



Shaken and Stirred

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As a student and part-time bartender in Manhattan, Tessa Hart has found that a succession of roomies and cramped apartments are necessary evils in her life. Until she's out on the street and Gabe O'Sullivan, her mentor, boss and certified babe-magnet, steps in.

Any other woman would die to share his apartment--not to mention his bed--but Tessa's determined that they should stay just friends. The fiercely independent mixologist has to prove to their skeptical coworkers at Prime--the O'Sullivans' hot Manhattan bar--that the arrangement is strictly hands-off! But Tessa has trouble adhering to her own "no touching" rule when the actual sharing of close quarters day and night leaves her shaken and stirred....

Shaken and Stirred Details

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From Reader Review Shaken and Stirred for online ebook

Shae says

A few months ago I won the third book in this series from a contest on Smart Bitches Trashy Books and loved it. Since I loved the third one, I decided to get the first and second ones. This is the first one and I don't know why, but this book completely bored me. I couldn't get interested in the characters or where the story was going. It was just a matter of forcing myself to finish it. Very disappointing.

Christine says

Shaken And Stirred is such a fun romance! I was drawn in to the setting, the cast of characters, and the story line from the very first few pages. Firstly, the setting of the story is perfect. New York City is lively, interesting, and dramatic in and of itself and the perfect compliment to a sexy romance between the owner of a bar and his best bartender and friend. The entire cast of characters, including secondary and trivial characters, are realistic and unique, just as you'd expect at a real life family owned bar.

Although the book is relatively short at 214 pages, Ms. O'Reilly does a wonderful job at developing the individual personalities of her characters, including their flaws and weaknesses. Gabe is protective of Tessa, yet respects her need to survive on her own. Well, he tries his best, anyway. There's only so patient and understanding a guy can be when the woman he loves wants her independence more than anything else. Tessa is confident and determined.... but not. She's still young, a bit naive, a bit skittish, and I think deep down inside loves the idea of having a man take care of her, which completely contradicts her resolve to be completely self reliant. Shaken And Stirred is almost a coming of age story for Tessa as she tries to figure out what's truly important for her present and future success and happiness.

The story line of Shaken And Stirred is at times fun and then at times very serious. The dialogue and pace of the story is excellent, and of course the intimacy shared between Gabe and Tessa is very steamy. I thought the relationship between Gabe and Tessa was realistic, as was the way they fell in love. I understood Tessa's need to have her independence, but at the same time I wanted her to just fall into the security of Gabe. There was a brief part at which I was skeptical of how quickly Gabe's resolve to not wait for Tessa wavered. One moment he was adamant about not waiting around for her, and then the next moment he was ready to wait forever for her. But young love is confusing, and it's easy to say one thing and then do another, so I got over it. The story was just so sweet and sexy, I couldn't help but love it. It's a friends to lovers romance that had me rooting for a happily ever after for Gabe and Tessa from the very beginning. I'm looking forward to reading the next two books in the trilogy, which are both in my TBR pile, so stay tuned!

Vanessa says

I didn't like it as much as I thought I would. I almost put it down halfway but for some reason I didn't. There was too much hesitation on her part, I didn't feel like they connected much because she was always pulling back. I felt like he loved her more than she love him. The end , was okay although I expected more. Overall 3 stars.

Kristen says

This was actually funny. Enjoyable

Kim_bab says

2,5 star

Hubungan Tessa dan Gabe selama ini hanyalah teman dan hubungan kerja. Selama 4 tahun Gabe selalu membantu Tessa, hingga suatu hari Tessa harus pindah dari apartemennya dalam waktu lima hari, tanpa ragu- ragu Gabe pun menawarkan agar Tessa tinggal aja di tempatnya. hubungan yang semula hanyalah teman berkembang lebih dalam, tetapi mengingat masa lalu Tessa yang masih trauma pernah di depak oleh mantannya, membuat hubungan mereka tidak berjalan mulus.

inti ceritanya kayak film No strings attached ,
Tessa pengen kujitak aja, jelas2 Gabenya suka tapi masih aja gak mau komitmen

Nefret says

Tessa ging mir doch ziemlich auf die Nerven.

