



Sweet Restraint

Beth Kery

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Red-hot romance and danger from a fabulous new voice in erotic fiction.

Chicago Special Agent Shane Dominic was in love with Laura Vasquez until the day she left him and married another man. Thirteen years may have passed, but Laura's never disappeared from his fantasies, or destroyed his desire to learn the truth about why she left him. When Laura's husband, the criminal mastermind behind an international ring of thieves, is murdered, Shane knows this is his one last desperate chance to learn Laura's secrets. And he's not above using their scorching hot passion to do it.

Sweet Restraint Details

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From Reader Review Sweet Restraint for online ebook

Shannon (Giraffe Days) says

FBI agent Shane Dominic is in charge of a special operation to rid the Chicago Police Department of a group of corrupt police officers and detectives who for decades have been running a highly profitable trafficking ring. For Shane, the hunt is personal: he's determined to nail Huey Mays, even though he's sure Mays isn't the brains behind the operation, because of one thing: Laura Vasquez.

Nearly thirteen years ago, Shane and Laura had been a couple deeply in love until suddenly, she marries Huey Mays and breaks off all contact with Shane. He's sure there must be a reason for it, but he's scared she could be a willing part of Mays' sleazy world and the corrupt police gang.

Now, Huey Mays has apparently committed suicide and Shane's determined to break through Laura's years of silence to get at the truth. How to get her to trust him though? Realising that the one thing Laura can't lie about is her attraction and desire for Shane, and that she must have enjoyed her husband's penchant for tying women up and dominating them, he kidnaps her and takes her to his parent's cottage in the woods for a weekend.

But trying to get Laura to give up control and put her trust in him isn't going to be easy, and Laura has good reason to stay quiet and keep Shane from the truth.

I'm a big fan of Kery's previous books, Wicked Burn and Daring Time, which are personal favourites of mine. There was something lacking here though, to make this a slightly disappointing read, and I can't quite put my finger on it.

Shane is at once sexy and considerate, loving and humorous and all things good. He's also domineering and bossy, but he's not an arsehole. He doesn't have any faults, it seems, though his methods with Laura were pretty short-sighted; but again, he's so wonderful he can admit to that and even regret it. Flawed heroes are always more interesting, and Shane put me off because he was too perfect. He also wasn't convincingly dominating - his attempts to get Laura to submit sexually to him were just uncomfortable. She just wasn't in the "zone".

Part of the problem is also Laura, who is also too perfect for words. I found the situation to be a bit much, and I sympathised with Laura while at the same time thinking she was an idiot. Not that I've ever been blackmailed or in fear for my life or the life of loved ones, so it's true I don't really know what that's like. But why must victims - female ones - always be so easy to manipulate like this? I'm speaking generally, and wistfully.

Kery's prose is as confident and invigorating as ever; she has a firm grasp on her plot and unravels it at a measured pace. Part of my problem would stem from my disinterest in murder plots, criminal story lines, detective stories, that sort of thing. My dissatisfaction would also no doubt come from over three hundred pages of Laura not giving an inch - it was a bit exhausting, and I tired of it quickly. I needed more depth, more layers, something, it's hard to know what.

Some of the scenarios (I'm talking sex here) felt too familiar, because there were very similar ones in the previous two books - there were plenty of new ones too, but it lacked an edge that the other books had. Again, very hard to put my finger on it. I also don't get how anyone could sleep with their hands tied, above

their heads, to the bed frame. Seriously. That would be extremely uncomfortable to say the least. Feeling uncomfortable with the pleasure side of things is not what you want when reading any kind of romance book.

Elizabeth Tai says

There's suspension of disbelief ... and then there's this.

So, an FBI who has a thing for a suspect of a case decided to kidnap said suspect and have his way with her in a remote cabin to make her talk.

Said suspect's secret is not much of a secret and frankly not worth all that trouble concealing.

The heat and sex (which was hot, admittedly) seemed wrong because it felt very non-Consensual-ish.

Dom was an arrogant arse.

All this turned me off the plot. Nothing felt romantic.

100sweet says

I enjoyed this audio-book while commuting in the mornings. The H was the best part bc he was so obsessed with the h. However, the h was not a good fleshed out character. For most of the book, she was either stone-faced or angry at the H. The story itself had too many villains for me to follow what was going on and I still don't know what happened. The separation of 12-14 years was way too long. The h's forced marriage was another thing that bothered me bc it seemed so unnecessary.

