



Swelter

Nina G. Jones

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I married the right brother.

At least that's what I tell myself at night, when I stare at the ceiling and listen to the rhythm of the grandfather clock down the hall. It never feels like the mere passage of time, but a countdown towards something inevitable.

Bobby Lightly is selfish, irresponsible, and careless. I haven't seen him since the day I married his brother. He slipped out during the wedding reception without a word.

A year later, I heard Bobby was drafted to Korea. He never said goodbye. Never sent a letter. We had all come to terms with the fact that he was probably dead somewhere, either a victim of the war or its aftermath.

That is, until in the midst of an unrelenting heatwave, he showed up at the doorstep of the house I lived in with his brother.

Everyone thinks I'm cruel. Everyone thinks I should be easy on him. They think I don't understand him. They all think I hate him.

But what no one understands is that it was Bobby who broke my heart.

And I think he's back to do it again.

Swelter Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Nina G. Jones

Format :

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review Swelter for online ebook

~ Stéphanie ~ Tied up in Romance ~ says

Dear Nina,

I don't really know where to begin this letter because I'm kinda lost after finishing Swelter. I didn't wanted to review this book like I traditionally do because it didn't felt right. First because I don't have any idea how to review or rate Swelter. And secondly because I don't know what to say to my followers.

You are an author I respect and love a lot. I find your books so different from one another. To me it's a great asset, you are able to embark me as a reader in so many different atmosphere. You are truly gifted when it comes to bring your readers out of their comfort zone.

With Debt, you turned something inconceivable into something acceptable. In If, you simply blown my mind away with the effect of your words and how you brought what seems like a simply story into something beautiful and magic.

With Swelter, I guess I wanted something more. I was captivated from the start. Your writing is always enthralling but somehow after the 50 %mark I begun to question too much. I begun to search for some sense and I didn't find the answers I needed.

I'm so sorry that at the end of this book I couldn't understand what had happened, what was the message behind it all.

I'm one blogger among million but if you see this letter know that I'll still keep reading you. It's not because I didn't understand one of your books that something will change but do know I feel bad because somehow I 've failed at giving an honest review

~ARC provided by author for an honest review~

~Dawn~TUG says

Fffuuuuuuuuuccccccckkkkkk I have no words. Ms. Jones has struck me silent. I'm going to wait until my heart is beating at a regular pace, then try to come up with words and a rating. I'm blown away. Blown. Away.

Arabella ~?AB?~ says

★★★★ 4 Stars ★★★★★

Now LIVE!

Amazon US | Amazon UK

If you don't like love triangles or non traditional HEA's then step away from the book. If you don't mind venturing outside of the box every once in a while, then please read this book because it deserves to be read. It is a tragic tale of second chance love set in the fifties during a hot summer in Wisconsin, USA.

Lilly grew up spending summers with neighbours Bobby and Rory; carefree and playful, they were a close threesome who had no idea what life was about to throw their way.

Lilly and Rory were always expected to marry, they were both the same age and Rory was the safe bet, with a solid future ahead and not shy of taking on the responsibilities of marriage.

"Rory was predictable, and I loved that about him. He was a safe place, but Bobby kept me on my toes."

Bobby was the more spontaneous and fun loving brother, but watching the girl that he loved marry his beloved sibling broke him, so he left to join the forces. With the Korean war now over, and no sign of Bobby's return, Lilly and Rory presume him to be dead.

Lilly has known something is not right in her marriage for a long time now, but expectations forced her to go ahead with the wedding and so she is trying to be a good wife to Rory, despite the lack of passion in their relationship. Rory sensing her distance, often lashes out at her.

When Bobby turns up at their doorstep after 7 years of no contact, Lilly is thrown into turmoil and the guilt and torn loyalties are once again brought to the surface.

"We were becoming desperate. Love was making us hysterical."

In my simplistic mind, Lilly should have never gotten married to Rory in the first place, but considering the era that the book was set in, I know that it wouldn't have been that simple.

Despite the story going in a direction that I didn't necessarily want it to go, I still loved reading this story. I love how Nina can weave a story together and make you feel the emotions of the characters. I also loved the era, and the images of the scenes of the book were easy to view in my mind due to the great descriptive narrative.

If you are brave enough to put yourself through the ringer, I highly recommend this book just as long as you have tissues, wine and someone to vent to whilst reading.

This is a standalone novel, told from Lilly's POV .