Hilcia says

Oh boy! This book has one of the best male protagonists around. Gabe O'Sullivan is one of those hot, sexy, sweet, understanding, lovable guys that are just total keepers, in and out of bed.

Tessa and Gabe are friends. They've been friends ever since Tessa hit New York City after a disastrous affair left her homeless and jobless in Florida and she decided that Manhattan was the place for her. Gabe gave Tess her first job as a bartender at Prime -- his family's bar -- and has always been there for her with words of encouragement, advice and a shoulder to cry on. Although Gabe is a gorgeous piece of eye candy, Tess sees him as the only dependable man she knows not as someone she would date.

Gabe is a happy man who has everything he wants out of life. His bar Prime is successful and he's about to expand to make it even better. He's single and has no problems finding women when he wants them, plus his two brothers are there to help him if or when he needs them. His only preoccupation seems to be his friend Tessa who is in trouble again. Her roommate bailed out on her and with five days to find an apartment with a roommate, she's about to go on the streets. He's not about to let his friend become homeless, especially since he has an extra room at his apartment. But when Gabe's naughty brother Sean O'Sullivan starts a bet at the bar assuring everyone that these two won't be able to keep their hands off each other, the long-time friends begin to see each other in an entirely different light.

I love the premise of this story, the friends to lovers trope and I absolutely fell in love with Gabe, there's no question about that. He not only gives Tess a place to live, but once the two of them do have their first hot sexual encounter and Tess freaks out, he gives her understanding and goes along with all of her fantastical

requests. As the story goes along and Tess makes more and more unreasonable requests of Gabe, even after he tells her that he loves her, he still gives his lover and friend the benefit of the doubt along with passion, love and understanding. He's a keeper all the way, but... Tessa? I had a few problems with Tessa.

Tessa, Tessa, Tessa... what was wrong with you? I wanted to shake her. She begins as a likable character with possibilities then slowly deteriorates. Tessa is scared because of her past relationship, and for her it's all about making it on her own. Which is fine and dandy, except that she goes far in her quest, blindly too far in my opinion, to gain this independence as she lies and manipulates her friend and lover to get there. Although Tessa comes to the right conclusions by the end, I'm afraid that by then she was not a favorite.

What saved this book for me? Well, Gabe. Gabe and the fact that as O'Reilly is developing the relationship between the protagonists, there's in-depth character development. She also includes some intensely hot sexual scenes throughout the story, plus the other sexy O'Sullivans are woven into the plot, giving the story depth and making it tough to put the book down. The story gave Gabe his happy ending and I was glad for him, although I'm not ashamed to say that I wish he'd made Tessa suffer... at least a tini-tiny little bit before the end.

I have the other two books of the series in my TBR thanks to Tabitha who sent them to me, and I'm really looking forward to reading them. Despite my troubles with Tessa as a character, I can tell you that O'Reilly writes one sexy Blaze!

Tressa says

Shaken and Stirred started out promising, but I wasn't keen on the relationship between Tessa and Gabe. I understood where Tessa was coming from, but I didn't feel she was fair to Gabe. I did not finish reading the book.

Darla Stokes says

I'm a fan of Kathleen O'Reilly's writing, but this couple just didn't grab me. I appreciated heroine Tessa's need to prove to herself that she can stand on her own two feet, but she struck me as just too self-absorbed to consider anyone else's feelings. Hero Gabe, on the other hand, was a bit too bland.

Oh, well. It was a quick read, and despite (or maybe because?) it's a Blaze, the sex scenes and sexual tension were natural and not irritating or overwrought the way several recent romance reads have been.