Auntee says

Ummmn...well, I like Beth Kery's writing--she paints quite a vivid picture. Her characters are usually fully developed and her plots are kind of intense and intricate, and make you think. The romance/sex is often very earthy, primal, and raw. That about describes "Sweet Restraint". So why wasn't I in love with this book? Waaay too much BDSM--that's just not my cuppa tea. The hero, FBI Special Agent in Charge Shane Dominic, was just way too dominant, arrogant, bossy...an over-the-top uber alpha, especially while he and the heroine were alone at his cabin (which was about 140 pages of the book). I wanted to *love* him, but at times I could barely tolerate him. Some of the things he said to Laura, the heroine, just grated on my nerves. "*I call the shots while we're here. I decide when you're going to eat, sleep, f***, and come. Do you understand?*" Jeez. And although Laura *seemed* to enjoy the end result of all this dominance, I wasn't totally convinced that she was a willing participant. The spankings, the restraints, the rough love making, I dunno, maybe this is a new way for the FBI to get people to 'talk'?:) It's kind of funny, because after all the effort that Shane put into his special kind of coercion, he still wasn't able to totally break the verrry stubborn Laura.

Even though Shane was being a jacka** for a lot of the book, I knew he really loved Laura and wanted to help her. And he did have a few moments where I could completely understand her desire for him. Yeah, he

was a hot looking, sexy guy, and very good at his job and passionate in his beliefs. But boy, that dominant side...I imagine he'd be tough to live with. I see a lot of 'spankings' in Laura's future.

So, if you don't mind your heroine being spanked, restrained, dominated, or even humiliated (bathroom scene)--all for her sexual pleasure though, then you'll probably like this book. I really enjoyed the suspense aspect of the book, but the 'love scenes' were a little too much for my taste. 3 1/2 stars

Warning: This book has explicit language and sex, including oral and anal; scenes of BDSM, including the use of handcuffs and various bondage toys; and exhibitionism. Definitely not for the faint of heart.

jenjn79 says

Most of the people who've read this book seemed to have really liked it, but I have to admit that it didn't really do anything for me. I found it to be tedious, annoying/frustrating and rather over-sexed. It was hard to get interested to keep reading and I often set it aside to do something less boring. After reading and enjoying Kery's book Wicked Burn, this one was a major disappointment. At least for this reader.

This story is based around two characters, Laura Vasquez and Shane Dominic, who had a torrid love affair when they were both in their early twenties. Shane loved Laura and he thought she loved him. But then she surprisingly and mysteriously eloped with sleazy cop Huey Mays. Shane never understood what happened, never got over his anger, and never stopped trying to get even.

Now he is Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago office of the FBI. He's spear-heading an investigation into corruption within the C.P.D. and therefore an investigation into Huey Mays. Huey and several other cops have already been arrested but Shane believes the leader is still out there. Then Huey commits suicide and Shane lands back into Laura's life. He knows she's hiding stuff from him, about why she married Huey, what she's afraid of, and information that could help him catch the leader of the corruption. But Laura won't talk to him, won't tell him anything. The chemistry between them is still there, though. So Shane comes up with a plan.

He kidnaps Laura and takes her to a secluded cabin. Believing that she is already well versed in kinky, BDSM sex, Shane takes on a Dominant role in order to break Laura and get her to talk. He uses sex, pain and pleasure to make her his again. Only Laura still isn't talking. And now her life is in danger. Shane has to learn the truth, not only to save her, but also if they are to have any hope of a future together.

I thought the story sounded interesting and I really enjoyed Kery's style of writing in "Wicked Burn" so I expected to like this book. But I just could not get into the story. I did like the minor suspense aspect of the story (and wished it had been more utilized), but everything else - the romance, the sex, the emotion - fell flat for me.

One of the things I liked least of the story was the sort of non-consensual feel of everything. Shane literally kidnaps Laura and holds her against her will. Sure, she couldn't exactly resist him sexually, but the fact that he did kidnap her and started down a BDSM path that she hadn't really consented to made the story feel wrong to me. When push came to shove Laura did get off and found the domination arousing, but the situation itself just wasn't consensual and that didn't work for me.

Which didn't make me dislike Shane. He was a bit of a barbarian at times, but I could also see where he was

coming from. He truly loved Laura and she broke his heart. He just wanted answers for all the stuff that had happened. And I could understand that. The method just needed some work. I don't have anything against reading mild-to-moderate BDSM, but I prefer it to be a joint decision between the people involved. That wasn't really the case here.

Aside from that, the whole situation with Laura keeping secrets and refusing to tell Shane got on my fricking nerves! By the time the end of the book rolled around I was so sick of the whole secret-keeping thing that I wanted to smash my head into a wall. I just wanted her to tell him already!

