



King of Hearts

Kay David

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She loved him so much, she was willing to kill. He loved her so much, he was willing to die. One night with bad-girl biker Jessie Delacort should have been enough for straight-laced cop Kingson Landry. But she got under his skin and hasn't let go. Discovering she's an undercover Texas ACES agent makes it even harder to resist her. But he must, because his past could kill Jessie just as easily as it has the other people he loves. When Jessie Delacort rides into town on her Harley, the last thing she wants is to fall in love with another man who is hiding secrets too dark to reveal. But when they're forced to work together to bring down a powerful drug cartel, Jessie knows she's got it bad for the quiet cop with the haunted eyes. When the cartel's vengeance-driven leader sets his sights on the two of them, King knows he'll do whatever it takes to keep Jessie safe. Even if that means giving up their chance of turning the white-hot attraction between them into love.

King of Hearts Details

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From Reader Review King of Hearts for online ebook

Angie says

I received an ARC through NetGalley.

Maybe romantic suspense isn't for me, or maybe *King of Hearts* just wasn't the romantic suspense for me. I think it's most likely the latter, since I did start to enjoy it once the story picked up. Unfortunately, that wasn't until about 80% in. It's all about King Landry, a Texas deputy, who is out for revenge. His father, sister, and brother were all brutally murdered by a drug lord, Pablo Ortega, also out for revenge, after King's father shot his father during a robbery. King has moved to a new town, taken a new name, and stalks the man who killed his family. Of course, Pablo isn't far away, and murders start up again on King's property. His boss teams him up with an undercover agent, Jessie, to help solve this case without knowing that King is much closer to the crime than he lets on.

The plot of *King of Hearts* seemed exciting and suspenseful in the beginning, but it really dragged on and was quite boring. For the most part it felt like King was just moping around about how he can't let himself get close to Jessie because then Pablo will come after her, too. The two officers had already had a one night stand prior to these events, and both of them want more, but won't let themselves for different reasons. Jessie is undeniably attracted to King, but she spends a good chunk of the book remembering how her ex was a lawman with secrets, and now she can't get involved with King because he's clearly a lawman with secrets. That's mostly what's going on, with a few near death experiences thrown in for good measure, and King tampering with evidence so no one can make the connection back to him. For the first 80% there was a lack of romance and a lack of suspense. Yawn.

Then finally things picked up. The last 20% of *King of Hearts* is nonstop action and drama. Jessie finds out King's secrets and is torn between what's right to do as an officer and her feelings for him. King is dead set on his revenge, whether it gets him killed or not, because he wants his remaining loved ones to be safe. There's plenty of people who aren't who we thought they were, and some gun fights. It's finally what I was expecting it to be when I picked it up. There's still a sad lack of romantic activity, but I did enjoy the ending a lot more than I did the rest of the book.

King of Hearts is sadly a bit of a disappointment. It's neither romantic or suspenseful despite having some great material to work with. Jessie and King are fighting their feelings in order to remain professional and distant, which should have created an insane amount of sexual tension, but didn't. There is one sex scene, but it's essentially of the "fade to black" variety which I am not a fan of in adult novels. The plot had all the makings of a great mystery but it largely takes a back seat to the character's personal problems, then gets crammed into the last few pages. Perhaps it'll work better for readers who don't mind a slow build up then an explosion at the end, but I am not that reader.

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Denise Van plew says

First time reading this author and after finishing this one would read more from her. Good suspense romance with a lawman and a agent from the Aces a undercover unit of Texas Rangers a biker club. King and Jessie knew each other before from a evening they both can not forget. Now thanks to another gruesome murder involving a drug kingpin both sides have been wanting to take down they are paired together to stop him for

good is the goal. Secrets more times than not sooner or later usually see the light of day, and so interesting to read about. Some real hum dingers in this one. I would give King a prize even for the ones he himself has. Jessie knows better, having been burnt by them in the past but can't stop her growing feelings for King though. Funny how we can tell ourselves not going there but most times still do. Glad she does and him too. Besides these 3 there several colorful characters in this story to add to the danger and suspense that keeps you on your toes. Fast pace storyline which is great and enough heat in the romance that could of been used as a weapon if it were possible. No wavering attention happened for me either just wanted to keep reading to know all the answers, all the who's who will there be another murder. Big motivator that reared its ugly head- revenge and trouble is sure to follow. The interaction between King and Jessie contained enough heat to burn but not waste away, the dance they do and the final act love comes out the winner-yahoo baby. If you like rip roaring suspense action filled with heat the bike should stop here and fill er up with this one. received a arc for a honest review

