



Steady Beat

Lexxie Couper

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Keeping the beat with a pair of drumsticks helps Noah Holden focus. Without that focus, his ADHD makes life a little chaotic. And being the drummer in a famous rock band brings its own form of chaos.

Peppa Kerrigan has the voice of an angel and an encyclopedic knowledge of music. If only she didn't have that pesky stage fright getting in the way...not to mention the distracting off-the-charts chemistry with the drummer of the band she's auditioning for.

With Peppa in his arms, Noah finds a strange kind of serenity, an ability to control his stormy creative energy. But when his wild past catches up with him, he could lose it all, including the smoky-voiced angel he's falling for—the one woman who keeps his mind and his heart staying on rhythm.

Each book in the Heart of Fame series is a standalone story that can be enjoyed out of order.

Series Order:

Book #1 Love's Rhythm

Book #2 Muscle for Hire

Book #3 Guarded Desires

Book #4 Steady Beat

Book #5 Lead Me On

Book #6 Blame it on the Bass

Book #7 Getting Played

Book #8 Blackthorne

Steady Beat Details

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Author : Lexxie Couper

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From Reader Review Steady Beat for online ebook

The Romance Evangelist says

A copy of this book was provided by the publisher for an honest review at Seductive Musings.

STEADY BEAT is the fourth book in Lexxie Couper's Heart of Fame series, but I had no problem reading it as a stand-alone. The band previously known as Blackthorne has been on hiatus since their eponymous leader found his one true love in LOVE'S RHYTHM, the first book in this series. Their talented drummer, Noah Holden, is at loose ends since his swimsuit model girlfriend, Heather, dumped him for their dog-walker three months earlier, and worries that his ADHD will keep him from ever being able to have a real relationship outside the band. When "Blackthorne sans Blackthorne" meets in a local bar to discuss an offer to reform for a lucrative movie soundtrack, it's their waitress, Pepper Kerrigan, who seizes on the perfect opportunity to get an audition as their new lead singer. What she ends up with is an immediate attraction to Noah and the chance of a lifetime. But can the new band survive both their sparks and the unforeseen return of Heather into Noah's life?

As much as I try to avoid using this phrase in a review, I can't help but say it for STEADY BEAT: I wanted to like this book more than I did. The premise was like catnip for me, featuring a shy and gifted heroine with a lifelong dream to sing with a band, meeting a sexy and sweet drummer who sees in her the woman who could be the steady love he'd thought he'd had before. The way Pepper and Noah meet borders on unbelievable, but Lexxie Couper makes it work, mostly because Noah is such an ingratiating hero who made me want to believe that this was all for real.

I'm generally inclined to give insta-lust a pass if what follows provides insight as to why these two people would have such a compelling attraction and shows the fallout from what happens next, especially when the couple have such disparate backgrounds as these two do. What I'm not inclined to ignore is when the insta-lust morphs into a seemingly magical cure for a genuine medical ailment such as Noah's acknowledged ADHD. Meanwhile, we have a heroine who self-identifies as "chronically shy" but has somehow succeeded previously as a band manager and now wants to be the new lead singer for the reformed version of a world-famous rock band. I honestly didn't know if I should be relieved or disappointed that Noah didn't cure Pepper's shyness in the same way she settled his attention span deficit, since it was that shyness that threw an unwelcome twist in the ending that the whole story had been moving toward since the first chapter.

There was much for me to enjoy in STEADY BEAT, most of which was related to Noah's interactions with his band mates and how they ultimately came to like and trust Pepper as a member of their group. But as compelling as the romance was between Pepper and Noah, their happy ending didn't blunt my disappointment at her inability to follow through on what she had claimed were her career goals all the way up until the end of the new band's first gig. The somewhat abrupt ending of the story made Pepper's sudden decision even more frustrating for me, and I wished that there had been an additional chapter or epilogue so we could see that her choice clearly made in haste was one that had actually worked out well for everyone involved.

