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From a young age, Cobie Galloway made a career of playing the girl-next-door on the silver screen. Only, she's not a teenager anymore. Ready to challenge herself artistically and earn the part she's always dreamed of, she's forced to face the realization that in order to win the roles afforded to edgier actresses, she might first have to audition by playing someone edgier in her day-to-day life.

Pop star Lila Wilder built a multimedia empire by always having her finger on the pulse of what's hot. However, as she struggles to produce her next smash hit record, she's finding it hard to keep her name in the public eye, and a string of tumultuous relationships with Hollywood boy-toys no longer captivates anyone's attention.

Both women tentatively agree to a headline-grabbing fauxmance, with two simple rules: Always stick to the script, and never forget that on the stage of public perception, nothing is real. Can two women find love in a world of carefully crafted illusions, or will a successful charade mean the potential for something more gets left on the cutting-room floor?

In Development Details

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From Reader Review In Development for online ebook

Starsandsun18 says

You know it's better if you didn't have any expectations before reading because you always end up liking the book or in my part loving it. Waah!
This will go straight to my favorites.

Fauxmance that's when Celebs pretend to be in a relationship with someone to gain popularity (from Google)

Cobie's a really likable character, for an actress she's really grounded and down to earth. She likes low key. And while reading this Kirsten Steward is popping into my mind.
She's a perfect fauxmance. She's been very patient with Lila. Although they both lack communication skills but still between the two of them I like her more.

Lila on the other hand is the typical Ice Queen with a heart.
She'll do everything to maintain her in demand popstar status, Including having a relationship with a lesbian actress.
She's distant and cold expect to her bffs.
With Cobie breaking her walls and melting the ice how long can she ignore what she's feeling?
Lila is also possessive and insecure.
There's a cute scene where she got jealous and I felt butterflies. I know some doesn't really like jealous characters but for me with just the right amount I find it really cute and sweet.

Lots of nice secondary characters.

4.25 because of all the charades and running circle..

Heinerway says

Another story with a fake relationship. Fauxmance in this case. And it was a good story. A rather good story. But... But the problem was that I got bored halfway through this book. Everything was fantastically over-the-top. And Ms. Spangler kept going on and on about the same things.

Tinything says

Is it just me or Cobie and Lila actually seem so hot together as a couple?

Cobie seem such a dork to me (i think), i dont know why. And i like her for it. She also seem like an innocent actress who had been acting as a girl next door since her teenaged year. if i recalled, she never been in any bad scandals. And she was a private person. Lila, on the other hand, she likes attention, press and need to be in control in everything she does. She dated lots of guys to gain the attention. So yeah, Cobie wants to change how people view her on the screen, so she can take the lead role in one of the book that about to

become a movie. Lila, dating guys seem doesn't get much press attention anymore. So they both went to meet their manager and demand what they want. And both managers happened to be husband and wife as well. They discussed, plan made and Cobie and Lila ended up fake dating each other. And the story goes on from there.

I feel like I just paraphrased the synopsis. ?

This is such a good book. I really enjoyed it. The chemistry between Cobie and Lila is really up the top notch. And they are really suited to each other. I really enjoyed their banter, their flirting and the dialogues. Somehow this book kept making me smile for some reason.

All in all, the book is just so good. I like it and I really enjoyed it a lot.

T says

The narrator made one of the mc's sound exactly like Mickey Mouse. I couldn't listen without picturing the big white gloves and black ears.

Joc says

I'm a fan of the fake relationship trope and I'm a fan of Spangler's writing (although I'm not sure why I haven't read more by her) so this was always going to be a good read. I enjoyed both main characters but I think what's holding me back from five stars is that I wish they had had a little more personal, open and honest interaction and a little less orchestrated interaction.

Lexxi Kitty says

This is one of those celebrity stories – though unlike many I've read, it is a mixed story. As in, if the story involves an actress, the other party tends to be an actress as well (or actor), a background person (an assistant, or an up and coming writer who isn't famous yet, or a stunt person), or someone completely outside celebrity-ville. Well, here, we have an award winning actress (teen awards), and an award winning and popular pop star who end up circling each other.

