ended up as the psycho ex-girlfriend.

If this weren't from an author I know could do better, I don't feel like I'd be as disappointed.

Stacie Christensen says

Tanner Cole's football career was over in less than thirty seconds one Sunday afternoon. After a lifetime playing the sport he loves he's been forced into an early retirement. Between figuring out his plan for the rest of his life and dealing with the pain of his injuries, this grouchy hottie isn't in the mood for the perky physical therapist who makes him ache in more than one place.

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Loved Tanner & Jordan's story! Beautifully written! I have read everyone of Julie's books and this was my favorite! I'm sure like all of her other fans are devastated by her passing!

Lisa says

Also on Romances Ever After.

Necessary Roughness is my first Julie Brannagh book. It's love at first sight for me; I'm a sucker for pretty covers, and this one is a winner for me especially since it has a dog on it. The story is light and entertaining. I

have a soft spot for grumpy heroes and heroines who know just how to handle them. The whole relationship development between Tanner and Jordan had me hooked. I love that it evolved from reluctant-professional relationship to friends to lovers. The only thing that would have made me give this a higher rating is if there was some sort of plot to it. I love that it's character driven but at the same time I wish there were more going on with the story.

It was a bit sad finishing this because I really wanted Tanner's best friend Harrison to have his own book, and we wouldn't be getting that. On the bright side, I have Julie's entire backlist to go through. I'm currently reading Intercepting Daisy (book #6), which is about a writer who wrote a bestselling fanfic / erotic novella starring a famous football player. Plot twist: she starts dating him for real and finds herself in a dilemma about coming clean re: the novella. It's really great so far.

E-ARC is received thanks to the publisher via Edelweiss.

Rachel (acupofimagination) says

I had requested the DRC of this book because the premise sounded right up my alley. That being said, I'm not really sure what I just read if that makes sense. I mean, all the pieces of a good story were present but a lot of the underlying plot felt rushed and unfinished. The author threw in little tidbits and plot points that easily could've been expanded upon and weren't. She threw in dramatic twists that were, in my opinion, under developed.

Not to mention the male lead's seeming obsession with referring to the female MC as a Disney princess which was amusing at best and annoying at worst because it's every time we're in his POV. He constantly thinks of how "chirpy" she is and how she must have wildlife serenading her at all hours of the day. He even goes so far as to call her DP (Disney Princess).

The athlete/physical therapist love interest is cute but seems to be on the upswing among romance authors because I've read at least two other books in the last year regarding the concept. It can be done really well; the working relationship and tension being played up and drawn out. You really don't get a taste for her career in this story though. It's a blip in the scheme of things, lost in the story.

I did like that the story was based in Seattle because it's not very common a city to use and Washington gets written off a lot of times but it irritated me that the weather was always perfect. I live in Washington, I'm about three hours from Seattle. Yes, we get gorgeous days but it's not as consistent as the book would have you believe. We get a lot of rain, the whole Pacific Northwest does.

Overall, what should have been a quick read turned into a struggle to continue on. I'm glad I pushed through to the very end, even if it wasn't a great read for me.

Misty (Red's Romance Review's) says

After suffering a career ending injury Tanner Cole is completely beside himself, football is all he knows, all he has ever wanted to do, and now it is all gone and he has no idea what to do with himself. He spends his days sulking and going to PT where he has to dealing with an infuriating, but gorgeous woman who is kicking his butt back into shape. He can't stand her she's a little too peppy for his liking, and reminds him of a Disney Princess, but for some damn reason she keeps sneaking under his radar and effecting him in ways

he never expected...

Jordan Mueller has found her little niche in the working world, but her personal life is another story, she is currently living in a home filled with snobby women who she can't stand and no one has coming knocking for a date in months. If that wasn't bad enough her colleague just passed off one of his more difficult clients to her and she isn't so sure she is going to be able to handle dealing with him for the next few months. He is gorgeous as hell, but he also likes to push her buttons, and for some odd reasons she likes it as much as she hates it... and now that he has offered her a new place to live momentarily she has to wonder if that is any better than her current living situation.

Necessary Roughness is a steamy and witty little literary romp that is sure to capture your heart from the very first page. These two love birds were a treat to meet, never have I seen two characters so adamant about their dislike for one another one moment, and then seem to find common ground the next. Their story had many memorable moments... moments that will leave you beaming from ear to ear, moments that will have squeeze your heart, and moments that will leave you blushing and fanning yourself! No one writes love stories quite like Ms. Brannagh, each one comes equipped with these amazingly crafted characters that you can't help but get attached to, and their stories have a way of reaching the recesses of your heart and leave it permanently touched! It is a bittersweet moment for me to know this is the last one, Mr. Brannagh and her wonderful stories will be dearly missed!