Ratings:

Overall: 3

Sensuality level: 3.5 (hot passionate sex between the main characters but nothing kinky)

Sheryl says

OHHH... MMYYYYYY... GGGGGAAAAAAWWWWWWWDDDDDDDDDD

A new book in Lexxie Couper's KICK ARSE Heart of Fame series... i'm just about SALIVATING to get my hands on this NOW!!!!

Phuong says

Review:

Lexxie Couper sure knows how to rock my world with her sexy rockstars in her Heart of Fame series! I love this author and her awesome stories about the band members and those who capture their heart. She never fails to miss a beat when writing these stories and once again captures the magic with her latest release, Steady Beat.

I adored Noah Holden, the sexy drummer, who was instantly smitten with Pepper Kerrigan, the stage shy waitress with a voice of an angel. I loved the chemistry between these two characters and they complemented each other perfectly. I liked how they first met and that Pepper didn't hesitate to toss a challenge to Noah in order for her to audition. I enjoyed the teasing and playful banter between them and sparks flew right from the beginning.

I loved that Noah and Pepper accepted one another and they brought out the best in each other. I liked that they were able to calm each other down when their insecurities came out. I enjoyed the slow build-up of Noah and Pepper's developing relationship and the smoldering foreplay that led to some hot sex scenes that had me swooning.

Of course, Lexxie had to throw in a twist in their love story to overcome that had me ranting like a mad woman. LOL! Only a great storyteller can get me so invested and ready to do battle and she is one of them :) I could not stop reading this book and I devoured it all in a couple of hours. I am crazy in love with this series and I know that the next one will be even better and hotter than ever. Thanks, Lexxie for writing such an awesome series!

Autumn Review says

At this point, I can safely say that Noah is my absolute favorite guy in this whole series. Which says a lot because I have mad love for Chris and Liev. Maybe it's the whole Rock Star Drummer thing. Maybe it's the fact that Noah faces personal challenges on a daily basis. Maybe it's his incredibly hot sex appeal. Probably all of the above.

The book begins with the guys from Nick Blackthorne's band trying to figure out their next step. Nick has retired, but the guys don't want to split up. Plus, they have a contract to write a song for an upcoming movie. So, they need a singer. Now, these guys are veteran musicians. They're famous and can be intimidating. But, that doesn't stop shy Peppa. Plus, she can't keep her eyes off Noah.

The sexual chemistry between Peppa and Noah was crazy hot! Noah is quite a bit older than Peppa, but that

doesn't seem to bother either one of them. And yes, Noah a famous Rock Star, so his life is public, but Peppa's dad was a music journalist and she knows quite a bit more about Noah than the average fan might. She admires him, idolizes him, and generally just wants HIM.

Noah isn't an easy guy to be in a relationship with. He has ADHD and it's affected his life in many ways. Becoming a drummer was a good outlet for him. It helps to keep him busy, but also quiets his mind. He's never been able to feel that with anyone, but Peppa seems to open him up more than anyone else ever has. Of course, they face some dramatic situations when both of their pasts come up, but they're able to make it through. I loved watching them fall in love and I loved watching their steamy scenes even more!

Overall, I really enjoyed Steady Beat. Unlike, Guarded Desires, which could be a stand alone, I feel like this one is best read as part of the series. It helps get a better sense of the band dynamic. And I have to say, I'm kind of in love with Sam. Luckily for me, his book is next! I hope the series continues with the others guys in the band too. They're all great! Definitely check this one out if you like hot Rockers, steamy sex, and true love!

Quotes:

~"I made out to you, Noah. The very first time I made out 'Tempest Soul' was playing on my CD player. The very first time I made out was to your eight-minute drum solo track on Nick Blackthorne's third album. The very first time a boy kissed me, I was thinking of you."-pg 34

~"Don't worry. They're not going to eat you." He drew his head closer to hers. "I might. Later. But these guys..."-pg 55

~"Since I've met you, I've been motivated by something else. Something new and wonderful."

Peppa's mouth grew dry. "What's that?"

He nudged her forehead with his. "Your smile."-pg 119

Monica says

5 Stars!!!!

Lexxie Couper you did it again! Smashing!! I love these guys you write they're all so dashing and so ALPHA. They know what they want right away. This book did not disappoint at all. Noah Holden is a swoon worthy Rock God for certain.