Julianna says

Reviewed for THC Reviews

"3.5 stars" I had read two books by Kathleen O'Reilly (coincidentally the first two she wrote) late last year, both of which ended up on my keeper shelf, so I was anxious to dive into her backlist. Unfortunately, *Shaken and Stirred* just didn't grab me in the same way that the other two books had. Chick-lit is not one of my favorite genres, and in my opinion, this story had a very young, hip, chick-lit vibe to it, with a twenty-six-year-old heroine who is struggling to be independent and find her place in the world against the backdrop of the urban jungle. Never having visited New York City, much less lived there, I'm not sure if the apartment

buildings that were mentioned are real or not, but the cultural feel of the city was definitely genuine, albeit a bit overwhelming for a now-western girl like me who grew up in a small mid-west town. With the hero and heroine both being bartenders (the hero actually owns the bar) there is a lot lingo involving various alcoholic beverages and such. Neither of these are quite my thing, so at times, I felt a little lost. However, readers who enjoy the club scene and/or the big city would probably enjoy it.

Gabe was a very nice guy, but a somewhat bland hero for me. He has known since he was a kid that he wanted to run the bar that's been in the family for generations, and he is working diligently to restore the establishment to it's original state. He is a great brother, making time for a traditional weekly poker game with his two older siblings, Daniel and Sean. Gabe is also there for Daniel when he's going through a crisis, and in fact, seems to be the type of guy who's probably there for anyone who needs him, especially Tessa. The only problem is she doesn't want to need him. The one thing that gave me pause about Gabe is that he dragged Tessa away from a party where she was so drunk she was hitting on every guy in sight, and dancing on the table, only to make love to her in that condition himself. Granted Tessa seemed to sober up really quickly which was one of many inconsistencies I found in the story. However, it initially made me a little uncomfortable because it seemed out of character for him. Overall, I thought that Gabe was a good hero who could have been a great one if just a little more depth and dimension had been added to his character.

Tessa was a heroine that I had a hard time relating to. Even though she and Gabe had been friends for a long time, she seems to treat him pretty coldly when they first start talking about becoming roommates and even after she moves in with him. I think it might have helped to have more background information on her sooner rather than later. It took a while before I started to understand that she had previously given up her career plans for an ex who had unceremoniously dumped her, leaving her without means to support herself. She was now adamant about being independent and never allowing herself to rely on a guy again which made sense to some extent. Unfortunately, she was so stubborn about it, I thought it made her seem unappreciative of Gabe, and like she didn't really trust him. I wasn't exactly able to comprehend that mentality, because Gabe was always supportive of her seeking a career. He just wanted her to do it while she was comfortably ensconced in his apartment and his life. In general, I thought that Tessa treated Gabe rather badly, expecting him to answer her booty calls while patiently waiting for her to get her life together no matter how long it took. I couldn't have agreed more when Gabe finally told her that he was tired of playing second-fiddle to everything she wanted. I definitely felt like he was there for her much more than the other way around. Tessa finally had an epiphany, but never really apologized for her behavior toward Gabe, and by then Gabe had already decided he couldn't live without her and would wait as long as it took, which made me lose a little respect for him. Overall, I think these two could have been a great couple if they had just communicated better and worked as a team, rather than Tessa keeping Gabe at arms length for the whole story. In spite of all their arguing, they did finally have a happy ending, but it felt like more of an HFN (happy for now) than an HEA (happily ever after). I just wasn't 100% convinced that they could make it for the long haul, but maybe their relationship will be solidified in one of the other books in the series. I can at least hope.:-)

Shaken and Stirred wasn't a bad book, but there were times when it felt like something had been edited out and/or moved around without checking for continuity errors. As I mentioned above, I found several inconsistencies in the story and a few things that just didn't quite make sense. (eg. In one scene, Tessa and Gabe argue about her moving in with him. She never does acquiesce, but in the next scene, it's a done deal. Or, in one of their later love scenes, Tessa muses that they haven't made love in a bed before, but there were definite implications early in the story that they had.) Other times I found myself with all sorts of questions, such as why Tessa chose to move to New York in the first place, how she and Gabe met and how she came to work in his bar, why she lost her apartment, etc. There were just lots of little details missing that kept the story from flowing well for me. I'm still not entirely sure if it was weaknesses in the writing or the editing that was to blame for these things. There were a couple of other things that I thought could have been better too. While I did like that Gabe and Tessa had been friends for a few years, I wished that their friendship had been explored in a little more depth. As written, the first love scene seemed to come from out of nowhere

with minimal emotional connection and sexual tension leading up to it. Also, the love scenes in general were decent, but not quite as detailed and steamy as I would expect from a Blaze novel. Aside from a couple of titillating things, such as mention of a vibrator and the couple making love in a deserted movie theater (ie. semi-public place), which perhaps very mildly bordered on erotic, these scenes, in my opinion, weren't any hotter than other typical mainstream romances.