I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this title.

Stacee says

I really liked the premise of this and was looking forward to getting to it, sadly, it was pretty disappointing.

I liked Jordan. She's smart and hard working and loyal. Tanner is cocky and arrogant and not in a good way. Together they're just sort of meh. I didn't see the chemistry between them, so their relationship didn't click for me.

I couldn't get past Tanner's inner monologue when it came to Jordan. He constantly talked shit about Disney princesses, but knows a lot about them and only refers to Jordan as DP. And in his mind, she "chirped" instead of talking.

Plot wise, it was weird. It's mentioned that Jordan has a doctorate and loves her job, but the details of what she does is glossed over. Plus there were a few threads of plot that seemed to be thrown in without a thought — mostly involving the ex girlfriend.

Overall, it was sort of like a train wreck I couldn't look away from. The best part was the dog and I did like the ending, but I won't be reading any other books if this is a series.

****Huge thanks to Avon books for providing the arc free of charge****

Laura says

*****ARC Provided by the Author and Pure Textuality PR*****

This book was a bittersweet read for me, as it is the last in the series, even if that was not the original intent.

Tanner and Jordan were, at least for me, a little cookie cutter. The angry, injured, ex-player and the cheerful, perky, physical therapist...well, this has been done before. Did I like the characters, yes. But, was there anything about this book that felt new? Not really.

The writing was quirky and I thought there were some places where the way it was written was a lot of fun. But, overall I found the plot a little underwhelming and predictable, which was a bit of a disappointment.

Basically, for what it was, it was enjoyable...but I wanted more than what it was for it to really stand out.

Tpagirl says

Necessary Roughness by Julie Brannagh was the seventh book in the Love and Football series.

Tanner Cole was an NFL star who had a career ending injury. He was obnoxious, cranky, incredibly hard to interact with and was still in recovery. Jordan Mueller was the beautiful optimist that was assigned as his physical therapist. Although sparks flew from the onset, it wasn't due to attraction.

Brannagh took us through the stages of Tanner's recovery and acceptance with a few challenges along the way. In the end, it was a story of healing, reflection, new beginnings, hope and love.

True to the series the storyline was well written, sweet, simple and plausible, representing potential everyday emotions and challenges. The next book in the series hasn't been revealed yet, but will most likely be Tanner's best friend, the fun loving and loyal Harrison.

Kristen Johnson says

Necessary Roughness was a quick but delightful read. The banter between Tanner and Jordan built up on the chemistry between them and the developing bonds giving much depth to their relationship.

Jordan is a hard working, smart and loyal woman. She's positive and sweet. She wants the best for her patients and knows how to help them work for it even if they don't agree or like it. Tanner is hurting - in more ways than physical pain from his injury and this is making him surly and angry with everyone around him.

Though their time together isn't sunshine and butterflies, these two find themselves working together well - Jordan is able to help Tanner in ways he didn't expect and their attraction to each other only intensifies as they spend more time together. There are, of course, hiccups for these two as they find their way which only added to the story for me.

Sascha says

My favorite part of Julie Brannagh's Necessary Roughness were the characters. Tanner, Jordan, and Harrison were all very appealing...but especially Harrison, Tanner's best friend. (This seems to be a continuing thing

with me; the best friend more than the hero?)

Tanner who just had a career-ending injury and is obviously more than grumpy does come across as a self-aware jerk at the beginning, but changes and even becomes charming. I enjoyed his reference to perky Jordan as DP, short for Disney Princess.

While Jordan is perky, she's also capable and determined. She smiles in the face of grump.

And, Harrison is the sarcastic, smartass, charming best friend who, although I don't believe it's ever acknowledged in the novel, brings Tanner and Jordan together.

The pacing of Necessary Roughness threw me a bit. It was moving leisurely at the beginning with Jordan and Tanner getting to know each other and then someone pressed the gas and things sped up. I actually did go back to make sure that I hadn't missed anything.

Julie Brannagh obviously knew her football, which comes shining through. It's good to read a sports-related novel in which the author actually knows and understands the sport she's writing about.

I enjoyed Necessary Roughness. Now that the weather actually feels like fall, it's perfect for cuddling up with a football romance.

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Dani (Dani Reviews Things & Love in a time of Feminism) says

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Rating: 1.5 stars

After an ok start, this book slowly but surely got worse and worse. The only reason I kept going is because someone said the ending was ok.

