



Playing the Part

Darcy Daniel

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Anthea Cane is a successful actress—well, action star. Her films are mostly about how hot she looks silhouetted by fiery explosions. But Anthea is determined to prove she's more than just a body. With the role of a lifetime up for grabs—a serious adaptation of her favorite novel—Anthea sets off to her small hometown in the name of research.

Cole Daniel is a blind farmer with no patience for divas, especially one who mercilessly teased him as a young boy. When Anthea shows up using a fake name and pestering him into letting her stay, he can't pass up the opportunity to torment her just a little.

But Anthea won't let the stubborn farmer deter her from her goal, even if he is hotter than any man she's ever met. Cole finds his form of payback less than satisfying when Anthea keeps turning the tables on him, proving her mettle and gaining his respect. Will Anthea's research land her a man, as well as the part?

Playing the Part Details

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From Reader Review Playing the Part for online ebook

Amy R says

This was such a fun read and very hard to put down. I found the writing to be very easy to read and the plot was awesome! Anthea is an actress who wants to switch from playing an action star to a more serious role in a drama, specifically the adaptation of a novel called *The Farmer's Wife*. She has no idea how to play this part so she figures she will go back to her hometown of Mayfield (where she was invited to attend a fundraiser anyway) and people would welcome her with open arms. Things don't quite go as planned.

Cole has lived in Mayfield his entire life. He lost his sight twenty years ago when he was just 9 years old but had grown up on the farm so he knew every inch of the place. He is comfortable out there and has no need to leave the farm. The town of Mayfield has rallied around him and brings him groceries, makes house calls, etc.

Anthea happens to be the girl that teased Cole mercilessly when they were in school together and he never forgave her for that. So when she turns up at his farm, pretending to be someone else (even though he knows who she is), he decides to have a little fun with her in the name of payback. Problem is, every time he thinks he has embarrassed her or given her a little taste of her own medicine, it doesn't seem to work. Before both of them realize it, they are falling for each other.

It was great fun to watch Anthea and Cole circle each other, so to speak. They both thought they did a good job of hiding their feelings for the other one, but true love is hard to fake. I enjoyed watching Anthea's transformation from prissy, Hollywood actress to small town farmer's wife. Both Anthea and Cole were damaged emotionally for events that happened in their past. As you read the story you see how good they would be for each other and that they would be able to relate and comfort one another about their pasts if they just opened up to one another. And if they both confessed the lies – her not revealing her identity and him not admitting he knew who she really was.

I thought Darcy did a fabulous job balancing the romance and overall story in this book. She gives you little bits and pieces of romance throughout the book and made it very appropriate to the story and the characters. I never felt like anything was rushed or out of place. If you are looking for a sweet, emotional contemporary romance book that will pull you in from the beginning and is hard to put down, I highly recommend this one!

A. Bookzilla. says

I liked this for how different it was. I wanted to start this review with *she doesn't know that he knows that...* but it's more than that.

It's a sweet love story about trust and forgiveness and finding out that you *can* go back, after all.

I need to get something out of the way. I loved the writing! The first time you meet Cole, you figure out his disability right away, without the author having to spell it out for you. Seriously, I had this lightbulb moment when I figured it out and I just said "Oh my god, he's..." (no spoilers though.) Now, for that alone I would have given this book five stars, but the whole book is awesome.

I liked Anthea. She's not a spoiled, bratty actress and it really got to me how she was actually acting like she thought an actress should act when she's not acting (this sentence makes perfect sense in my head). At first she may seem like she's living the starlet dream but her dissatisfaction with her life and striving to be more becomes obvious pretty early on. I was rooting for her to get that role so much, because I thought she was so much better than being a blonde bimbo in action parodies.

Cole's character surprised me. I mean, the guy admits that everything he knows about sex, he learned from romance novels. How many times do you hear that from a hero? And he's a very bad schemer and manipulator, but I admired his efforts. If only he wasn't dealing with Anthea. I did think he was being childish about the whole payback thing, but at the same time it amused me. And he's actually really nice, I loved that he was such a good sport about the pink shirts. Obviously, he's man enough to wear them.