This book begins the story of Nick Blackthorne band mates. In this story you meet Noah Holden drummer for Blackthorne. The band is starting over with no Nick since he retired. Pepper Kerrigan is Noah's love at first sight and princess.

I loved this book!! First, there was very little angst and Thank you for that!! I get too wound up with crazy angsty books and I really like to relax sometimes and just read a fairytale love story. This book is just that, Noah and Pepper's fairytale. This bunch of "hard" rockers is all just men looking for that special someone to settle down with. Who doesn't love a sexy Rocker? Second, you don't have to wait long for the story to get involved and as usual Lexxie can write some good lovin'.

Pepper is full of self doubt and this did get on my nerves a few times but good writing can provoke emotions.

The story flowed well. The ending was a bit abrupt but I am sure the story will continue in the next installment "Lead Me On" (Samuel's Story). Looking forward to this!

I would recommend this book as I would all of Lexxie's books. They are all hot reads! I really love this series.

Quotes:

"The very first time a boy kissed me, I was thinking of you." Noah Holden blinked. "You win. I haven't got a hope of thinking about anything else now except you and me moving together to music." – Noah

He didn't just want her now. He needed her. He needed to feel his rhythm in her body, to see if his soul was still there in her pleasure. – Noah

She was life and love and everything he wanted, and she had come to him. He was never going to let her go. – Noah

God he loved her. Not just with his heart but with every molecule in his body. Her voice, her heart, her warmth. She calmed him. Completed him. - Noah

Drmgrl99 says

When it comes to Rock Star books Lexxie Couper's Heart of Fame series has made me a fan girl! I squeal every time I see a new book in this series because I know when I get my hands on it I will be in the throws of book ecstasy.

Steady Beat was no different! It kept my heart fluttering to the beat and my fingers thrumming (through the pages). Once again Lexxie Couper has created characters that you want to... know and surround yourself with. The chemistry between Noah and Pepper is intense - Blistering hot sex scenes, side busting laughs, and a connection we all wish we had.

Connie says

NOW here is a story about a hot sexy, Australian drummer...

Wait you want to hear more?! Of course you do.

Well, Lexxie Couper is fantastic in her story telling, all of her Heart of Fame series books are must reads! This is a favorite, they all are. But Noah is an unsettled person, until he meets Pepper Kerrigan. Pepper is a woman that thinks she fails at everything (even though she doesn't) but she SURE take her chance finally when Noah is in front of her and she finally takes a step forward and challenges him to a music trivia game.

If she wins she gets to try out as the band's new lead singer, if he wins, he wants a kiss from Pepper.

This throws Pepper a bit because Noah has been known to be in a steady relationship for eight years with a model... Well not everything is bright and shiny in that relationship anymore.

This is a story about a woman that takes a chance and is strengthened by Noah to be brave and realize she is not a failure and Noah learns how much his life is settled and easier with Pepper in it.

A MUST READ!

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

KcLu's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

Review copy provided for an honest review

5 STARS

Steady Beat is book four in the Heart of Flame series by Lexxie Couper, and it centers around the drummer from Nick Blackthorne's former band, Noah Holden. Besides being an uber sexy drummer Noah fights daily with his ADHD, and only being behind his drums ever calms him down until he meets the sexy Pepper Kerrigan.

Pepper fights her ungodly shyness to approach Noah, and uses her talents at music trivia to get him to allow her to audition to be the new lead singer and replace Nick Blackthorne. Noah bets her a kiss that she will not beat him, but is shocked that she beats the odds off him. The chemistry between them is downright explosive, so she gives him that kiss anyway. Now she just has to sing in front of not only Noah, but the whole band. Not an easy task for a girl that fights shyness every day.

Noah and the band are blown away by Pepper's voice, but with the offer of doing a gig to see how they work as a band Pepper decides to keep Noah at a distance. She refuses to be the groupie that slept her way to lead singer, but can she resist the chemistry between them for long??

