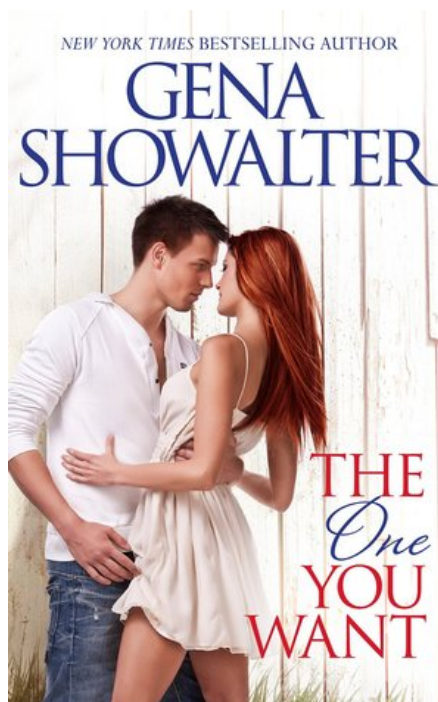




The One You Want

Gena Showalter

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The One You Want Gena Showalter

New York Times bestselling author Gena Showalter introduces the Original Heartbreakers—about sexy bad boys each meeting their match—with a special prequel novella!

In small-town Oklahoma, reputation is everything, and Kenna Starr will do anything to overcome hers. The supposed bad girl is determined to walk the straight and narrow, a seemingly impossible task when Tall, Dark and Sexy shows up...

Rich and powerful, Dane Michaelson is every woman's dream. When he returns to Strawberry Valley after a sixteen-year absence, he is unprepared for the redheaded girl he's never been able to forget. She's all woman now—and he's never wanted anyone more. But to have her, he'll have to break through her defenses... and surrender his own.

** First published in the 2014 anthology, All For You.*

The One You Want Details

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Author : Gena Showalter

Format : Kindle Edition 109 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Novella

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From Reader Review The One You Want for online ebook

AJ says

I liked it.... but it was all a bit meh.

2.5 stars

This the prequel to *The Original Heartbreakers* series, a short, sweet and sexy story about a struggling country girl with a selfish bitch of a mother, great friends, a sassy attitude and an underserved bad reputation. Kenna Starr (yes, I kid you not, that is her name) has no real life to speak of, but she is swept off her feet by the return to town of gorgeous, wealthy, highly successful, “I don’t do relationships” manwhore, Dane.

There’s a lot of animosity between these two in the past, and their family situations don’t provide the best set up for a relationship, but they can’t resist the pull between them. There are some funny moments, some sweet moments, and the sexy time is hot, but everything snowballed too quickly for me to get really invested.

Yes, I know this is a novella and there’s not a lot of time for in depth character and romantic development, but I’ve definitely seen it done better. The romance is incredibly fast-moving, Kenna forgives/glosses over a whole lot of stuff I wouldn’t have, and in the end the character growth is so miraculous it’s almost a partial personality transplant. Because of that it all felt very unrealistic, leaving me feeling detached from the story and rolling my eyes at the romantic declarations that make up the sappy HEA.

But I did get some laughs, I appreciated the dual POV, and the set up is there for the rest of the series. The characters from the forthcoming books are all introduced in one way or another, and I’m interested enough to continue on to see what the author does with a full-length book.

Disappointed, but still hopeful – 2.5 stars.

Jill says

2.5 stars

Dear paranormal romance authors:
Pick a book, take notes, and then write your story.

Until then, please for the love of good writing, don't publish.

Kath S says

Porque los hermanastros están de moda, OK?

Al parecer la moda últimamente es que las escritoras cambien de género y TODAS decidan escribir *New Adult*. Mi reacción: WTF?! O.o... Queridas escritoras, dejen de intentar canalizar a su E.L. James interior, por favor. Y si deciden cambiar de género (que no entiendo la moda), al menos intenten hacerlo bien o terminarán escribiendo horrores como éste.

He leído a Gena Showalter unas pocas veces y hasta ahora todo lo que había leído de ella me había gustado. Entonces me enteré que iba a escribir una serie romántica adulta (que más bien termina siendo *New Adult*, no se dejen engañar) y dije: *Por qué no?* Y aquí estoy. Leyendo el libro con TODOS los clichés del *New Adult* que tanto odio.

