



# The Hookup Hoax

*Heather Thurmeier*

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## **The Hookup Hoax** Heather Thurmeier

Sawyer Sterling needs a girlfriend. With the family cabin up for grabs, he's desperate to prove that he could be the guy to "pass it on." Of course, Sawyer also has a tendency to treat relationships like a contagious stomach flu that should be avoided at all costs. Now he needs a girlfriend-for-hire. Someone he can trust. Someone he could never, ever fall for...

Someone like his best friend's sister.

Sawyer's offer is exactly what Olivia Morgan needs. After traveling around the world for the last five years, the promise of a job and free accommodations is heaven. And sure, maybe Sawyer's a super-hot, charming guy with dimples made for kissing, but he's not willing to be the guy—or relationship—she needs.

All it takes is one hot hook-up before this little hoax gets blown all to hell...

## **The Hookup Hoax Details**

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Author : Heather Thurmeier

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# From Reader Review The Hookup Hoax for online ebook

## Penny says

3.5 Stars

So, I'm mildly disturbed by the cover girl's calf muscle... Is that real or did someone get over excited with Photoshop? Is silicon calf implants a new fashion? It's just... *look* at it... that's not normal, especially when you compare it with her other calf which seems incredibly flat...

Anyways! This was a sweet story about Sawyer. A guy who, after losing his parents as a child in an accident, is raised by his grandparents. Fearing that he could leave a wife and kid behind if something ever happened to him, he's set on bachelorhood for life.

But now, not only does he need to focus on work and landing the deal that will put his family's company out of risk, his grandparents are getting ready to move and pass on the house he grew up in. He needs to show them that he should be the one to get it, and not his married cousin with a baby on the way.

And thus the hoax is conceived. He needs a girlfriend STAT, so Gran and Grandpa can see him as someone who could keep the beautiful lake house in the family. He tried a relationship once and it ended in disaster, and any of his hookups wouldn't get that what he needs is just pretend. The solution appears in the form of his childhood best friend's little sister, who he hadn't seen in over 10 years since her parents divorced and she went to live with her mother. She's nothing like the little tomboy he remembers, but a very beautiful woman who's spent the last 5 years backpacking around the world.

Olivia is ready to plant some roots after being a nomad for so long. Unfortunately no one seems to want to hire someone with her ample but unconventional work experience, and crashing on her brother's couch is certainly not her idea of permanence.

When Sawyer offers her free housing and a temp job in his company as a reference for her curriculum and all she has to do is pretend to be his girlfriend, she jumps at the opportunity. Truly, with her former experience with a guy just like Sawyer, she would never, never, ever be fool enough to fall for him. Nor would Sawyer find that with the right woman, a relationship is just what he needed...no chance of that happening...

I really liked this story, there were no surprises, no unexpected twists, just sweet, steamy romance, a bit of lack of communication and a lot of stubbornness.

This was a quick easy read, at times I felt it drag a little but nothing that overshadowed my enjoyment of the story. I'm definitely going to be on the lookout for more from Ms. Thurmeier.

\*I received a complimentary copy from the Publisher through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*

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## Janell Sutherland says

This is a mashup between the best friend's little sister trope and the fake boyfriend trope. I love fake

boyfriend stories, and I don't care how ludicrous the setup is as long as I like the writing and the characters. In this book, unfortunately, I didn't.

Sawyer's grandparents have decided to move out of their lakeside cabin and retire in the city. Being kind, loving grandparents who don't want to foster any competition or hard feelings between their only two heirs and grandsons, they announce that they will give the cabin to whomever they feel will "keep it in the family." Sawyer's cousin is married and his wife is pregnant; Sawyer is a confirmed bachelor who doesn't do relationships. But he really loves the cabin because he was raised there after his parents died in a tragic boating accident. How can he get the cabin?

Olivia has just returned to the states after backpacking around the world for five years. She did it because her fiancé dumped her shortly before the wedding and she was sad and heartbroken. Now she's decided that she wants to settle down and start a family, so she begins by crashing on her brother's couch while she looks for a job.

Olivia needs a real place to stay and a job. Sawyer has a spare bedroom and he owns the family business, so he can offer her both. In return, he'd like her to play girlfriend for three months, long enough to convince his grandparents that he's ready to settle down. He's not, of course, because his parents died suddenly, which convinced him that he could drop dead at any moment, and he would hate to leave a weeping family behind. Yes, that's his reason for avoiding relationships — because he might die.

Olivia agrees because the job experience will look great on her resume, and she has an arbitrary three-month dating moratorium so she can get herself together. She's been wandering for five years, but she needs a few more months to heal her broken heart. Pretend-dating Sawyer will protect her fragile emotions.

I forgive the setup. I forgive the fact that the spare bedroom shares a connected bathroom with Sawyer's own bedroom. I forgive the contrived assumption that Olivia's college degree and travel experience make her a valuable member of Sawyer's marketing team, necessitating her having a desk right outside of his office. And I mostly forgive Sawyer for giving Olivia the unoriginal nickname of Sugar.

However. On nearly every page that Sawyer narrated, he thought of his hard dick and his tight balls. If he wasn't thinking about sex with Olivia, he was reminding himself in great detail of all the reasons why he couldn't have sex with her. Olivia didn't think of her wet underpants quite so frequently, but she had even more specific reasons why she couldn't have sex with Sawyer, and she listed those reasons again and again and again.