Cobie Galloway is somewhere around 28 (or was it 26?), but still tends to play teenagers or people close enough to that age in films. She has been doing so since she was a teenager. But now she wants to move on to more mature work, and has a specific script she wants to work on. A script she has some control over. A script based on a lesbian fiction novel. Oh, forgot that part – she's been out as a lesbian, Cobie I mean, for eons. So that part isn't an issue with doing the film. No, the problem her manager, as he explains it to her, is that she might in many ways be perfect for the role (not words he used but whatever), but that no one would believe her for that role.

Well, that paragraph got away from me. Started off just mentioning one of the point of view characters. I assumed I was going to say something like 'Cobie was in to see her manager about a new project that would turn her career in a new direction; while leaving the meeting she literally stumbled across the other main point of view character in the book, Lila Wilder, a pop star.' But alas, the paragraph got away from me.

Well, as noted, there are two points of views in this book – a pop star, Lila, and an actress – Cobie. They both are represented by the same management agency, though by different managers – Stan for Cobie, and . . . it was Mimi, right? For Lila. Lila had also been at the agency for a meeting, and like Cobie, she was there for a new direction type of thing. Though, in her case, it is a constant in her career that ‘new stuff’ would occur – and by that, I mean, she’d date some hunky guy to drive up press attention in between album releases, then move on to some other new hunk. And that’s one of the reasons she’s at her manager’s place that day – though the story, at this point, was more centered on Cobie.

Stan and Mimi put their heads together and come up with a plan – Cobie and Lila would pretend-date. Why? Lila’s only dated men up to this point, and that’s actually why – because people are actually becoming bored with Lila’s flings. No longer edgy and stuff. But a relationship with a woman? Back to being edgy. Why do they want Cobie to do it? Because Cobie wanted to transition from being thought of as a ‘sweet’ teen like person, to a person who could play the much more rough, edgy, player-like Vale (I forget if that’s the name or not) character from the movie she wanted to do.

So, that’s what they do. Cobie and Lila pretend date. Feelings are found; feelings are suppressed; sex is had; feelings are suppressed; some hard conversations are had . . . and stuff.

Long and short – I rather enjoyed the book. Something like loved it. I’m still toying with whether to give this book a 5 star or 5+ star rating.

Rating: 5

May 27 2018

Sprinkles says

When I started this, I was so sure that it'd be a favorite. The writing is great, it has many quotable lines, and the characters develop well over the course of the plot. It's a good book. Sadly, I couldn't ever get over the 'like' hump to 'love.'

For this story, we follow the fauxmance between singer/songwriter extraordinaire Lila Wilder and wholesome, girl-next-door lesbian actress Cobie Galloway. I loved their initial chemistry, then...is it me? Maybe I'll take an L here. It was a bit of a chore to get through this book because their chemistry was sometimes-y. Sometimes, I can feel the heat between them, other times I'm bombarded by too much internal dialogue. I felt like the story could breathe more. Plus, the drama got repetitive.

I would've liked more backstory on Felipe and Malik. They were cute together.

I should've had a raging crush on Lila and it didn't happen, which probably affected my eagerness to see their romance play out. Cobie was genuine, if not too noble. Sigh. I probably would have appreciated their relationship more if it were behind the scenes. I couldn't get into their real kisses and flirting while greasy paparazzi lurked at every public corner. It took away from it and I *know* that's the point.

Also, I don't like that we see an emergence of love/lust from Lila while Cobie is playacting as a completely different person. The fake edgy style and leather and spiked hair? It didn't suit the character, just who she wanted to play in the movie. Felt like she was always in a tryhard costume.

This is my first Rachel Spangler book and hell, she can write! I think this couple wasn't a home run for me. Didn't stop me from highlighting great parts. That's talent.

Three stars from me!

vacatedboat says

I have an ok relationship with Spangler's books and have, for the most part, given them 3 or 4 stars. Nothing earth shattering, but always well written. It's usually just my personal enjoyment that fluctuates. I liked 'In Development' almost completely up until the very end. I have a bit of a personal pet peeve with romance books that are really great up until the end...when everything falls apart and is then wrapped up in an overly cheesy, over the top manner, as it is here.