ARC gratefully received from the author in exchange for an honest review

Carissa says

Do what your husband wants. Make HIM happy. Be the good wife. Make babies. Make food. You're not allowed to want more than that.

From the onset of *Swelter*, I was hit with strong emotions that had me teetering on the edge. Anger, frustration, concern, ignorance, avoidance. Our heroine is trapped within a gilded cage. Barely hanging on, as each night passes her by, in blistering heat. With a marriage on the verge of shambles, and a controlling and alcoholic husband. Lily never noticed the slow and perpetual changes to her husband's demeanour as the years of marriage went by.

The story is mainly told in Lily's POV, with intermittent changes from the present to the past. A time frame that spans seven years and takes place in the year of 1957. A time of controversial War in American history. Lily Lightly has been living a lie since the eve of her marriage seven years prior, to the wrong Lightly brother. On the eve of her marriage, Lily and her soon to be brother -in- law, Bobby, had a night of intense passion. A night where Lily recognized that she was in love with Bobby Lightly.

Seven years of marriage; five years since Lily has last seen Bobby. He enlisted into the War and years of no communication from him, he was thought dead. Until one day. The ding of the doorbell, brings Bobby Lightly to her door. Shocked...isn't even the right emotion to describe Lily's feelings. Her husband, Rory, is elated and overjoyed, that his little brother is alive and kicking.

"Bobby and Rory were like two ends of a seesaw, and I spent my time with them standing in the middle, teetering."

With the re-entry of Bobby into her life, Lily once again becomes the lively young girl both her and Bobby once knew. Their illicit affair is re-kindled, and they each know and understand the gravity of the situation once revealed. Yet, they can't keep their emotions at bay. Especially, Bobby. After living through a war camp, while his best friend was murdered before his eyes. Bobby is suffering from survivor's guilt. And with this new found bravery, he has returned for the woman that kept him alive all those years.

This was why we had so much difficulty navigating our relationship in our newfound adulthood. Because the space between immature teasing and detached adult politeness was this unthinkable act, this forbidden desire.

Swelter is one of those stories that takes you completely by surprise. Unique, perfectly portrayed, Nina's writing is immaculate and easy to understand. She draws the reader in, sets us up, and takes us for one hell of a 1957 ride.

I loved the setting this book. And the fact that it was written in a time, where women were simply put on pedestals. Our mission to stay 'barefoot and pregnant', while catering to our husband's needs and wishes. Lily was a hero for me. She understood her place, she refused to accept it, even though she made her own sacrifices. She fought every step of the way. And after years of living within a broken marriage, Lily takes her life into her own hands. Surging into the unknown, full of life and love.

***ARC provided by LBTSP on behalf of the author for an honest review* Thanks!!**

Jenny - TotallybookedBlog says

‘...life has a way of adding layers like callouses.’

This is a true love story first and foremost, but is it a happy romantic one filled with butterflies and unicorns? **No**, not so much, and we kind of **loved** that and felt the originality threaded through the words. Did we love and connect with the characters? Yes and no; we felt as if a temporary screen was placed between – us and them – prohibiting any true, honest and real emotions from filtering through. Well that is until the latter part where the story took a huge gulp of fresh air and breathed a new lease of life through its pages.

“I am trying so hard not to love you.”

If you talked to some readers on what is a no go area this one is pretty much one of those in some respects, **however** it is what kept us reading and invested, so in one way it worked. We have no issues whatsoever with this type of story.

‘We were becoming desperate.’

The heroine provoked us to the point where we disliked her immensely, the heroes both had us feeling every emotion possible. Though we have to say Bobby stole our hearts from the get go. He was a true lovable rogue. Mostly we felt pity of varying degrees towards everyone. Pawns in a game of hearts and survival.

‘On this night, we had released something powerful. Something dangerous. And once freed, we could not put it back.’

It’s hard to say what didn’t really work for us as it would provide future readers with huge spoilers. What we can say is that we felt as though road to redemption was handed a little too easily for these characters. That being said we ultimately felt the end of this story with all our hearts and we have to say **we cried** for what was and what came after.

“...one day you are going to wake up and realize you slept your whole life away.”

*****Reviewed from an ARC copy provided by the author, with thanks*****

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warhawke says

Genre: Mid-Century Romance

Type: Standalone

POV: First Person - Female

Rating:

Lilly Lightly was married to Rory, a dream man on paper – good looking, responsible and hard working. After 7 years of being caged in an unhappy marriage, she went through motion of life robotically. That was until the hot summer day of 1957.