1. La protagonista es idiota y está buenísima (pero obvio ella lo ignora), y además, aunque TODOS en su pequeño pueblo ~~dejado de la mano de Dios~~ crean que ella es una perra, zorra, loba **inserte animal que se usa como insulto aquí**, ella en realidad no es así **jadeo**. Es más, ella no ha tenido sino un PAR de relaciones sexuales **jadeo**. Sí, vale **#TellMeMore**.

2. El protagonista está **OH-POR-DIOS-TAN-ROTO!** Y obvio es guapísimo y está buenísimo y todas quieren con él. *Duh! Es el protagonista!* Pero está *tan, tan, tan* roto (sí, son necesarios los tres “tan”). Y obvio es un mujeriego. *I mean, si todas quieren con él, él no puede ser un santo, no?* Y lo más mágico (como siempre), es que cuando él conoce a la protagonista es lujuria, amor y fidelidad a primera vista. Obvio lo de ellos es amor, entonces a ti como lectora no te debe importar que el protagonista haya jugado con muchas mujeres antes. Obvio no, sólo importa que ahora esté enamorado de nuestra dulce y ~~sensual~~ protagonista. Ni te debe importar que él en general sea un HPD. *Pffff, claro que no, está buenísimo, no?*

#KillMeNow.

Ni siquiera voy a mentir. He leído y he disfrutado VARIOS libros donde los dos protagonistas son así. El problema es que cuando lees esa clase de argumento *muchas veces* todo empieza a parecer demasiado *repetitivo*. Estoy tan cansada de estos libros donde los protagonistas son unos HDP y las chicas son tontas que están buenísimas, donde todo se resuelve por la fuerza del amor, donde ni siquiera hay un argumento o una buena caracterización de los protagonistas y donde el drama es básicamente el mismo.

>

Amo los libros románticos y no voy a dejar de leerlos, pero de verdad necesito mejores historias, mejores personajes y que las escritoras dejen de creer que todas queremos leer sobre un ~~puto~~ gamín/mujeriego/imbécil/HDP que necesita ser rehabilitado. **#JustStop**.

Claire Robinson says

...I want you back in my arms...

Laura says

|3.5 stars|

It's for free... <http://www.amazon.com/One-You-Want-Or...>

Blurb:

In small-town Oklahoma, reputation is everything, and Kenna Starr will do anything to overcome hers. The supposed bad girl is determined to walk the straight and narrow, a seemingly impossible task when Tall, Dark and Sexy shows up...

Rich and powerful, Dane Michaelson is every woman's dream. When he returns to Strawberry Valley after a sixteen-year absence, he is unprepared for the redheaded girl he's never been able to forget. She's all woman now—and he's never wanted anyone more. But to have her, he'll have to break through her defenses... and surrender his own.

Almost as adorable as this puppy!

This was a short story about two people letting the past go and I have to say I absolutely loved Kenna. She was strong, capable, a good mom and she knows how to get things done. Having a six years old child (the most adorable little girl ever) at 23 isn't the easiest task and she does it pretty great.

I liked that she put her daughter first, like it's supposed to be, and she wasn't afraid of doing any job in order to get food on the table. That speaks a lot of her. So, as a character she was quite completed and I was very happy with her.

Plus, her friends were the shit.

I didn't like her mom and I personally think all those people in town who were mean little shits should just go ahead and eat cow's crap. But that's just in my humble opinion.

And then we got Dane who's haunted by the lost of his little brother and then the big affair that ended his parents marriage and he doesn't do relationships. Long story short, bad boy with a good heart.

I usually don't mind insta-love so I was okay with lust but this book did lose some points because of Dane. I liked him well enough but I didn't *love* him. Not the way I loved Kenna, anyways.

He was hot as fuck and sweet as heaven and I liked how he was with Kenna but he needed some development. The last chapter didn't help him that much since it was all rushed but I can forgive that.

I love Gena, so there you have.

So, this was a cute sexy story and I'm looking forward to this new series and I hope West is part of it.

Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

The One You Want is book #0.5 in The Original Heartbreakers series by Gena Showalter. Perhaps it is because I read these out of order and had already met Kenna and gotten to know her, or maybe just because this series is so awesome, I loved this book.

Kenna Starr's mother has been having an affair with Dane Michaelson's father for years. The affair is why the Michaelson's left Strawberry Valley. But now Dane's father has finally gotten a divorce and has moved back to Strawberry Valley to be with the love of his life. Kenna hasn't seen Dane since they were kids. And boy oh boy did he grow up, in the best of ways.