Laura got on my nerves in other ways, too. She lied about something to get Shane to believe it was true, then got mad that he actually did believe it. WTF? You wanted him to believe it so then don't get mad when he does! And she was a total idiot when it came to the situation with her brother Joey. There were times I just wanted her to go away.

Sex-wise this book does delve into the BDSM realm, but not too heavily. There's the use of restraints, spanking, some light whipping, and some general rough sex. So nothing too overboard. But in all honesty?...towards the end of the book I got tired of all the sex and started skimming scenes. The middle chunk of the book just has a lot of sex. I could have done with a few less sex scenes. But aside from that, there's also that sort of non-consensual feel that I mentioned above. It was a little hard to get into the early sex scenes when Laura is being held against her will and there is so much animosity between her and Shane.

I wanted to get behind their romance. They had such a tortured love story, but the kidnapping, the animosity, the secret-keeping...it weighed down the romance angle.

The only reason I kept on reading was to see how the light suspense aspect worked out. I liked that part of the story. I wanted to see how the bad guy was caught and how everything played out.

As for Laura's secrets...nothing particularly super surprising when they were revealed. They were mostly pretty predictable. There was one part that came off a little weird to me and that seemed sort of ill-fitting, but overall my main thought after learning Laura's secrets was that she could have found numerous ways years ago to get herself out of the situation she was in.

So yeah, in the end there wasn't really much I liked about this book. But apparently I'm in the minority considering I've mostly only seen good reviews of it. If you're considering reading it, I don't know what to tell you. I didn't care for it and didn't think it was anywhere near as good as "Wicked Burn" but others apparently loved it. So this is probably a book you need to read and judge for yourself.

WARNING, this book contains: explicit sex and language, kidnapping, semi-non-consensual sex, BDSM, restraints, spanking, whipping, sex toys, anal sex, and rough sex

Esperanza says

You like vivid, colorful descriptions of steamy BDSM scenes? Sweet restraint is the book for you. Really, that's all there is to say. Beth Kery is a beautiful writer, and the way she describes the scenes, are so erotic and sensual that you can't help but be turned on by them.

Branwen Sedai *of the White Ajah* says

I have to admit I was a little blown away by the depth of this storyline! I was sort of expecting just a fun and sexy romp (you can't blame a girl, sometimes I just need a good sexy read) and instead I found a really sensual book with a compelling story and complex character development.

Plus lots and lots of really hot sex.

Did I mention the hot sex? :P

I would really recommend this book to anyone looking for a nice hot read with a great story that goes along with it!

Sonya says

This was a decent read and I loved Dom(of course). This would have been better for me, but I disliked Laura so much! Because of that it took away from the story. It did sizzle and the story was good.

Susi says

This book is a standalone I won at the Bookbinge and OMFG that was hawt. As the cover shyly proclaims it's about BDSM and a really naughty erotica. I enjoyed reading it. The pages flew by and to my surprise the book was over. I would have loved a little more story cuz at times it felt like reading p0rn. Some decisions the characters made were incomprehensible for me but I think I'm just a little narrow minded sometimes. Entertaining book and a good quick read!

MelissaB says

This book had both good and not-so-good parts. The story was interesting or it could have been if the sex didn't overshadow the story. The biggest problem was that the sex made me uncomfortable instead of hot (well most of the time, there were some hot scenes). I really felt like the hero went totally off his rocker for a little while when he kidnapped the heroine and pretty much forced her to do some BDSM things (Safe, sane and consentual it was not - well I guess one out of three ain't bad since it wasn't consentual and Shane was not sane). It was hard to read because I wasn't sure if I was supposed to believe the heroine really wanted it deep down or whether he was forcing her to do something she really didn't want to do - which was kind of disturbing. I would have been okay with the book if Shane would have just seduced her into having wild sex with him for a weekend, which it was pretty obvious that she would have done that. But nope he has to keep her tied up and keeps making her do things that leave her in tears afterwards, which tells me that he was hurting her emotionally. Making love in any way, whether conventionally or with some typing up and spanking, should be about mutual pleasure.

