



The Bottom Line

Shelley Munro

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Spicing up her sex life sounds exciting...until the fantasy hits the fan. When Maggie Drummond buys an erotic romance novel by mistake, she gets more than an unexpected eyeful. She gets an introduction to a world that arouses her to a fever pitch. Spanking. Her boyfriend isn't interested in pushing his vanilla-flavored sexual boundaries. Then there's Connor Grey, who haunts her fantasies like a magical genie. As a source of masculine advice for her and her female friends, he's off limits. The only safe place to explore her fetish is her anonymous blog. The recent changes in Maggie don't escape Connor's notice. Now that her boyfriend has dropped her, he can finally—carefully—make his move. Given his family history, laying a hand on any woman, even in fun, is a line he's reluctant to cross. But for Maggie? Anything the lady wants. As Maggie gives in to the temptation to let Connor add some sin to her life, she finds herself juggling lies, half-truths, friendship and sensual delights. Her job is in jeopardy—and she's falling in love. Exploring her fantasy is one thing, but she's beginning to question if indulging her own pleasure is worth the cost to everyone around her. Especially Connor... *Warning: Contains explicit sex, spanking, and the good, the bad and the ugly about friendship.*

The Bottom Line Details

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Author : Shelley Munro

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From Reader Review The Bottom Line for online ebook

Misty Goan says

An amazing unique friends to lovers storyline. A close group of 5 friends that has one male. To keep tension down, agreement been made no dating the male. Connor and Maggie had secret crushes of the other without either knowing. I enjoyed the twist and turns in this well written funny and heart warming story. The emotional relationship was amazing with plenty of drama, lots of secrets, along with secrecy and issues from their pasts their romance gets threatened before they give in to their true feelings. The banter, interactions, light spankings, a variety emotions and hot sex scenes make for a definite must read.

I received a free copy of this book via Booksprout and am voluntarily leaving a review.

Gladys says

This friends to lovers romance was a very enjoyable read. The story line offers an enticing blend of sweetness, spice and powerful emotions. I liked both these characters separately and as a couple. I thought that Maggie came across as genuine. I think many readers will relate to Maggie's curiosity towards exploring a bit more kink as it is ignited via her enjoyment of steamy romance novels. Then there was Connor. He was a great guy stuck in the friend zone and looking for the right moment to break through. What is a pretty basic story is made into more though by the added depth brought into the story by Connor's history and his emotional turmoil related to the connection between his past and present. A very good read! I'm posting a forthright review of my own accord.

Randolph says

I absolutely LOVED the dynamic between the main character Maggie and those that she has close relationships with. She embraces the ideas and desires that so many of us (men and women) have but few ever act on. Despite, some of the situations that she ends up in, she keeps her head up and learns to stand up for what she wants regardless of what others say or think.

The only thing that kept this from having 5 stars was that it was a bit of a pain to figure out where one scene or chapter ended and another started, as they kept running together. Otherwise, Secret Lovers is a great read that will leave you hot and bothered and wanting to explore some of your less vanilla sexual desires.

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Karen says

This is a really enjoyable story of friends becoming lovers.

Connor is a bit of a player - constantly having a tall lanky blonde on his arm. He secretly has a crush on one of his female friends, and then he finds out she's looking for a lover to spank her. He puts himself forward, offers a friends with benefits arrangement, and falls in love.

Newly single Maggie is curvy, sassy, and has a crush on Connor, but a pact with her female friends means her feelings remain secret. As does her desire to learn more about spanking and finding more fulfilment in her relationship, about which she creates a blog. When Connor approaches her to have a casual sexual relationship she is wary but not willing to let the opportunity slip by.

As their relationship develops and feelings deepen, issues from their pasts and the secrecy threaten to ruin their romance before they can admit the truth.

I really enjoyed the interaction between the friends, the banter and emotions were very well written. The sex scenes were hot, and there was plenty of drama. This book does contain consensual spanking but it is secondary to the emotional relationship between the characters.

Isha Coleman says

Connor and Maggie know how to be friends. The confusion starts when attraction comes into the equation. Shelly Munro sets out to steam up bookshelves with a whole lot of heart and a ton of confusion. Secret Lovers has an obvious plot. What happens when friendship and romance collide? Captivating storytelling.

Coco.V says

FREE on Amazon today (10/12/2017)!