Dane Michaelson has taken over his father's company, making him a very rich man. That in combination with his hotness factor makes him a hot commodity with the women. But Dane doesn't do relationships, at all. He does owe Kenna a long overdue apology. The last time they saw each other when they were kids, he was rude. He'll just apologize and be done with it, right? But he soon realizes that he will never have enough of Kenna Starr. She is a mom, though. Dane doesn't date moms even more than he doesn't do relationships.

"I've never desired anyone the way I desire you. You are all I can think about, all I care about."

Kenna is a single mother, and that alone makes her reputation questionable in the small community of Strawberry Valley. Let alone the reasons she is a single mom. She has always felt the weight of the judgement of the town. But she loves her daughter more than anything. They are a package deal. When Dane shows interest in her, he makes it clear he is uncomfortable around children. When he's alone with Kenna, she couldn't ask for a more wonderful man, but when her daughter is around, he is stiff and uncomfortable. If he can't accept them both, how can she keep him in her life?

***"I know we said we'd take things slow, but I thought we could negotiate and speed things up."
"I agree. Like I said, let's go. We'll do our negotiating in private."***

Don't you love it when you find a book or series that makes your heart pound a little harder, perhaps makes you swoon a little bit? This series does all of that and more. Kenna is quick to care, quick to forgive, and easy to love. And Dane is total hotness in a suit. I fell in love with both of them from the start. I hated the way that some of the town's people looked down their noses at Kenna. I loved her friendship with Brook Lynn and their crazy bucket list of fun things to do. Both this book and series will make you laugh, sigh, swoon, and perhaps fan yourself. I'm so excited for the release of book two tomorrow. If you haven't started the series yet, now's your chance. It is better to read them in order so you can get to know the characters and their own stories in the order they are introduced. I hope you love them as much as I do.

◆◆ Naomi says

I love Gena Showalter. I love her so much guys. She's an amazing author and just an awesome person. THE ORIGINAL HEARTBREAKERS is her first contemporary series, something new for her and, as always, she owned it!

THE ONE YOU WANT is a novella, a prequel to the first book of the series. I really liked it, it's short so don't expect something deep and profound because the romance happens very fast but, still, it was a very nice novella and it did its job: now I definitely want to read the rest of the series!

"Suddenly I'm feeling very hungry for something else."

"Oh, yeah? For what, exactly?"

"Sundae à la Dane."

Kenna is a twenty-three year old mother, she has a bad reputation because she had her daughter very young but also because of her mother (her mother was the mistress of Dane's father for over sixteen years and now they're finally getting married). She's actually a very decent person, who's trying very hard to regain a good reputation and have a normal and good life for her daughter.

Dane is a twenty-nine year old very wealthy business man who left Strawberry Valley sixteen years ago and now he's back because his father is getting married to Kenna's mother. He knew Kenna back then, he was rude to her before he left and now he wants to apologize. Just apologize, nothing else, because he isn't a man who does relationship and he does not get involved with mothers. But the moment he sees her, everything changes.

I don't always read novellas because short books aren't my thing but I wanted to read this series in its entirety so I gave this one a shot, and I do not regret it! First of all, it gave me an idea of what I can expect of this series and we get to meet the three hot guys who are going to feature in the next three books and two of the women as well. Second of all, I just loved it! It was a sweet, steamy and funny story and it put a big smile of my face.

Kenna and Dane were both great characters and super funny. Like I said, everything happens very quickly because it's a short book but it didn't feel like it was forced or sudden, Gena knows what she's doing.

It's a bit cheesy at times but, well, still cute. Dane pissed me off at some point, Kenna too if I'm being honest. I think it was actually because of the length of the book, Gena couldn't develop the characters as she normally does and, so, some of their reactions seemed weird and unexpected but I'm hoping it won't be like that in the full novels.

The secondary characters were interesting, we don't learn a lot about them since the book is really focused on Kenna and Dane but we still get to meet them and Gena leaves us wanting for more. Norrie though, this adorable little girl is the best!

Overall, THE ONE YOU WANT, is a great prequel novella. It's funny, sexy, interesting and after reading it, you'll want to buy the next installment.

A quote I really liked:

"What'd she do to win a wild man like you?"

"She breathed."