This book totally sucked me in until I was finished. I absolutely loved the way that Lexxie handled Noah's ADHD. It wasn't something that was glossed over or just added to fill the plot. This is a truly believable glimpse into the mind of someone that suffers with it. As a gal with ADD myself, I found myself with some of the same issues as Noah, and truly appreciated the way that she told his story. And LAWD do Noah and Pepper set your e-reader on fire!! I am absolutely adoring this series!!! They shouldn't be missed. But don't feel like you can't read just this one, each of the books can be read as a standalone. But you would be missing the greatness that is the others. I hope you love this book and series as much as I have!! :)

Paris (kerbytejas) says

A fun angst filled, well developed story. The attraction between Noah and Pepper was quick and filled with fire & heat. Our Heroine Pepper is a shy woman with a beautiful voice and poor self esteem; due to her mother's constant put downs as she was growing up. Pepper was exposed to the music scene as a child, through her father's work with Rolling Stone magazine; from afar she had always idolized the band

Blackthorne, and secretly liked the drummer Noah Holden. A chance meeting one day at work, and a band in need of a singer puts Pepper and Noah on a collision path.

I found both Noah and Pepper's character's to be well written, believable and likeable. I enjoyed the supporting characters especially Pepper's roommate Frank, and the rest of the band. Noah was a contradiction to the usual rock star persona, in that he was honest, caring, loyal, wasn't arrogant, egotistical, shied away from the groupies, and didn't flaunt his fame. Pepper stayed true to her character, remaining the shy, scared of large crowds, good at what she did, smart and sexy. I was happy that the author didn't have Pepper's character quickly overcome her issues and become a famous singer, I was happy with her future with the band.

The book was of medium length, didn't have too many story threads, was an easy read, and had no cliff hanger. I did find some typos in the books but they did not take away from the story. The sex was hot, tasteful and supportive of the story line.

For me a 4 star read just because I enjoyed the story

Jamie Leigh says

Good read

This was a great sweet read with instant attraction. It's well written with very interesting characters. I've enjoyed this series.

The Smutty Kitty says

As posted on The Smutty Kitty reviewed by Zen Kitty

4.8 out of 5 Licks

I have one question for you, the reader. How can you go wrong with a devastating sexy rockstar drummer? The answer? You can't. It's really not possible, and Ms. Couper played on that sexy stereotype as if she was the one behind the kit banging out the tunes. Right from the beginning the tale starts off with our duo in a bar. Noah (sexy drummer) is meeting with the band mates from Blackthorne discussing the very real possibility of getting the band back together sans the lead singer. Their dilemma is to find a new one. Shy Pepper is working the bar they're at as a waitress. Noah catches her gaze and watches her from across the room. From the moment their eyes meet, a connection formed. She makes a wager with him, if she beats him in music trivia, she gets to audition as lead singer to the rebirth of Blackthorne. And if he wins, he gets to kiss Pepper. Right away the stage is set for some intense dialogue and this author does not disappoint. You will enjoy every verbal jab, each word of affirmation and the truth depth of how this relationship ebbs and flows throughout the story.

What I appreciate most about Ms. Couper is her insane ability to make the reader feel the characters emotions. When they feel pain, it prickles your senses and grates along your heart. On top of this gift she writes some of the most delectable sex scenes this side of the equator and they last FOREVER. They go on for page after page. Let me just say, my husband is a big fan of Ms. Couper's work and has never needed to

read one line.

Some of my favorite bits from the novel are italicized:

“He’d never seen eyes so blue. Deep and clear and direct. Like she’d pinned his soul with just one glance.”

Wouldn’t it be amazing if a man thought or said that to a woman? Men probably don’t, because if they did, they have every woman they met falling in love with them.

“He didn’t just want her now. He needed her. He needed to feel his rhythm in her body, to see if his soul was still there in her pleasure.”

When I read the line above I thought, “Damn, it’s about to get hot in here.” And boy, did it ever. This novel does not lack heat in any sense of the word. It could have been named “Steady Heat” it’s so hot.