There is awesome chemistry between these two from their very first encounter, but the romance is really slow building. That first kiss of theirs is...probably one of the best things I've read in a while. I really liked their dynamic, they're like fire and water, but there is always something that makes them more right than wrong for each other. And the tables are kind of turned - instead of an experienced hero and inexperienced heroine, you have it the other way around. It was different.

The book will make you laugh - Anthea's oblivious mishaps, Cole's plans that backfire every time, witty dialogue, these two are bickering all the time - it's really entertaining. There's also a serious note to it, Cole's traumatic childhood and Anthea's evasion of dealing with her grief. I loved the character development, the way they grow to understand and accept the other for who they are and learn new things about themselves along the way. I thought that Cole's disability was dealt with in a respectful manner - nobody treats him different than any other character in the book, I really liked that.

Btw, the author makes the setting come alive with wonderful description of the farm and Mayfield. You can check out some more photos of the Paulownia plantations here, on Darcy Daniel's website. Pretty, aren't they? I can totally understand why Anthea liked it so much.

There's a graphic sex scene, for those who like to know these things. I actually thought it was very sweet and as far as sex scenes in romance go these days it's pretty mild.

I have to say I'm loving the new Carina Press releases. I've discovered a couple of great new authors and I'll definitely be looking forward to the next Darcy Daniel novel. This was funny and touching, with a great setting and characters, and I definitely recommend it.

****Free copy of this book provided by the publisher via NetGalley.**

Stephanie Collins says

I enjoyed this story just because both main characters have issues with trust and love. They both have secrets they keep from one another but the relationship that develops was sweet to watch.

Cole was teased as a youngster by Anthea not realizing that it was because she had a huge crush on him. He's blind due to an amazingly traumatic event he witnessed as a child. He's made the best of it by staying at his grandparent's farm but is not capable of leaving this farm due to fear. I felt so bad for him but also hopeful as

he gets to turn the tables on the woman who tortured him. I wanted to just cuddle him and show him everything he has been missing by closing himself off but I got beat to the punch by Anthea.

Anthea was an interesting character. She's been an actress since she was little and uses it as a crutch for avoiding her true feelings. She suffered the loss of her beloved mom as a child and immersed herself in acting as both a form of escape and a way to keep her mom's memory going. She left the country life to live in both L.A. and Sydney which also led her to close herself off to a childhood friend. She is lonely and is confronted by the fact that people in the industry only see her as a pretty face that slept her way to her adult career. When she finds out about the movie being made from a book her mom read to her as a child she's instantly chomping at the bit for the part but due to the misconceptions surrounding her life she has to fight to even get an audition which leads her to going to the country to live as a farmer's wife. What she gets is something she wasn't looking for in Cole and a chance to learn more about who she really is behind the trappings of a successful actress.

I loved this book in that both characters have so many things to come to terms with from their past but I also appreciated that the author didn't rush the relationship. You got to see both of them struggle with what they wanted while at the same time feeling guilty about the secrets they are keeping from one another. I will have to keep an eye out for more by this author as I liked the way she paced the book while keeping the core of the characters true and believable.

Thanks to NetGalley.com and Carina Press for the chance to read this in exchange for my honest review. As always please take advantage of the Carina Press link to purchase this one and many other great titles.

Christi Snow says

My Review:

Three words...blind alpha hero. This is so what I love to read, I honestly think that it would have been difficult for the author to mess it up. I love a wounded hero and you don't get many better than Cole. Cole has been blind for 20 years, since he was 9. Something incredibly traumatic happened to him then that took his sight and his freedom. He runs a farm, which is amazing for a blind man, but he NEVER, EVER leaves it and hasn't in years (cue back to that huge trauma). So you know what that means?? OMG, this gorgeous guy is also a virgin. *sigh* In fact, he's never even kissed a girl. He lives alone on this farm and listens to audiobooks of romance novels to get his "fix" for companionship. Seriously, how can you not melt at those facts?? I loved this book....OMG!