? Kimberly says

I was excited about a bad girl trying to walk the straight and narrow, but Kenna turned out to be a small-town girl who made a mistake and is just trying to make the best of it. Of course, in a small-town she is indeed classified as the bad girl, after all she got pregnant as a teen and had a child. Kenna is working hard as a waitress to provide for her daughter and barely making ends meet. I liked her. She is putting herself through school and keeping her head down.

This is a second chance romance that begins when Dane Michaelson, "Mister, Talk, Dark and Sexy" *rolls eyes * returns to town sixteen years later. He always had a crush on Kenna but they had a falling out. Seeing her again awakens those feelings. Of course, he has rules about dating and he does not date women with children. However, he seems to forget that every time she is around.

Sounds sweet right? I liked Kenna, but Dane to be blunt was an ass. Every time he opened his mouth, I thought Kenna should have punched him and she does resist him somewhat, but eventually a slow-building romance develops with plenty of heat. They are further thrown together because her Mom and his father are marrying. Did I doubt Dane's feeling for Kenna? Nope and I even appreciated his growth but couldn't swallow the fact that Kenna who is working so hard to clear up her tarnished name would have allowed anything to happen.

We do meet some secondary characters in The One You Want who will be in the series, and I really like West. Now why couldn't Kenna like him? Kenna's roommates and daughter were lovely and for a novella, this was fully developed. I just found it over the top at times and not wholly believable.

Savannah Richards handled the narration well, but the way it was written with characters saying one thing and then holding inner dialogue was a tad confusing at times on audio.

The One You Want was a cute and predictable romance that I am sure would offer the perfect evening escape for some. This review was originally posted on Caffeinated Book Reviewer

Jo says

The new contemporary series from Gena Showalter kicks off with this little novella. Kenna Starr and Dane Michaelson has a complicated history. The last time they saw each other sixteen years ago thirteen year old Dane had spewed some pretty hateful things to seven year old Kenna when it became known that their very married parents were having an affair with one another. And now after all these years they are tying the knot which means Kenna and Dane will be step siblings.

Both have changed a lot over the years, Kenna earning the very undeserved title of bad girl and trying to put it behind her, trying to build a good life for her daughter and Dane had become a very successful businessman. Their lives are very different but there's no denying the sparks that fly between them now. Kenna is determined to keep her distance and Dane just wants her despite the fact that Kenna is all about

commitment and Dane doesn't do that at all.

"Would my past make me any less of a person with feelings capable of being hurt now?"

I liked both Kenna and Dane although it took a while for me to warm up to him. Kenna was amazing and how hard she worked and how much she loved her daughter. Dane was a real ass in the beginning, judging Kenna without knowing the truth only believing the rumours about her, luckily he did realise what he was doing and apologised and he got definitely improved as the story progressed.

*He was ice, and nothing could melt him.
Except Kenna.*

As for the romance I really liked how hard Dane pursued Kenna but his attitude towards her daughter, how he tried to keep his distance from her irritated me and the fact that Kenna had to be confronted by so many of his ex-flings were unnecessary (view spoiler)

This was an entertaining novella and I can't wait to read the next books.

Tanja ~ KT Book Reviews says

2.5 Stars

Sweet, a bit disjointed, somewhat cheesie and kinda all over the place. Left feeling.... meh.

Erika says

Did not finish, very disappointed.

Essential elements of the story don't make sense. Main character is hated by small town citizens due to her mother's bad behavior and her own sexual assault in high school. This hatred does not effect her ability to collect tips working as a waitress, or her hopes of becoming an elementary school teacher.

Rich playboy who moved out of small town is universally loved for being rich despite not investing in hometown, moving back, or treating local citizens like adults.

There appear to be unprecedented numbers of rich, handsome playboys moving into this small town just in time to match up with lonely, broke girls with two first names. Characters are only introduced as a lure to read more of the series -- they have nothing to do with the action.

As none of the characters were particularly appealing I stopped reading in the middle of the lurid and unlikely sex at a festival scene. No redeeming features here -- and I know this author can do so much better.

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Kindle Freebie! The One You Want (Original Heartbreakers) by Gena Showalter

<http://amzn.to/1IsSbbP>

Blurb....

New York Times bestselling author Gena Showalter introduces the Original Heartbreakers—beginning with a ruthless businessman about to break his own rules—in this special prequel novella!