Sandy Folz says

This book is about Maggie who has read an erotic book about spanking and is intrigued enough about it that she wants to try it. Along the way, she starts a blog about spanking. Connor has been a friend that she has had a crush on for two years. He has feelings for Maggie but doesn't know how to tell her so he comes up with a "friends with benefit" plan. Their journey of discovery and how it affects their relationships with their other friends is what makes this story worth reading. There is a lot of steamy sex and cybersexting. The only drawback was the cybersexting tending to drag a little for me. How Maggie's friendships are challenged as she changes was a wonderful story line. I can't wait to read the books about the other friends.

Whispers From says

Get ready for a cold shower

Maggie is a curvy woman and starts writing a blog about wanting to be spanked. When a night of drinking with the girls, leads to her telling them, they are shocked and sworn to secrecy. But they tell their guy friend Connor about it.

Connor is a rugby player and works for the same firm as the rest of the girls. He has been attracted to Maggie for awhile so he asks her if she wants to be 'friends with benefits'. She finally agrees but they mustn't tell the other girls. When they all started hanging out, they made a pact not to get involved with Connor.

Will the secrets tear their friendship apart and can Connor convince Maggie she's the only one he wants?

Sex. Spankings. Massages. And a friends to lovers story that will have you turning the pages until the very

end.

Nancy says

In this book we meet Maggie who happens to be a curvy women who starts writing a blog about how she would like to be spanked and after a night of drinking with the girls she lets slip her secret which she then swears them to secrecy. They how ever have another idea and tell Conner her secret. He has been attracted to her for sometime but they girls have all made a pact not to get involved with him. He manages to convince her to be a friend with benefits but they must keep it a secret. Will they be able to her and will her dream come true?

I received a free copy of this book via Booksprout and am voluntarily leaving a review.

Liz says

Story about Maggie and Connor -- friends and co-workers. The story is very convoluted in places and I felt like the spanking/office issues were sufficient, without introducing Penisgate or her parents... which do not get resolved.

Issues explored include spanking, obnoxious friends, exes, blackmail, friends with benefits relationships, making stupid pacts not to engage in relationships with sexy coworkers, violating corporate policies about reading spanking blogs at work.

If that's not enough then something wrong with you.

I didn't love the execution and the lack of resolution with the issue with Greg. Author also sets up for future books in this one too.

LMR says

Secret Lovers (Friendship Chronicles Book 1)

By: Shelley Munro

"Secret Lovers," Feels Sooo Right, But Cums With Such A Price... Can They Find Happiness?!

Spankings, Secrets, Betrayals, Rendezvous, & Work... There's plenty of Intrigue Happenin' within Shelley Munro's Friendship Chronicles!!

I Absolutely Positively LOVE Shelley Munro's writing... She's a Stellar 5 STAR Writer!! Her Stories are Witty, Entertaining, Filled with HEAT, Packed with Action, & are Guaranteed to Please your senses... ALL while delivering a HEA or HFN ENDing that the Romantics in us Dream of, Search for, & of Course, Absolutely LOVE!!

"Secret Lovers" takes us to the Beginning of the Friendship Chronicles where the 'FIVE' Are thick as thieves...

Of course Four of them are Women, who've Secretly Sworn not to Date the ONLY Man in the Group... Which just makes life Difficult...

Because, he's in LOVE with ONE of them!!
And of course, she's Secretly Jonesing for him too...
But there's MORE Secrets to be Had...
As she's got a Hankerin' for a Spankin' something BAD!!
The only place she gives Voice to her Fetish...
A Blog Dealing with her Spankalicious Fantasies!
But, Secrets NEVER stay in the Shadows for Long...
When theirs Cum out into the Light, it's nothing but a Fight...
are Feelings are Hurt, Friends Betrayed, Jobs Lost, Relationships Shattered...
Will Anything Ever be the Same...
Sometimes, "Secret Lovers" don't Stand a Chance, & Sometimes someone's willing to Fight, willing to Do anything to WIN a HEART!
Even though I already Owned Shelley Munro's "Secret Lovers (Friendship Chronicles Book 1)," I agreed to ARC it for her via Booksprout; I recommend this book to others based upon its own merits. All opinions expressed within this review are uniquely my own & freely given!
Until next time... Happy Reading!