Sue Ellen Robertson says

I have not read the first one but felt like this could be used as a standalone novel. Secrets will never stay hidden is what I always believe. And in this story that is for sure. Kingson has many of these and when they are slowly starting to come back up, what is a man suppose to do to keep these buried. The author described Jessie Delacort as a bad-girl biker and let me tell you in my mind I would definitely have to say she is correct except with a more descriptive word that I can't use on here. Love kills I would almost say and these two are definitely in for a ride of their life because with Kingson's past and Jessie's love they will have to battle the war that is coming towards them.

The author couldn't have picked out two better characters than what they did for this book because I think these two balance each other out. While one wants to keep the other safe, the other wants to take the horns and run full speed ahead. I always love to see what authors do with uncover characters and to me the author did a great job with this book especially when they added the extra excitement in. Who wouldn't want to take down the drug cartel? Lol

I received an ARC from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Janet says

Excellent contemporary suspense novel, well plotted with just enough twisting and turning to make it interesting. Though this is part of a series it could very well stand alone. I however, plan on reading the rest of the series. I am impressed with Kay David's character development and dialogue skills. Her lead couple struck sparks from the first, their chemistry was palpable. Their witty banter made me laugh out loud at times. The secondary characters were engaging and strong as well. I was especially impressed that neither the romance nor the suspense suffered at the expense of each other; they were appropriately interwoven and balanced.

*I received my copy from NetGalley.com in exchange for an honest review.

Margaret says

Solid 3.5 stars!

Kingston Landry is a good cop, but he has secrets from his past that are catching up with him. Jessie Delacort is an undercover agent and has been burned before by men with secrets. They spent one night together months ago, and now, after a series of crimes take place, they must work together to bring down a powerful drug cartel.

Jessie can't help the wild attraction she feels for King...

"He'd had the whole cool Nordic look going with the icy blue eyes and tall, lean form, but the moment he'd put his hands on her, she'd realized his calm collectedness was a façade – inside, the man smoldered."

...but she needs to protect her heart from being broken again.

"His secrets separated the two of them like a curtain she couldn't see behind, though it seemed important that she do so." That realization jarred her. The last thing she needed – the very last thing – was to fall for another cop with a hidden agenda."

King wants Jessie like he's wanted no one before, but because of his past he knows he needs to keep her at a distance to keep her safe – something that he can't seem to do...

"He drifted, thinking about the pleasure Jessie had brought him and his out-of-control emotions that were turning into love. Either of these could mean her death if news of this night and the depth of his feeling for her got back to Ortega."

...but those secrets continue to drive them apart.

"Sometimes secrets are necessary."

She spoke as if she knew what he was thinking "Secrets may be necessary in your life, but they aren't in mine."

As Jessie and King work to bring Ortega and his drug cartel down, King must confront not only the demons from his past but also those that stand to threaten his future.

I really enjoyed this book. Even though it was the second installment in the Smokin' ACES series, I don't think I missed anything by not having read book #1 – Texas Hold 'Em. I loved the all the tension between King and Jessie, especially all the bantering and innuendos that got thrown around. Loved that the ACES were undercover as a motorcycle club and Jessie's undercover persona was a bad-ass biker chick! There were a few plot points that I thought could have been further developed, but all in all this was a good read that kept me turning the pages.

I received an eARC from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Britt Marczak says

Enjoyed this one even more than the first one. :) And the reveal/twist at the end was great! Curious to see where the rest of the series will go now.