Rich, powerful and utterly untamable, Dane Michaelson is every woman's darkest fantasy. When he returns to his hometown to witness his father's upcoming nuptials, he is unprepared for the redheaded beauty soon to become his stepsister. He's never wanted anyone more.

Kenna Starr has no desire to join the long list of women on rotation in Dane's bedroom. The single mom learned the hard way—bad boys do bad things, and someone always gets hurt. But Dane isn't fighting fair. With every heated look, stolen kiss and illicit caress, he melts her defenses.

Soon, the girl with the rep and the man who claims to be heartless are locked in a passionate affair. But when trouble arises, will they stand together or fall apart?

Look for the next books in the Original Heartbreakers—The Closer You Come, The Hotter You Burn and The Harder You Fall—from HQN Books!

Angela (Angel's Guilty Pleasures) says

The One You Want is a novella in *The Original Heartbreakers* series by Gena Showalter. It introduces us to Strawberry Valley and several of the townsfolk and new residences.

I really enjoyed this novella more than I expected too. I can't wait to continue into the series.

Kenna is a hard working single mother who has had to deal with town gossip and labels that aren't true.

Dane used to live in Strawberry Valley, but his family left and now he's back and boy has he grown up, in all the best ways.

Dane and Kenna both have issues and things in their past that they haven't dealt with. I fell in love with both Dane and Kenna at the start. Kenna held her ground throughout the book. I liked the friendship Kenna has with Brook Lynn and that crazy silly bucket list was just too much fun. And, Kenna's daughter was just wonderful. She has no filter and with kids it's so true. They say anything and everything.

The setting and characters were so reminiscent of what people go through when they think they know your past, what you've done, and how you've acted.

I adored this novella, I loved the setting, and I loved the characters.

Audio Review: This is my first experience with Savannah Richards. She brought this novella to life. Everything felt more real and intense. I thoroughly enjoyed all the voices. They came across clear, crisp, and well defined. The audio was pleasant and comfortable to listen too. I plan to continue the series in this format.

Rated: 4 Stars

Danielle (Love at First Page) says

Over the top and slightly ridiculous. Maybe because it's a novella that made its negatives more pronounced, but I couldn't handle a full length book with a similar style. I won't be continuing with the series. :/

Featured on my romance novellas REC IT post.

Julie says

The One you Want by Gena Showalter is a 2015 Harlequin publication.

I snapped this one up for free in the kindle store without even reading the synopsis. I couldn't believe there was a book by this mega popular author for free!

Well, it would seem this is a novella, one of those prequels which is designed to launch a new series. I was curious since this is most definitely not the genre most people know this author from. No paranormal elements here. This is contemporary romance featuring rich bad boy Dane and struggling single mom, Kenna.

Dane and Kenna knew each other as children but were put in a most awkward position when it came to light Kenna's mom was having an affair with Dane's father. Harsh words were spoken, but the two never crossed paths again... until now.

We all know this author from her paranormal series and so when an author tries on a different hat it may meet with mixed results or feelings. I'm sure she will receive a few harsh critiques , but she is brave for taking the risk anyway.

The thing with this novella is that perhaps it was just too ambitious. There were too many big issues at play and not enough time to address them all fully. But, I did appreciate the effort being made to bring attention to the plight of young women who found themselves raising children alone, the stigma they are still met with, the difficulty involved in trying to better oneself with work and education, and if the single mom wants to date... well, there are many men who are not keen on dating women who have children.

Although, the story is uneven at times, there were several things that really impressed me about it.

“Sex had to mean something, not just to her but to the man she was trusting with her body and her reputation. And okay, yes, that made her an oddity in today's society, but she didn't care.”

Yes... this! This is what I wish more romance novels would create with their characters. Too often these days romance novels feel more like 'hook up' novels to me with no emotions, feelings. or self respect on either side, and I loathe that HFN ending.

With all the issues on Kenna's plate, it's Dane's issues that the couple will have to overcome so his character is the one we see develop the most. He is angry, feels enormous guilt, and is terrified of commitment.

Naturally, Kenna has to be the mature party, standing up for herself and making the hard choices, which in

turn forces Dane to make some hard choices too. But, what I liked about this was not just that Kenna did the right thing, no matter how painful it was, but it gave our hero the wake up call he needed and he manned up. He got his crap together and went after his woman and showed her what he was made of. I loved that!! And.... there was a HEA!