Shaken and Stirred is the first book in the *Those Sexy O'Sullivans* trilogy, with each book featuring one of the sexy O'Sullivan brothers, co-owners of the bar, Prime, as the hero. Readers are given a good introduction to Gabe's siblings, Daniel and Sean. I developed an immediate liking for Daniel, an accountant and widower who lost his wife on 9/11. He is the most serious and brooding of the three, making me interested in reading his book, *Sex Straight Up*. The jury is still out on lawyer, playboy, Sean, who will literally sleep with anything in a skirt. His "man-slut" ways didn't exactly endear him to me in this book, but I'm willing to give him a chance to charm me in his own book, *Nightcap*. *Shaken and Stirred* may not have been a stellar read, but I would characterize it as worthwhile. While not really up to the standard I had come to expect from Kathleen O'Reilly after reading her first two novels, it wasn't a chore to finish either. In spite of some weaknesses in this volume, I do plan to continue the trilogy and hope that the next two are a little tighter in plot and have more likable heroines.

Judith says

A compelling love story about a woman who is bound and determined to never have to rely on the promises of a man. She's been there, done that, and she got kicked to the curb. Four years later she is living in Manhattan and working as a bartender, one that just seems to be made for the job, but her dreams are to have a career and an apartment that will proclaim that she is a SUCCESS. She can't seem to get her life beyond those goals, as noble as they are, even when a man who has mentored her, protected her, helped her get established in New York, and now loves her, wants to make their relationship permanent. This book is very well written and the story just keep on dragging you on to the next page. I kept hoping that something would wake this lady up, but she had been so hurt and her early life trauma had scarred her so profoundly that she couldn't seem to get past the need to prove to herself that she would never be without the emotional and financial safety net. I'm hoping to read the other two books in this series.

Angie says

I really enjoyed *Shaken and Stirred*! Tessa is a bit down on her luck. She has to move out of her apartment and hasn't found a place with just five days to go. Gabe, her sexy boss and good friend, offers her his spare room. Tessa doesn't want to live with him, but with her only other option being homeless, she agrees. But with boundaries. They cannot have sex. Gabe's brothers have a pool going about how long it'll take for them to hookup, and Tessa and Gabe are determined to keep their hands off. Easier said than done.

Shaken and Stirred was very predictable, but it made me smile. The first half is Tessa and Gabe having lots of sex. It's not just sex though. Tessa is pretending that Gabe is anyone but himself, which adds an adventurous touch to their encounters. Obviously, Gabe doesn't like this, even if he likes having sex with her, which causes some complications. Particularly when Tessa tries to hook him up with a realtor who might be able to get her the apartment of her dreams. Drama, ahoy! But I really loved how Tessa was going after what she wants. She's relied on others her entire life, and she's finally taking the reigns for herself!

I was worried toward the end of *Shaken and Stirred* that this would turn into one of those Romance endings

that I hate. The one where the woman gives up her goals and accomplishments to be with the man. Most of the second half of the story was Tessa working toward the life that she wants, and it almost looked like she was going to give it all up for Gabe. However, they talk about it! Things are discussed and the ending made me very happy!

Read more of my reviews at [Pinkindle Reads & Reviews](#).

Anne Mercier says

Loved this book--and I lately I normally don't like Blaze books! Ms. O'Reilly has a great voice and weaves a great story. I'm already looking forward to the next two books in the series!

Marie says

Very good, I enjoyed it.

Kaye ? says

2.5