So after awhile Shane gets off the crazy train and starts to act normal again. The story gets much better once Shane starts taking his crazy pills and treats Laura with more care. For God's sake the woman was terrorized for 13 years of her life, I think she would have responded better to a comforting touch than a paddle (yeah yeah I know Shane didn't realize she was terrorized). But he does start acting much better, then Laura finally starts to break down her barriers though I think she should have done that MUCH sooner - Shane was in the FBI and could have protected her and her family. The last part of the story was actually decent once we leave the cabin of not-quite-consensual-loving. The ending was sweet, I didn't mind the dominant side of Shane once I actually felt like Lauren was a happily willing participant. The story could have been really good if the cabin scenes would have been sweeter (or consensual?) or if Laura had just told him her secrets sooner. I did enjoy parts of the story when I could actually see Laura and Shane happy together. So three stars is where I am at after that rambling diatribe :)

Marion says

This book touched some buttons. Shane came across as a total bully. He kidnapped Laura to get answers to complete his investigation. Then he forced her submission. I don't like anything that's non consensual and while I could understand Shane's anger and hurt at Laura for leaving him 13 years ago it did not excuse his behavior toward her.

Cecile says

Beth Kery is an amazing writer. Her style of romance is hot, wicked and a slight bit of possessiveness. The storyline is gripping and compelling. You will find yourself trying to rationalize some of the things the characters are doing - all for the end result.

Laura's life was never easy, so why would the death of her husband be any different. She can wear a game face like no one else, but deep down inside she knows that only one person can see the truth, if she would just allow him too. But knowing the information she knows, the only way to keep this one person safe is to keep pushing him away.

Shane is a pure alpha man, hell bent on finding the answers about a case that started way before his time as a special agent. He knows the answers lie within the one woman that broke his heart thirteen years ago. Funny how some wounds just never heal. But all the roads lead back to her...

Shane is a like a dog with a bone, he will not give it up until he is completely done with it. Which in his case is a theft ring that actually involves the people that he assumed devoted their lives to justice and law - people within the Chicago police department. He vows to get to the bottom of the case it will be the death of him and that just might be the case. But there is something that has always bugged him about this case, it always came back to Laura. But what Shane didn't know was that Laura held the key to his case, she just didn't know it yet. And after thirteen years of avoidance and just sheer will of staying away from each other, the death of Laura's husband will bring these two full circle.

I had an issue with the story, the theft story, I wish it would have been more of the focus but I'm not complaining as to how Ms. Kery filled in the space of the story. Watching Laura being tormented as she

contemplated the sweet submission to her long lost love was wonderfully done. But again, other than that, this was a very erotic, gut wrenching, nail biting story. Well played into the Sweet Release of the story of Shane and Laura.

Shawna says

3 ½-4 stars – Romantic Suspense/Erotica/BDSM

My Top 10 Summary of **Sweet Restraint**:

1. It's partly saved by Beth Kery's talented, lush, erotic, sensual writing.
2. It's loaded with lots of H-O-T, wicked, kinky, BDSM sex.
3. The hero is an uber alpha, domineering, bully, a**hole FBI agent named Shane "Dom" Dominic who's sure to ruffle your feathers and raise your feminist hackles (he sure did mine).
4. The heroine is an exotically beautiful, artist named Laura Vasquez who's annoying and self-indulgent, and she screams denials at the same time that she begs for more. She really isn't given much of a personality other than being grating by alternating between tears, rage, begging, fury, and acquiescence.
5. It has a convoluted plot about a Chicago ring of extortionist criminals that's really just a feeble excuse to provide the hero with the opportunity to hold the heroine captive in order to satiate his kinkbido under the guise of coercing the truth from her.
6. There's a good dose of suspense mixed in to balance with the heavy focused sex plot for some extra zing.
7. There are several nasty villains and some surprise bad-guys thrown in for an added twist.
8. Who says you can't make wicked, sexy use of a hot tub in the middle of a snowstorm?
9. There's a creative, kinky kitchen scene involving the use of a vibrator, restraints, and a barstool while cooking pork tenderloins that takes making dinner to a whole 'nother level.
10. The H/H make contrite, whimsical declarations of enduring love that don't quite feel true, and the HEA seems a bit forced.

Overall, this was my least favorite Beth Kery read so far with an exasperating H/H couple, and even though I didn't care much for the characters in **Wicked Burn** either, I enjoyed that story more. I'm still impressed by Kery's writing and intense level of eroticism, and **Daring Time** proved how amazing her books can be when she combines those elements with great characters and a fantastic story. And although **Sweet Restraint** isn't perfect and there were some things that bugged me, I'm still rating this 3 ½ to 4 stars, mostly for the first-rate writing and verrry hot sex.

Kiru Taye says

At the end of this book I was left with mixed feelings.

While the story is well written, the suspense and intrigue around the CPD theft ring and Laura's family well drawn out, and the chemistry between Shane and Laura sizzling like a butter on a hot pan, I found it difficult to really like Shane after some of the things he did to Laura in the cabin.

I'm not a fan of forced submission and believe all BDSM interactions should always be consensual for both

parties.