Everyone thought Rory's younger brother Bobby was dead since he disappeared on their wedding day. But he came back carrying baggage from the past that changed their lives irrevocably.

When I read the blurb I knew this is something I wanted to read. I've always been attracted to unconventional stories and never afraid to explore the (normally deemed) unsavory side of romance. I'm glad this book met my expectation and more.

And despite that dark quiet, there was a light that shone from him. When Bobby was on, his fire would steal all the oxygen in the room.

I fell in love with Bobby the moment he was introduced in the book. He was spontaneous and free spirited, but could also be quiet and contemplative and I love both of his sides.

Lilly settled for 7 years before she finally told herself she needed to do something that make her happy and I was glad she finally took the chance to go for something purely for herself.

This was why we had so much difficulty navigating our relationship in our newfound adulthood. Because the space between immature teasing and detached adult politeness was this unthinkable act, this forbidden desire.

I love learning about their friendships. The three of them were childhood friends and with the men being close brothers, made the situation much more difficult. It seemed like no matter what, both side would be hurt.

"Because I'm sick of stealing another week, another minute, another second. I want the rest of our lives. I want forever."

This book totally took me by surprise. I didn't expect things to unravel the way it did. There were a lot of angst and bitter sweet moments that made up both the beauty and the ugliness of their relationships. It made you want to root for them, even for the ones who you're not supposed to.

Swelter is a heartbreaking story of individuals searching for their own happiness while trying to protect their loved ones. There are elements in this book that might not be suitable for everyone, but if you're able to past that it is a beautiful story full of love and sacrifices.

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Janey says

This book just became more as it progressed. It moved me immensely..and for that alone, I give it top marks.

Setting the scene in the late 1950's, this story darts back and forth 7 years prior. Lilly tells the tale of how she grew up with two brothers, how they shared Summers at Rory and Bobby Lightly's beautiful cabin on a lake, and how she loved both of them for the contrasting personalities that they were.

Rory was the sensible, rational one, and Lilly could envisage herself in the future with him by her side.

Bobby was the selfish, impulsive, joker, who had spent the best part of his life antagonising Lilly in the best way.

"Bobby and Rory were like two ends of a seesaw, and I spent my time with them standing in the middle, teetering."

Needless to say, Lilly married Rory, and Bobby left them to it. He never contacted them, they never heard a word for seven years, and had ended up assuming he was dead, having known he was drafted to Korea.

Then one of the many hot nights, a rap on the door revealed Bobby alive and well, and about to face a showdown.

This was a story that unravelled and became far more. I guess it finds itself suitably sitting beneath the love triangle moniker, which wouldn't be for everybody, but has an immediate appeal to me.

Given Lilly's POV, we build the background, her thoughts then, and especially her thoughts and feelings now. We begin to understand the difficulties of her choice, and her subsequent acceptance of that. Until her status quo is ruffled. And ruffled it was!

I fell in love with this author's writing through *Debt*, and her recount of that suspenseful gem, so I was intrigued to know how this totally different story was going to pan out.

Not wanting to say any more about the content, apart from stating that I was totally blown away. Nina has an

amazing ability to amble along, throwing hooks, weaving emotions, and gathering you into a nice little huddle, before completely changing direction leaving you untethered and flabbergasted.

I did not anticipate how i would feel whilst reading this little pearl, but it got me, it truly did.

”Lil, the girl who was beautiful even when she tried hard not to be.”

Bibi says

Warning: There's a love triangle and cheating. But, it's so much more than that.

Swelter and Forbidden are the 2 books that will most likely make you ugly cry. Snort and the whole kibosh. It was heartrending yet breathtaking.

Nikki ? Navareus says

Hands down my favorite read of 2015. No contest. Hubby and I took a road trip to the big city 3 hours away today, and I downloaded this for the ride. By the time we got to the city and into the store parking lot, I was crying like a baby. I absolutely loved this story, from start to finish. Nina G. Jones is an absolutely amazing author. She pulled so many freaking emotions out of me. She made me completely relive the feeling of falling in love for the first time, and all the intimacy that goes along with giving yourself completely to that first love. By the time this story had ended I was devastated, feeling just like I had lost someone close to me. Even with all the blubbering and crying I did this afternoon, I will definitely be reading this one again. I'm completely blown away by this story.