On the other side of the spectrum is Anthea. She's a movie star with a bit of a tragic past too. She spent the first eight years living in the same hometown as Cole (she left before his blindness struck), but then her mother died and her emotionally distant father and brother threw her into the movie lifestyle. As a result, she doesn't make connections with other people and never has since she moved away and her mother is never far from her thoughts. So when a movie role that will change her career comes up and just happens to be an adaptation from her mother's favorite book, she knows this is what she needs to do. Unfortunately, her movie past makes her a joke to the director and she comes up with the idea of learning how to live on a farm so that she is more viable for the part.

The set-up on this book is great. Cole and Anthea weren't the best of friends as kids. She had a crush on him then and so treated him harshly, the way little kids do. Their first meeting doesn't improve on that any as at the beginning of this book Anthea is a bit of a diva who is more than a little full of herself. But through a series of events, they end up living together and forming a team on the farm. I liked the way that their relationship slowly progressed from enemies to friends to more. And let me tell you, there are some smexy scenes in here. Just the kissing alone is written so incredibly well. A simple little kiss and it will melt your panties. Seriously! (I did mention the hero was a virgin, right??? Oh my!!)

I really enjoyed this book. It's set in a small Australian town where Cole's tree farm is located. It was really sweet and was one of those books that I couldn't put down even though I was reading it WAY past my bedtime. I highly recommend it, especially if you are a sucker for wounded heroes like I am.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in return for an honest review.

Kiki says

Once again. Where the fuck is the grovelling?

Let me make it clear, whatever heroine did, who is pretty shallow to begin with, hero was the one who wanted revenge on her.

He lied deliberately for an agenda, she lied for privacy.

Yet he didn't even for a split of a second apologise and somehow at the end page the heroine goes to HIM, and asks for forgiveness for not hearing him out.

When did he even try to explain himself? Even when he was "trying" to explain, he was shifting blame on her. He didn't even look for her.

He was the one doing wrong and she goes to HIM?

I'm sorry but I don't appreciate a book when you feel your heroine's confidence and self respect needs to be brought down because otherwise hero needs to be proven guilty.

?Yasmine? says

3.5 STARS

Cover: 5/10

Plot: Forgiveness and loneliness

Writing style: 8/10

Heroine: 5/10

Hero: 8/10

Jealousy: 0/10

Romance: 8/10

Hotness: 6/10

Ending: 8/10

Extra book Details: Stand alone, HEA. 30 year olds.

Overall: Heartwarming.

Blurb: Anthea is a parody film actress. The lead role in what seems like a version of 'Kill Bill'. A few

incidents in her life cause her to realise she's not being taken seriously within the film industry. Looking for a more serious role, she finds a casting call for a film based on the book *The Farmer's Wife*. Her favourite book as a child which holds a lot of memories for her. To research the role she decides that she will go back to her hometown; which she left 20 years ago, and reconnect with her old best friend as well as see if she can play house with a local farmer.

The only single local farmer is self-isolated, blind Cole. Cole was once Anthea's crush, she would tease and bully him relentlessly at school. Upon realising who he is, Anthea decides that she will use a fake name in order for him to allow her to stay. But Cole discovers who she is, and allows her to stay anyway, perhaps he might get his own back after all these years.

Lot's of readers won't like Anthea, she is spoilt and selfish. Anthea knows this, and does struggle with turning herself around, her love for Cole is her redeeming quality.

The first 20% didn't really interest me, it was all about Anthea and her career, current issues and lifestyle. It really picked up when she met Cole, the dynamics at the beginning of their relationship was great, they didn't like each other and both felt the other one was in the wrong.