To be honest, I would've forgiven him if he'd apologized for it at the end. But Shane never did. And it seems to me the author is saying, a hero can be an a\$\$hole to the heroine as long as he loves her. And that's just not good enough for me.

Still a good read and I would read more of this author.

Holly says

Thirteen years ago Shane "Dom" Dominic and Laura Vasquez had a beautiful love affair that was destined to go all the way. Then one day Laura turned from him and eloped with a man ten years her senior. Stunned, Shane tried everything in his power to get Laura to explain but not only did she never give him the courtesy of a simple explanation, she even gave him the cold shoulder and did everything in her power to break his heart. Now Shane is the head of a racketeering investigative committee and his sights have been locked on Laura's husband since the beginning. He's relishing the moment when he can bring her husband's corruption into the light of day when the little weasel commits suicide. Now he's back to square one, trying to dig out the corruption that is currently running rampant throughout the Chicago Police Department, when he finds Laura being snatched by a known criminal in front of her brother's home, who is currently getting chummy with known dirty cops. Now more than ever he needs to know what happened to Laura thirteen years ago. He needs to know what she knows so he can protect her and ease the blackmail he knows someone has on her. With her screams of ecstatic submission ringing in his ears from the wiretaps placed in Laura's basement, he figures he can use the sexual desire that still runs red hot between them as a means to take control. So he kidnaps her. Handcuffs her and drives her into the mountains and basically locks her away as his prisoner. He does everything he can with the limited time he has stolen for them to open Laura's eyes to the passion they once had. Even though what they shared up in that cabin was magical and a moment out of time, Laura still runs from him and back to her life at the first chance. He follows her only to discover that Laura's own brother may be part of the corruption that has been holding her hostage for over a decade. Laura's trust in men has been severely shaken and decides that the only thing she can do is find the proof that will set her and her brother free. Meanwhile, Shane can only pray that Laura will let him in before it's too late.

The only other Beth Kery book I have read so far is Wicked Burn and I loved it to bits. The emotions that ran through that book were so deep and true and I was really hoping for more of the same. This book also had a lot of emotions running through it but it was not quite as realistic as Wicked Burn. I didn't feel like Shane and Laura were flesh and blood people until the end when they had finished with their sexcapades up in that cabin. Vic from Wicked Burn was a pretty dominant man and I felt like I was prepared for Shane, also having read a few reviews for Beth Kery's other book, Daring Time, which sounds pretty kinktastic, too. Also, hello? Have you seen the cover for this book?! Hot!! So I felt I was sufficiently prepared for this book and all its kinky glory. Yet I was still surprised about how ambiguous it was, consent-wise. I'm pretty lenient when it comes to forceful seductions but I still gasped and went, "what an asshole!" I know a lot of people are not so lenient and they will believe she had those earth shattering orgasms (lucky bitch) under duress. Plus, hot button issue for a lot of people, he watches her go to the bathroom. And this is more of a personal hangup than anything else but I thought it was cruel and unusual punishment that he forced her to go jogging with him. *For six or seven miles.* I wouldn't have lasted more than ten minutes (if that) before he would have had to drag my sorry, out of shape corpse behind him.

While some of Shane's actions pissed me off, for the most part the sex was pretty erotic and intense. Again,

I'm pretty lenient and I get what he was trying to do. He was trying to break through her shell and get back to the woman he knew was in there. Because of this, Laura's emotions were skewed all over the place and so were mine. I wish Beth Kery could have had Laura spill the beans at the end of the trip but, sigh, she doesn't. It's a lot of sexy scenes, a big buildup of tension, Dom got his rocks off and then she leaves, not having solved anything. No catharsis for the soul, no crying in his arms and asking him to help shoulder her burdens. They get back to the real world and immediately started snapping at each other again. I know this was an erotic romance but still. I was starting to get tired and had been flipping through the sex scenes anyway and I needed her to just spill the beans already so we could all move forward.

Though when she did finally let Shane in on the truth all my stunned brain could say was, "Damn. That sucks." I completely sympathize with everything she endured and because I felt like Shane was in part punishing her for what he thought he heard on those wiretaps, I felt a sick surge of satisfaction when he heard another set of audiotapes. I enjoyed the suspense part of the book and really, really wish there could have been more of it. It was really good and well thought out, but I just wish there could have been more of it.

So bottom line, while I might have had some problems with Shane's actions at the cabin, the story itself was first rate. I just thought it took way too long to get there and the sex kept coming too long and hard throughout the book. (hehe) So I'll give four stars for the suspense part of the book and 3 stars for all the sex.