Julie says

[image error]

Amanda says

No Rating

I can't bring myself to rate this. Because from 1 star 'did not like it' to 5 stars 'it was amazing', none of the rating can accurately express what I feel about this book.

This is not an easy book to read. I honestly feel that Nina G. previous dark romance about the rape fantasy is easier to read compared to this one. There is too much harsh reality smack dab at my face. It makes me feel that my own life is prettier than the one in the book.

On one hand, this book was damn engrossing that I read the whole thing in one sitting and I cried my heart out, but on the other hand this book made me so freaking MAD!!! Nina, how can you do this to me!?!

From the blurb, you know the gist. Lily married the Rory, the responsible, stable man that will give her the secure life. But it was Rory's brother, Bobby that she actually loved. But they were young and dumb and she made a mistake. Now she regretted her decision and she loathed the mundane life she is having.

It was five years since she last seen Bobby and she thought he was dead in the war. But now he is back and she is finding all the old feelings resurface. What if she actually chooses to be with Bobby instead of Rory, will her life be better?

Okay, there is cheating in the book, but it actually doesn't bother me because I'm all for true love as long as they are both not stupid about it. But sometimes their behavior just makes me want to scream! Bobby is a sweetheart, but be a man for God's sake! I want him to fight harder for the woman he loves. And don't get me started with Lily, half the time I don't know what the hell she wants.

There is this part about what Lily said to herself that made me want to burst out laughing at her denial.

"Somehow I felt like packing my bags and leaving was cheating."

Oh yeah, she didn't feel guilty of having sex multiple times with your illicit lover, but packing her bags makes her feel like cheating. Omg! Is she on crack? Sometimes I just want to sucker punch her. And don't get me going on the way they are having spontaneous sex everywhere and make me worry that they might get caught red handed.

There is a big climatic ending that left you in tears, which I don't want to delve on.

I've seen most of my friends loving this, but I can't really say the same for me. Definitely recommended for those who don't mind a dose of angst and getting their heart ripped out and trampled over. As for me, I feel like chasing after Nina with a pitchfork.

Jennifer Kyle says

4 Stars

Nina G. Jones delivers a tale of Lily Lightly a woman living with the regrets of marrying the wrong brother seven years earlier. Lily goes through the motions as the 1957 housewife to Rory Lightly when her heart and desires are all tied on Bobby Lightly, the brother who left town the day of her wedding and is assumed to be

dead.

The story takes place in 1957. We are transported back to a time of the Korean War where Bobby Lightly shocks his brother and only love, Lily by showing up on the doorstep of their bumpy, broken marriage.

"Why now?"

"Because no matter how far I go, you're there anyway. And I understand now that I just have to learn to live with that."

Bobby's return unleashes the reality of Lily's accepted prison being Rory's wife. Bobby and Lily can't deny their feelings and the passion that will always be there between these two. They tried to do the right thing by Rory all those years ago. Yes my friends there is cheating in this book.

The story is told in the present while sporadically we are gifted with the events that happened before Lily and Rory tied the knot in 1950 at the beautiful family lake house.

"So, I did what I was there to do. Vowed to love and honor, through sickness and health, 'till death do us part, the brother of the man I truly loved."

Rory is ecstatic to have his little brother back and works out of town here and there leaving Bobby and Lily with time alone.

"When do we get our happiness? When has Rory had enough of it?" I demanded. "When do we stop caring what other people think?"

Hurting Rory is a huge concern as is destroying the relationship between these two brothers. The story is very intense and the hope for a happy solution for all kept me frantically reading.

"Maybe you tired, but it was never supposed to be us."

The writing in this book is fantastic and the pace of the story is just perfect. The author throws into the mix some very clever twists and turns leaving this story under the tragic category for me. Wondering if there's an HEA... click or be surprised (view spoiler). Overall, this is a well-crafted tale that's full of angst and heartbreak for the participants in this love triangle.

Allison ♥?Will Never Conquer Her TBR♥? says

4.5 Sweltering Hot Stars!

Swelter is just one of those books where less is more. I'm not going to go much beyond the book blurb as you just need to experience it. It was just wow... I'm not sure if I want to hug this author or smack her.