The romance was REALLY good. It was gradual and not too sweet or hot, it was realistic and detailed. I really loved Cole, you really feel for him, he's tormented by his parents death and he's never felt the love of a woman, he's really lonely.

3.5 stars - excellent romance, unique storyline and characters, needed an epilogue, didn't like the lead female too much.

-y.a says

A solid 4 stars

Over the weekend I was looking for a short length read with romance, little drama and definitely no murder to solve. This book came as a surprise to me. It has

- ~ a refreshing *beta* hero that melt my heart
- ~ a heroine I did not like but very slowly won me over
- ~ a straightforward storyline that did not stress me out
- ~ one of the best first kiss scenes
- ~ sweet/steamy intimate scenes
- ~ somewhat unrealistic plot I did not mind
- ~ super setting in Australia I can't wait to visit

Due to the traumatic experience, the hero lost his sight at the age of 9. He was a "all-around" 30 years old virgin. I freaking shamelessly adored this character. A surprisingly delicious read!
different hero # refreshing

Katie_la_geek says

Sometimes a book comes along and utterly surprises you that is what *Playing the Part* did to me, I wasn't expecting much but found myself loving this. There was so much I loved about it but in the beginning I thought I was going to hate it.

The problem was that Anthea took a while to like she was awful and did so many things that made me rage. She breaks into a blind man's home, helps herself to breakfast leaves his kitchen in disarray and then calls him clumsy when he trips over the stuff she has left out of place. That is just one of many examples of her selfishness but over time she begins to change and in the end I loved her. She grew into a kind and considerate person who took charge of her own life and wasn't afraid to help others.

Cole was amazing I just adored him, he was so strong and tough yet very vulnerable. It was not his blindness that made him vulnerable but his past and the way he thought about himself did. He had closed himself off from everything and the fact that he had never even been kissed made me love him even more. I wanted to scream when he hurt Anthea because he didn't mean to at all but her anger was so understandable. I loved his bravery when he decided to sort out his issues he was just perfect.

Darcy Daniels writing is what really made me fall in love with this. It is her words that made me find this book touching, it was the little things like Cole's fear that he looked like his violent father that brought tears to my eyes, she just made it all seem so incredibly human and real which a lot of romances fail to do.

Playing the Part really took me by surprise it is well written, has great characters, an amazing romance and a lot of heart. I am so glad I read this and couldn't recommend it highly enough.

Marla Hayes says

review title: better than Nicholas Sparks novel 'Safe Haven'

In this romantic tale of Anthea Cane and Cole Daniel, I adore the juxtaposition of an action film star wanting to act with more than her physical attributes and a BLIND farmer who holds the key to her getting the role of a lifetime, the role that could bring out deeper feelings than Anthea or Cole ever thought were possible to have.

Over a period of three weeks of 'research' in her hometown, Anthea faces hard, painful memories from her past... as does Cole.

Author Daniel picked the perfect tree to be an integral part of the story and the characters' lives. And that first kiss... MMMMmmmm, even I felt it through my eyes! This story brings Sparks' novel 'Safe Haven' to mind, but moves one level deeper to make it a better, more enjoyable read. Actually, I'd like to see THIS novel adapted for the big screen.

Tandie says

3.5 stars. Despite the awful cover, this was a pretty cute story. There was some super duper cheese overload at the end, the speech about friendship and heroes was a bit much. The ending was slightly anticlimatic. Was Cole just going to tend to his tree farm while wearing nifty sunglasses for the rest of his days? I was hoping for him to at least be overcome with emotion.

Overall, a fast, fun read that was feel-good with a bit of cheese on top.

Simara says

As soon as I read the blurb stating that the hero was blind I knew I had to get this book. It was different to any other contemporary romance book I've ever read or listened to. It's a sweet romantic story that was so well written. Both the hero and the heroine had gone through trauma and sadness and it includes enough details to make it bearable.