Most of this book is just living-the-life-of and it comes across as very real. Two people, Lila and Cobie, are two very different characters with very different personalities and struggles, but they somehow mesh well. I felt what they felt and understood their motives, desires, and apprehensions. These two do not fall under the miscommunication trope, thank the universe, because that is absolutely one of the things that makes me nuts in 3rd person from 2 character's POV. Lila is known for being blunt and 'real' and Cobie is just so heartfelt that she can't help but be real. They fight, they love, and fight all over again. It takes Cobie's genuine personality to teach the hard-ass Lila what 'real' actually is, because despite how genuine and authentic she thinks she is, Lila is constantly running from her demons by denying her true capacity to feel.

Both Lila and Cobie are really enjoyable characters and I was happy to take this journey with them. Recommended to fake relationship and pure romance fans.

PS: one thing I do find annoying is when authors include lyrics to songs that their characters have written. I have NO idea why this bothers me or makes me uncomfortable, but it does and I cringe as I read it. It's done here, so if anyone else has this weird anti-lyrics-for-fake-singers-in-fiction-thing, then just know it's done more than once here...and it was cringe worthy.

Rach (Les Rêveur) says

Well hell, that was wonderful...

Actress, Cobie needs to change her image to land her ultimate acting role and she will go to any lengths to get it. Lila has been central to all the big scandals in the tabloids and has had her fair share of torrid affairs with famous men but she needs something big to promote the next stage in her career so why not try on a new sexual identity. Together, Cobie and Lila agree to have a fake relationship (or 'fauxmance' as Rachel Spangler calls it) to stir up the headlines while changing Cobie's 'good girl' persona to a darker image. But when the romance is no longer fake and hearts are on the line, can they throw the currently plan away for a new one?

This was hands down my favourite Rachel Spangler book to date and could be stiff competition for 'Book of 2018'. It's sexy, enthralling but stays true to what Rachel Spangler does best and that's writing phenomenal love stories. I've read a few 'fauxmance' novels over the past few months and this one is definitely one of my favourites so far.

As the reader I felt like I was taking the journey with the characters and felt every heartbreak and lovely moments along with Cobie and Lila. I want this novel to be adapted into a movie with Taylor Swift and Ellen Paige playing Lila and Cobie.

Rachel Spangler also wrote her best sex scenes to date in this novel because they weren't only sexy but showed an intimate side of the characters that really built on their chemistry (not that it needed it... wow) but also their candidness, in the aftermath of making love, about their feelings during the fauxmance process.

This novel was everything I wanted and so much more. Rachel Spangler just keeps knocking them out of the park with her books getting better each and every time. 5 stars are no longer enough for books of this calibre.

5 Stars... I want more from Cobie & Lila.

Lia says

I'd have thought this book would be lacking of feeling, out of depth, given the showbiz faux romance storyline.

I'm proven wrong tho, I didn't expect some of turns. This was good, better than most showbiz themed book. It had me falling for Cobie, had me wishing Cobie would be off with Cordelia. The other protagonist, Lila kinda hard to like too distant and bossy.

I was really glad that Cobie wasn't the brooding lesbian type.

The story flows greatly, the dialogue wasn't too much and overbearing. Although most of the time I'd prefer book with balanced description than a chatty this one doesn't make me mind so.

4 ?

Alexis says

[At this point I'm waiting for an author bold enough to sabotage a relationship when there's only 2% of the story left and then write "haha just kidding, the end". (hide spoiler)]

Jasmine says

Easily one of my favourite books this year! The romance was adorable and perfect. The characters were all so lovely. And the writing was exquisite. I know this book will be one I will come back to many times over the years!

Tiff says

I like a good fauxmance, what can I say. You know what's going to happen. It's a bad idea that totally seems

like a good idea at the time and then it all gets derailed by those feelings of the heart. I'm a sucker for a high degree of tension with a huge serving of angst. Give that to me every single time!

Cobie Galloway has been pigeonholed as the nice girl next door in every film she has been cast in. She wants to break that mold ASAP. She has her heart set on playing a bad girl in a new film that has yet to be cast. Cobie needs a new image and she needs it fast. When she approaches her agent, even he is skeptical of her pulling off such a dramatic image change. She asks him to think outside the box and boy does he ever.

Lila Wilder is the pop star of all pop stars. Her image is everything and she has a carefully crafted empire that she rules meticulously. In my head, this character is totally T-Swift. Lila is not new to fauxmances, she needs the publicity from the tabloids to keep her name front and center with every new love interest. The only problem is even that is losing momentum, so her publicist and Cabi's publicist switch it up a bit. Hello lady loving fauxmance time.