And one of the most poignant sections of the book smashed into my emotions like a frying pan to the face:

“Your heart is aching now, I can see that. I know what it feels like. The only thing I can say to try and make it better is to use that pain. Take every feeling you have right now, pour it into your soul and then pour your soul into the song. Doesn’t take the pain away, but it gives it purpose.”

Holy smokes! Just retyping that section from my notes gave me chills. Ms. Couper gives damn good prose. If you’re looking for a book that will fill your heart with a beautiful, agnsty, scorching hot tale, this is the novel for you.

FV Angela says

Review originally posted at <http://fictionvixen.com/review-steady...>

Lexxie Couper’s Heart of Fame series is one I like to turn to when I’m looking for an easy read. I don’t always absolutely love each installment, but I do enjoy them and find them to be fast reads. Steady Beat is book four and tells the story of Noah, the drummer from Nick Blackthorne’s band, whose story is told in book one, Love’s Rhythm. Since Nick is more than content to stay retired, the band has broken up and each member has been busy with other projects, but now they want to get back together and that means finding a new lead singer. Noah himself has been at loose ends since his high profile, swimsuit model girlfriend decided to leave him for their dog-walker. The only thing that keeps his ADHD in check is being able to get rid of his excess energy behind a set of drums which means he’s more than ready to get back together with his band mates if they can find the right person to front their new band.

When Pepper Kerrigan overhears the band’s plans to reunite she decides to try and overcome her raging shyness and reach out for what she wants. Namely, to finally put her singing voice to the test and try out for the role of lead singer. When she approaches Noah she has a deal in mind, she’s willing to test her music knowledge against his and if she wins she gets an audition. If he wins, he gets a kiss. Noah is quite taken with this shy beauty who intrigues him with her music trivia answers and who seems to be just as attracted to him as he is to her. He’s willing to make an audition happen for Pepper in order to spend more time with her, even if it means fighting with his friends in order to get it.

While I enjoyed this installment in the Heart of Fame series a bit more than the last one, I was still disappointed in certain aspects of the story. I didn’t really understand Noah and Pepper’s instant attraction to

each other, other than maybe he was a famous rock star and she was a shy, geeky girl who was vastly different than his other conquests. So I went with that, and really they have a sexy chemistry and some pretty hot love scenes so it worked. Their relationship develops pretty quickly, once they meet Noah starts up late night phone calls everyday while he's out of town and soon schedules a meeting with his fellow band mates for Pepper to audition, where her sexy, smoky voice blows everybody away and brings these two lovebirds together in an intense night of lovemaking.

I think most of my issues came from Pepper and her inability to follow through with her dreams. I didn't mind the gold digging ex-girlfriend coming back to ruin a good thing, I kind of saw that coming, but what I didn't care for was Pepper's giving up on something she worked hard for and supposedly had to much talent for at the end. It made the ending not work for me and wrapped everything up in a slightly off way. The entire plot revolved around Pepper overcoming her shyness to do something she's always wanted to do, which led her to love. So why the giving up at the end? Maybe we'll find out in the next release. I'm sure we'll see more of Noah and Pepper in book five.

Favorite Quote:

"Noah," she breathed, the centre of her existence flooded with elemental pleasure. "I'm going to... please, come with me. I want... want you to come..."

He nipped her earlobe, drove his body deeper into hers. "With you, babe. Always with you."

Addie says

I forgot how much I absolutely *love* drummers! This series just keeps getting better and better by each book. This one by far is my favourite.

Noah was the drummer for Nick Blackthorne's band. Drumming has only been the thing he could keep his focus on. Everything else was a muddled mess. Until he meets Pepper.

Pepper is shy with a very low self-esteem after being told by her mother that she would never amount to anything from a very young age. However, she puts away all her self-doubts and takes on the best drummer and music trivia junkie to get an audition.

From the very start you could already feel the sizzling chemistry between the two protagonists. You will absolutely fall head over heels in love with the cheeky, masculine Noah and be very very much jealous of Pepper. I sure was. I'd absolutely love to get a Noah of my own.

The sexual tension between the two characters is so thick it'll make your panties wet. (Hold on tight, ladies.) The amount of yearning you'll have for Noah and Pepper to have a HEA will be off the charts you'll have to keep turning the pages until you've finished the book.