I loved loved loved this book so much!!! I spent seven hours of my day listening to the story from beginning to end. I just could not put it down. The way the romance slowly develops is amazing. The best first kiss scene by far. EVER! I just loved Cole! I don't want to give spoilers because every little surprise this story has is worth discovering on your own. I'm just amazed that this is the first and only book by Darcy Daniel. I sure hope she writes many many more.

Narration: Eva Kaminsky did a wonderful job with this story. It was set in Australia and I could tell that the accent was different. Each character had a different voice and she added the extra sweetness and intensity that a story about a first powerful love deserves. It's definitely worth a credit or even full price!!

Donna says

Sweet contemporary romance. Sometimes you have to go back to the beginning to find out how you got to where you are.

Anthea Cane is a child star turned action hero. She wants to be considered for more challenging roles but nobody takes her seriously. When her favorite book, *The Farmers Wife* is being turned into a movie she just knows she can do the part. She gets the casting director to grudgingly agree to allow her to audition. She has three weeks before the audition so she goes back to the small farming town she spent her early years in to do research.

Cole Daniels is a blind farmer. He has no patience for diva actresses or Anthea the girl from his elementary school nightmares. He could see then but she used to tease him unmercifully. So when she shows up using a false name and pesters him into letting her stay and do her research he thinks he might just get a little payback.

These two have more in common than they know and they each have lessons to teach and learn. I was amazed at how fast I went through this sweet story. I was sucked in and couldn't put it down.

I'd like to thank NetGalley & Carina Press for providing this ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Jen says

Wow! Just WOW! Truly loved this story more than I thought I would -

Just having Cole's POV in there was worth it -

Anthea has had her fame - 3 box office hit movies, and a childhood of chemicals, But she knows something is missing in her life. The 3 times she tried to give her heart away, it just forced her to put up another layer of bricks shielding her away even more.

When the opportunity to star in a movie based on her mother's favorite book, she knew she had to do anything to get the part. And when the opportunity to go back to her home town arises, she jumps in her car and takes off without a word to anyone.

On her way to town, she gets lost - with nothing miles away , she spots a farm house. And a Farmer in the field. Wow!

Approaching him for directions, she starts to get a little agitated. When the hail starts, and they're trapped in the tin shed, she starts getting frustrated.

But she's not the only one. Cole's shipment was late, he was behind on planting the saplings, and now this hailstorm was going to destroy his crops. On top of this bizarre, rude, and inconsiderate woman who won't leave

After the storm lets up enough, Anthea makes herself at home and freshens up, then heads back to town. Stopping at her best friend's house, she gets a splash of reality - It's been 20 years since Anthea has been in her home town, and even though Karin recognizes her, she has no idea who she is other than the smut the tabloids print about her. True or not, Anthea sees that she's going to have to figure out another way to get her research for the movie.

Anthea gets an idea that Karin plants in her head. Cole would be perfect to help her learn how to be a farmer's wife.

But as Karin politely pointed out. Cole is the very same guy Anthea teased so much in elementary school. Why would Cole help her now?

But if he didn't KNOW that she was Anthea, maybe she could pull this off...

You can see where this is going ...

Cole can't stand this rude woman who is trying to worm her way into his house. But when she goes inside to use the bathroom, he hears the buzzing of her cell phone that she left behind. Curious, he picked it up and listened.

And THAT'S when he knows exactly who this woman was. And a plan started forming in his head..

YEAH!!!

So what happens when you stick two people so desperate for love together? Based on a lie neither of them wanted to confess - Yeah, instant CHAOS -

Really cute story ! I loved the whole Blind man and movie star thing.

Happy Reading

upallnightreviews@gmail.com

Karla says

4 Solid Stars! Wonderful...the author and narrator played this really well!

I was unprepared for emotions this book stirred up in me. Two lost souls; Anthea is lost to her celebrity, and Cole is lost to the horrific event that altered his life forever. Their chance meeting would bring about huge changes in their lives, and I thought the author did a great job entwining the characters and their stories! I was impressed when I found out this was her debut novel!