While the main characters – Jordan and Tanner – were fine, the secondary characters, particularly the women, were a joke. They all seemed to be caricatures: either they were ditzy, or they were ditzy AND cruel. Tanner's first live-in nurse showed up for a couple of scenes, only to decide to sexually harass him out of nowhere, and this was somehow connected to the ex-girlfriend who dumped him but then kept sending him sexts. It was like all the women had to be nightmares to make Jordan look like the only option.

The relationship between Jordan and Tanner also didn't make sense. They claimed to hate each other, but there wasn't enough showing of this. If anything, maybe they found each other mildly irritating when around each other, but there wasn't enough demonstration of actual hatred. And Tanner only hated Jordan because she was "perky"? Actually, the whole portrayal of Jordan was ridiculous and cliché: red hair, tiny, big eyes, perky.

Anyway, back to the relationship... I felt nothing, because nothing really made sense. Their first kiss wasn't swoonworthy... It was out of place and made me call out WTAF. Their first time having sex was more yawnworthy than spicy, mostly because it had no foundation of pent-up chemistry. Plus, it had the usual features: the guy immediately gets hard after coming, the girl orgasms in a couple minutes, etc. Also, Tanner's magically able to be on top with the knee that's been in agony for months. Ok, sure.

The plot and pacing was waaaay off. I was never quite sure how much time had passed, and things seemed to move too fast at times because of that. Weird things were thrown in here and there without connection to the rest of the story. The author was pulling at straws, really.

Last but not least, what was with all the product placement? Specifically mentioning "Amazon Fresh" and "Microsoft" and "Surface tablet" in some places, then skimming over other opportunities for naming specific things was weird. I would have preferred "I get my groceries delivered" and "tablet". It felt like the author was getting paid for mentioning specific products or services, or thought it was showing how modern and cool she was, when actually it could easily date the book or confuse readers who don't know what these things are.

Wow, that's two contemporary romances that have flopped for me in a row, and that makes this romance reader mega sad. Hopefully the next one will be better!

Isha Coleman says

Necessary Roughness (Love & Football) by Julie Brannagh

Life consists of many locker rooms and corridors, but it's the way we play the game that determines the person we're meant to be. Ms. Brannagh understood that in order to make an impact, a person has to step up to the plate. Necessary Roughness is blessed with the humor Julie Brannagh gifted the world and the wisdom of heart that helps in our journey to become better people. That is the legacy of a wonderful author.

TSN says

DNF 85%

Uninspired writing and rather boring. I realized that I would rather read something else.

Ann Lorz says

Reviewed for Romancing the Readers Blog: <https://romancingthereaders.blogspot...>

It breaks my heart to write this review. Not because the book was bad, but because it will be the last book out by Julie Brannagh. We lost her recently and my heart breaks for that. I've really enjoyed her books and want so many more.

Since this was the last book by her I decided to really enjoy it, not that I had to work hard on that. I don't think there has been a book yet by her that I haven't liked. She writes wonderful story with characters that give you attitude.

And Tanner is the top of the heap for attitude. That man threw it out in spades. At times he even pissed me off too. Of course that attitude didn't last forever and you really knew where it was coming from so it was easier to understand.

I liked how even though he didn't want to workout his like after the big blow to it, he did with the help of Jordan. Now Jordan I wasn't a total fan of all the time. His sun-shining attitude got on my nerves more often

then not. I would rather put up with Tanners being a prick than her smiling face all the time. How sick am I?

Of course, these two are perfect for each other for just those things I mentioned. They balanced each other well. I like how they helped each other be better for themselves.

This is a wonderful story that will forever be in my thoughts because I know its her last gift to us. Julie I will miss you and your wonderful stories. If you haven't yet tried this series you really should. They are great stories that are lots of fun to read.

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ARC received for a honest review

Nova says

This is Necessary Roughness by Julie Brannagh.

It is the story of Tanner Cole and Jordan Mueller.

Tanner Cole is a former football player. He has been hurt in a game playing the sport he has played and loved his whole life. Forced into an early retirement, he tries figuring out his plan for his life after football. He is dealing with pain from his injuries. He is also being grouchy from the uncertainty for his future. He is certainly not in the mood for the upbeat physical therapist that is there to help him.

Jordan Mueller is a physical therapist. She is not wanting to spend anytime with a sulky former NFL player. She has a problem and is forced out of her apartment. She can't pass up the opportunity to stay at Tanner's place and speed up his recovery with the physical therapy he needs.

Jordan and Tanner spend more time together after she moves in to his home. Neither is wanting any funny business, even though Tanner aches in more than one place and Jordan's body is telling her something different.

What will happen when they spend more and more time together? Should they put everything on the line for a shot at a new future? What happens when an old flame of Tanner's threatens their relationship?

Nice, romantic story that i enjoyed.