I have no idea what else to say to show you how amazing this book is so you'll have to read it. You'll *NEED* to read it.

Lexxie Couper, you've done it again. Man, I love rockstars!

Tabatha says

After several years hiatus, the guys from Blackthorne have decided to make a go of it as a new band, and the only thing they need is a new singer. Sounds easy right? Not so much when you are attempting to replace the amazing Nick Blackthorne. While the guys are discussing finding a new singer, Noah's ever drifting attention is caught by a sable haired beauty waiting tables. Pepper has spent her life feeling like a failure at everything she does, but fate hands her a chance when she overhears the guys discussion. She decides to take the opportunity, and challenge Noah once the other guys leave to a music trivia battle. The stakes... if she wins she gets to audition for the band, but if she loses she has to give him a kiss... and likely her heart too.

Noah and Pepper try to keep their distance and keep things platonic, but they are fighting a losing battle with the intensity of the chemistry between them. Things move very quickly, but Pepper gives Noah a calm he has never experienced before that makes him determined to have her no matter what. Well...that is until an unexpected complication attempts to destroy their new found love.

I adored these two and I think that they were a great match. They complement one another so well, and just really balance each other out. Noah has had a complicated life with his ADHD that has affected his relationship with everyone. Pepper provides that calming influence on him, so he is able to finally be at peace and be happy. Pepper is soo painfully shy that it has affected all aspects of her life, so the way that Noah builds her self-confidence is so sweet and endearing to me. Lexxie has this amazing ability to create tons of sexual tension with her characters. The heat was definitely on with these two, and they were so much fun to read. :) I'm really looking forward to the next book in this series, because it just keeps getting better with each book. Keep up the great work Lexxie!

Slick says

It's really hard not to enjoy the books in Lexxie Couper's Heart of Fame series and I'll admit when she announced she was going to reunite Nick Blackthorn's band (sans Nick), I wasn't sure how I felt about it. I mean, come on Nick WAS the band in my opinion but damn if she hasn't changed my mind. In Steady Beat, we get a glimpse of what life has been like for the remaining four and where they are going but mostly we get to see into the world of drummer Noah Holden and what a difficult world it can be.

Noah is fresh out of an 8 year relationship, dumped by his model girlfriend for their dog walker. His band mates and I agree this was a good thing. Heather was toxic for him, but he's floundering and his ADHD isn't helping matters. When the band is offered an opportunity Noah believes this might be what he needs in his life, the only time he ever feels calm is when he's playing but the search for a new front man will be interesting to say the least. When Pepper Kerrigan challenges him for a chance to audition he knows his life might not ever be the same.

Pepper is tired of letting her Mom's hurtful words interfere with her life so when she sees an opportunity to finally break out of her shell and sing with the band she's followed for years she figures out a way to get an audition. She just never expects to get the band's drummer as well.

This book brought forth so many feelings for me. Living in a house with an ADHD husband and son, I can totally understand Noah's infliction and how it affects his life and relationships. Hearing the awful things his

ex said to him brought me to tears and made me want to bitch slap her as well. What I love is that he realized from the first time he met Pepper that he was different around her, that she calmed him, and that he could focus and be happy. Pepper is not without her issues, but oh my Noah is so good for her self confidence something she is lacking. I fell for both of them right from the start and each time they were together they just melted my heart. There was just such a sense of rightness when they were together.

While Noah was absolutely sure of Pepper's ability to be their lead singer and his girlfriend, the band and Pepper were not so easily convinced. However, Noah was persuasive and hard to resist and man o man these two were smokin' hot together. Lexxie has such a way of building the heat and when it's time, a volcano's got nothing on her!

I don't know how anyone can resist a good rock band story, I know I can't. I've read many and will continue to do so but I think this series is going to be absolutely fantastic. With intriguing characters, amazing interplay between them, raunchy dialog, and hot as hell sex scenes, Steady Beat proves we are in for an awesome ride as this band tries to make magic a second time around.

*I was given an ARC of this book for a fair and honest review!