Lynn says

Reading an erotic romance novel leads quiet, reserved Maggie to explore the more adventurous side of her own sexuality in THE BOTTOM LINE.

After reading about, and being turned on by, a scene in a romance novel that involved spanking, Maggie is intrigued. She begins to investigate spanking--who does it, how they do it, what they do it with. Maggie decides to start a blog to discuss her feelings and her desire to be spanked and to inquire from others about their thoughts on the subject. Maggie decides to share her new fantasy, and her blog, with her three closest female friends, with the explicit instruction that no one tell their very dear male friend, Connor. Maggie is attracted to Connor, but she and her friends have made a pact that none of them will pursue Connor for fear of damaging the friendships they all have with one another.

When one of the girls breaks her promise and tells Connor about the blog, he is intrigued. Connor has been hiding his true feelings for Maggie because of her boyfriend and his uncertainty as to how to approach a relationship with his good friend. When Connor finds out about the blog, and that Maggie has dumped her boyfriend, he decides it is time to make his move. But a relationship that is shrouded in secrets may not have a great chance of survival.

This story was, for the most part, funny and sweet. The main plot was generic--boy and girl have feelings for each other but both are hesitant to share their feelings so a frustrating love story begins. However, the author kept this generic plot from being boring and predictable by adding in the elements of spanking exploration and the other female friendships.

Connor is aware of Maggie's desires but is hesitant to help her explore them, while Maggie believes Connor knows nothing of her spanking interests and is afraid to mention them to him. An added twist is that Connor grew up in an abusive household so he has some strong ideas about hitting women. The two of them struggle with forming a relationship because neither is being honest and they are not communicating well with one another. To add to the stress of the relationship, they are keeping it a secret from their friends because of the pact the women made about dating Connor.

Now, the friends! I really enjoyed the other female friends and the honest exploration of the changing

friendships. There was an underlying theme, in the romance plot and in the friendship plot, of how secrets effect relationships. The author made it quite obvious that the three female friends were all harboring secrets, but we never really find out what they are. Because the secrets weren't revealed and worked into the story, I felt that they were somewhat distracting to the story. I found myself thinking about what was occurring with the other characters and wondering if we were going to see more of their personal lives. The storyline with the ex-boyfriend was distracting to me as well.

Other than that small distraction, this story was great. Maggie's blog posts were thoughtful and sometimes hilarious, the romance was fun to watch develop and Maggie's journey of self-discovery was charming.

Reviewed at The Romance Reviews

Ellen Shannon says

Maggie and her friends made a pact never to sleep with Connor, another friend of theirs. Connor doesn't know of this pact but knows that he wants Maggie. He convinces her to do a friends with benefits with her. She has recently decided to dive into the world of kink by wanting to get spanked. She starts a blog exploring her needs but can't seem to tell Connor about her desire. They decide to keep their agreement a secret. Connor does have a secret of his own. He knows about her desire through her blog but something from his childhood holds him back until one night. When their friends find out about them, there is a huge blow up. Maggie and Connor stop seeing each other after a misunderstanding. Maggie's life comes crashing down at the same time. Will Connor be able to win her back?

I received a free copy of this book via Booksprout and am voluntarily leaving a review.

Selina Durio says

Great series start

Maggie, Julia, Christine, Susan and Conner were called the Tight Five. The ladies of the group had a pact that none of them would date Conner because that would mess up the group dynamics. While this group of friends depends upon trust, they all have secrets they are keeping. Those secrets influence their reactions to events. The main topic of this book -spanking- was a topic I'm not familiar with outside of bdsm stories. But this story and the blog that is the hi light handled this topic with great care. Maggie was curious and used her blog to slate that curiosity. Connor used the information in the blog to finally go after Maggie, like he wanted. It will be great to learn Julia's secrets in another book.

Marilyn Smith says

Maggie has a blog that she talks about being spanked during sex. One night while drinking with her girl friends she tells them and then swears them to never tell anyone. They work in a company with Connor who's also a rugby player what Maggie said. Connor has wanted Maggie for a long time but got stuck in the friend zone. He decides to approach her and see if she wants a friends with benefits with him. He wants her anyway he can but hopes it will lead to more. Maggie has had a crush on Connor for a long time but the girls and her had to make a vow that none of them would go out with Connor. She tells him if they go through

with this it has to be a secret from everyone. They have their hookups but what happens when they want more or they get caught?

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