I didn't like Anthea at first, but once she settled into her role as Ann, a fake name she used, her true personality came through and I grew to like her...a lot! Deep down she was always this sweet caring person, but it was tamped down by the fame and success she acquired at such a young age.

Cole, broke my heart. Living alone, trapped by his disability and insecurity. He was a beautiful man, and he just needed to have the right woman come into his life to make him step out of the safety of the world he created for himself. All he ever had to gauge romance on was the books that he listened to, so sweet and touching, but he paid attention and when the moment came for him to experience intimacy for the first time, he had the stuff to make Anthea/Ann and me... RAWRRRR!!!

I was shocked when it was revealed as to what happened to him as a child, I didn't see it coming, made me want to wrap my arms around him. I had my suspicions about what caused Cole's blindness, and as your reading, don't scoff, it's real, although in Cole's case it might have been exaggerated to add effect to the read.

I wanted more in the way of an ending, it was sweet, but...something was missing. I could see this going the way of a series. There were a few secondary characters that felt had a story to tell and it would be awesome to catch up with Cole and Anthea, a novella would be nice too *hint hint*. Other than my problem with the ending, there was so much to love about this book. Even though there are some serious issues being dealt with, I never felt anxious, the story transitioned nicely and was a delight to read!

The narrator, Eva Kaminsky, was fabulous! I thought her Aussie accent was very authentic. She didn't try too hard, gave a distinct voice to each character, and emitted the emotions as the author intended. I'll be looking for more from her as well as the author, Darcy Daniel, who did a stand-out job with this debut novel!

Tina "IRead2Escape" says

Playing the Part by Darcy Daniel had such a sweet, different approach to romance and love, heck even pain, forgiveness and revenge. I really, really enjoyed this read.

Anthea Cane is an actress who has lost her true self in all the hype of Hollywood. She really wants the lead part in *The Farmer's Wife*, but it seems unlikely because she's gotten such a reputation as an action actress with little talent who slept her way to the parts that she's gotten. Thinking to get away from the life she is living and do some in depth studying for the part that she covets she decides to go back to her hometown and see if she can get a farmer to allow her to live and work on his farm to gain the knowledge she needs. She didn't expect the barrage of feelings that would hit her as soon as she came back to that small town, nor the anger from her elementary school best friend whom she hadn't seen in years. With options dwindling fast Anthea convinces a local blind farmer to let her stay there and help him. The hitch was this was a boy that she had a huge crush on and instead of showing her feelings she teased him and made his days hell. Now, she's not only living with him under a false name, but she is genuinely likes him and is hugely attracted to him. Now, she just has to find a way to tell him the truth without losing him.

Cole Daniel is annoyed. Being a blind farmer who lives alone you would think he was used to having all kinds of help, but it's the exact opposite. He's become very self sufficient and has little patience for this city girl who has showed up on his farm nagging him to let her stay for awhile to study for a part she wanted. She thinks he doesn't know who she really is, but he does. And he sees the perfect chance to get back at her for bullying him in school when they were kids. Imagine his surprise when after a few bumps in the road she pitches in and actually is helpful. Not to mention he finds her amusing and begins to really enjoy her company. Not to mention the heat between them. Nothing is going as planned and now he has to find a way to let her know that he knows who she really is hope that she doesn't just walk away forever.

Cole's blindness was due to a horrific childhood trauma and broke my heart as he came to terms with his past with the help of Anthea. The way they bumbled along in the beginning and then slowly began to get to know what the other needed before being asked was sweet and entertaining. As they explored a physical relationship with one another and got to know each other better it was sweet and then hotter and hotter.

This was a really nice story. You will enjoy it, I promise.

Thank you to NetGalley.com for the loan of this book in exchange for my honest review.

You can find this review and others at <http://riverinaromantics.blogspot.com> and <http://tinar1121.blogspot.com>