Swelter takes place in 1957 during a steamy summertime in the Midwest. Lily is married to Rory Lightly...married to the **wrong** Lightly. She grew up every summer visiting the Lightly's family-owned resort on the lake. It made for fun times in the water, the woods, and just plain fun. Her relationship with Rory's younger brother Bobby was always more passionate in their banter and arguments but everyone just knew her and Rory were the couple **meant** to be together. Rory was the future success story and Bobby was the wildcard, unsure what he wanted to do with his life. So she did the "right" thing and ~~married the wrong brother~~ married Rory Lightly.

Swelter takes us back and forth between their current day and flashbacks to seven years ago, the Eve of her wedding day. Back then they were young and carefree and I loved the way the author captured the setting. Living in the Midwest myself, we did the annual summer trip to a resort much like the one depicted here. One main house. Several cabins surrounded it and we all converged on it every year, reacquainting ourselves with everyone from all over we hadn't seen the past year. In fact, it was at a resort much like this that I had my first kiss at age 13. But I digress. I SAW this resort in my head and a FELT their youth and young love. It's truly one of my favorite aspects of the book but also why I deducted a half star- I wish I had more time developing their connection as teenagers so I could wholeheartedly capture their connection later in life.

These lyrics from Kid Rock (who just so happens to be singing about my home state of Michigan in the summertime) depicts a scene from this book perfectly!

Fast forward to their current day...

Swelter is predominantly in Lily's POV so we get a vivid understanding of her monotonous days living as the wife of a very controlling man. She's dying inside with no kids, no career, nothing to look forward to but keeping up the house for an ~~alcoholic~~ husband. Until one day, the doorbell rings and Bobby Lightly, the brother-in-law she hasn't seen since her wedding day, assumed he was dead, shows up at her door. And her world is rocked.

When you read some 150+ books a year, plots tend to get predictable. I thought I had this one nailed. We've seen it- she marries the wrong brother for the right reasons and her life is awful- then right brother comes along and saves the day. Second chance love story. Well, this book surprised me because I thought that's what I was going to get but I got so much more. And let me say my heart broke in two!

But I digress...

For fans of conventional love stories that take things beyond what we expect, who love the pages turning as fast as can be for some sort of resolution or happily ever after, this book is for you. It's clearly not for everyone as yes, there's obviously cheating. The bulk of the book has cheating, actually, but it's one angsty love story and I ate it up. I just didn't expect the events towards the ending. Nina G Jones succeeded in surprising this reader who thought she had it all figured out. She provided me a book that was *sweltering* hot, angsty, and heart-wrenching. I essentially read it in a day which shows the book was virtually unputdownable.

*Swelter is a standalone erotic romance novel.
HEA? (view spoiler)*

Advanced copy received by author in exchange for my honest review.

Quotes in graphics were taken from pre-published copy and could very well change in the finished product.

Gitte TotallyBookedBlog says

‘...life has a way of adding layers like callouses.’

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“...one day you are going to wake up and realize you slept your whole life away.”

*****Reviewed from an ARC copy provided by the author, with thanks*****

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♥ ♥ ♥

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Lina's Reviews ♡????????♡??Book Blog?? ♡????????♡ says

++++3.5 to 4 Stars++++

I was very excited for this book. I liked it but I did not love it.

This is a forbidden love story with twists and turns you will not expect. If you are looking for unicorns and conventional happily ever afters, this is not for you.

Lilly is married but her life is anything but joyful. Her husband, Rory, doesn't make her happy despite her safe, gilded cage. There is no spark in her heart for him. She simply tolerates him.

When Bobby, Rory's brother, comes back from the dead, her world explodes. All the feelings she once held for him are still very much alive.

The attraction and love is mutual. The affair is forbidden and dangerous. But will that hold them back? Nothing can remain a secret for long. Will they survive fate's wrath?

What I loved: I loved the way the heroine wanted more than just to be a perfect wife. I loved her inner thoughts.

Bobby. I loved him. He was the fun brother. The one who sacrificed his life for Rory. He is my favourite in this book.

I even had sympathy for Rory. Most of the things he did were because of his weakness and knowledge that he was not good enough for Lilly.

What went a bit wrong for me was that I could not connect with the heroine; at all. That made the story fall flat for me. I get where she was coming from but her story did not speak to me in the way I expected. I felt that a lot of the things she went through could have been avoided if she had made better choices when she had the chance.

The writing itself was good and the book picked up pace after the 80% mark for me.

Overall, this was a good book but I expected it to be a bigger mover for me.

ARC provided by Love Between the Sheets in exchange for an honest review.