These two go round and round. You have banter, you have biting witty comments, a lot of heat and whole lot questions swirling around. They like each other, they are afraid of love and image is everything. Conundrum after conundrum with lots of glitz and glamour. This was a really fun read.

K. Aten says

4.5 rounded up.

Wow, this is my first Spangler novel and I have to say what a way for me to start. Despite my Sci-fi/ dystopian / spec fic/ fantasy leanings. I do love a good slow burn romance if the plot interests me enough. And for whatever reason, I've enjoyed many of the "celebrity" roms I've read.

Let's talk about the characters. Famous singer, Lila Wilder, is person of interest #1. Famous "girl next door" actress, Cobie Galloway is our #2. Lila is a singer and clothing designer who's known for her scandalous parade of male arm candy, but her place in the limelight is slipping. Cobie is ready to break out of the Disney type roles and go after a movie part that is significantly darker and more edgy. Their agents come up with the perfect plan. A fauxmance. What could go wrong, right?

Throughout the novel I got the feeling that Lila was trying to come across as a controlling and unfeeling, eye on the prize, kind of person. She went into the arrangement thinking that it didn't make any difference if her arm candy was a man or a woman. She's never even considered a woman before but thinks "how hard could it be?" She truly believes that everything is fake anyway and all her interactions are best left as negotiations and pre-written scenes. She's always aware of the paparazzi and treats life as just one big show. But there is something deeper to her character that the astute reader will pick up on and while you may want to shake her out of sheer exasperation, you keep reading to see what happens next.

Cobie has live her life nearly the opposite. She has not lost the shine of realness, despite her years in Hollywood. She is genuine and refuses to compromise what she believes in for her acting career, which is what makes this fauxmance deal a little off-putting for her. Cobie doesn't want to lie and put on such a false act for a part but it's more than her dream role she's after, it's a chance to pay back an old debt. So she lies to her family, and lies to the world, to play perhaps the hardest role of her life. And as a lesbian, she knows exactly how hard it is to make a believable couple between two women.

Can I take just a hot second to mention the outfits that Lila dresses Cobie in? She took a Hollywood princess

and turned her into a suave stud. Dark, dangerous, and handsome. Yassss!

There is definitely struggle in between all the building tension and romance of this book. They go off script more than once, and improvise more than wise considering their agreement. Oh, and on top of all that, stubbornness abounds and feelings get hurt, as you'd expect from a fauxmance between two women. But if you stick it out through to the end you'll find a sweet culmination of both the character's and Rachel Spangler's talents. Truly an award winning performance. Well done! Loved it.

Gaby LezReviewBooks says

This book is in my list of recommended books of the month:

<https://lezreviewbooks.wordpress.com/...>

Cobie Galloway, America's sweetheart, is tired of playing the straight girl-next-door beauty in teenage movies. She desperately wants to play a badass lesbian action heroine but needs a complete makeover, along with a super famous fake girlfriend. So, who'd be better to play that role than straight pop star Lila Wilder who's edgy, fiercely independent, bossy but dangerously attractive? Cobie soon finds herself in a moral dilemma: is she prepared to lie her way to get the acting part of her dreams? And what if it's not so fake after all?

There's been quite a few lesfic books about fake relationships, sham marriages or 'fauxmance' as it's called in this book. 'In development' combines A-list celebrities, a temperamental ice queen and a fake romance all in one package. Even though a part of the plot shows the luxurious life of the rich and famous, this book goes beyond the superficial, dealing with the characters' search for true happiness and meaningful relationships. Written from both main characters point of view (with the peculiar addition of Cobie and Lila's agents' point of views), the author gives the reader full disclosure on their actions though their feelings remain a mystery. At a slow teasing pace, both women start revealing their emotions, contradictions and fears to the reader and to themselves. Their chemistry is perfectly crafted: sizzling, undeniable and irresistible. The secondary characters play a substantial role in making the story realistic and showcasing different facets of the mains' personalities. Kudos to Ms. Spangler to raise the issue of conversion therapy which is still allowed in many parts of America.

Overall, a compelling, emotional and engaging story. 4.5 stars.

ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

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www.lezreviewbooks.wordpress.com