They did have sex. But they did not continue to have sex, because Olivia thought they should back off so she wouldn't develop feelings, and Sawyer agreed. That goes against the rules of romance! After the first sexual encounter, they should regretfully have another! Instead, they held off and went back to the wistful fantasizing. Meanwhile, Olivia scolded Sawyer about working too hard and not taking care of himself, while she also wowed their client with her brilliant marketing ideas.

Then there was a thing that happened later in the book that made me growl. I wasn't impressed with either character — Sawyer was self-centered and Olivia was magically perfect. I wasn't a fan of the grandparents, the cousin, or Olivia's brother, either. I would have DNF'd this book after Sawyer moaned about his cock for the third time, but it's been a while since I wrote a bad review, so I persevered for you, Dear Reader. I hope you're happy.

Rating: D

## **Maria Rose says**

The best friend's sibling trope is always a treat for me to read and this one is no exception. Sawyer and Olivia know each other reasonably well, having been friends since childhood via Olivia's brother Aiden. When Sawyer needs a pretend girlfriend to convince his grandparents that he's suitable material for inheriting the family cabin and filling it with an extended family, Olivia is in the right place at the right time - looking for a job and a home while she figures out what direction to go next in her life. For Sawyer, Olivia is a safe bet - she won't misconstrue his intentions and complicate things by wanting an actual relationship. Except Sawyer finds that maybe his feelings about Olivia aren't so cut and dried after all.

I really enjoyed this story! I found both characters to be very likeable. Sawyer is a workaholic playboy who is quite happy with his single life and the dating scene - he's not interested in a long term relationship. Olivia is a quirky, fun, friendly woman. She's been on the road for the last 5 years and the chance to settle down in one spot is very appealing for her, as is the job at Sawyer's company where she can put her skills to work. There is a definite sexual chemistry between them now that they've both grown up and it isn't long for that to manifest itself into some steamy scenes. I also liked how they interacted with their families, and despite Sawyer's deception in presenting Olivia as his girlfriend, it comes from a desperation to keep a hold of the memory of his parents and their relationship, all linked with the family cabin. There were some touching and tender moments in the story too as Sawyer and Olivia open up to each other and reveal past heartache.

Overall, it was an entertaining and enjoyable read. 4 stars.

Note: a copy of this story was provided by the publisher via NetGalley for review.

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## **\*P says**

### **Solid 4 stars**

Sawyer is needing someone to fake a relationship with in order to get the deed to his grandparents' lake house, the very one he grew up in after his parents' deaths. The problem is they want it passed down and Sawyer has no intentions of a forever with anyone. He is worried his cousin Tyler, married with a child on the way, is gonna get the lake house.

Olivia, Sawyer's best friend's sister is back after five years abroad and boy has she grown up. She also happens to be in need of a job and a place to stay. Sawyer offers her the perfect solution. Fake a relationship to help him, and he will help her. As she has already been hurt really badly before she is in no way looking to start a real relationship, so it seems like a win-win for both of them.

Along the way things start to get a little too real for both of them and Olivia is worried she is falling for

Sawyer. Without being aware, Sawyer had been falling for Olivia all along too. With changes at work and a surprise neither of them had expected, the chance for anything real seems less likely.

This story was cute and I read through it pretty quickly. I liked that along the way Sawyer did show emotions and I enjoyed the relationship he and Olivia had with his grandparents. The ending was a little too easy and too much for me to give higher than the four star rating, but it was enjoyable nonetheless.

*Thanks to NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **Claudia says**

this was a nice enough read to pass a rainy afternoon. the plot is quite simple

Sawyer Sterling is a workaholic who lives for his company and wants to re-build what was lost after his parents death. he has a constant stream of hook-ups but when his grandparents' cabin comes up as a possible inheritance, he thinks he needs a steady girlfriend to save this childhood home. conveniently, his best friend's sister Olivia is back in town and need a job, an apartment and is someone who can help him pull that off. at least that is what both of them think. when things become more and more steamy and feelings get in the way, suddenly, nothing is that easy anymore.

I liked the characters well enough - they are strong and mostly honest, and I also liked the writing style. my biggest problem with this book and why it was only three stars was the plot and the many times one of them was not sure of the other (or him- or herself). The plot was not very exciting and it was predictable. there was not really enough page time for the two of them to really build a relationship or develop feelings and more time for the physical aspect.

all in all this was a cute story

Disclaimer: an ARC was provided by Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review

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## **[Aengell] says**

A pleasant enough Contemporary, with strong characters, a strong writing style, but with a plot being on the underdeveloped side of ordinary and predictable.

The story is easy and nothing new: Guy has to put up a charade of being in a steady relationship to be in the running for getting his grandparents cottage. Best friend's little sister comes handy, the fake-relationship escalates and... well.

If you know what you get into, this can be a relaxing, light and easy read for in between, and although I'm not a strong fan of this trope and there was a little too much connecting over physical aspects rather than getting to know each other, the story as a whole was cute enticing.

*ARC via NetGalley*

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## Jessica says

See more of my reviews on my blog [Thoughts At One In The Morning](#).

### My Thoughts:

I will never, ever, ever, ever get tired of the fake relationship trope. Like, EVER. I'm drawn to it, like it's the dessert tray. And I'm always happy by the time I finish reading the story. The Hookup Hoax is definitely up there on my favorite fake relationship books!

Sawyer wants the family cabin, but he needs to prove he's the right kind of person to give it to. Enter Olivia, his best friend's sister. Since she's been traveling and doing odd jobs, she doesn't really have much to add to her resume to get a job or apartment. Sawyer offers both to her, in exchange that she pretend to be his girlfriend. Seems easy enough, right? Not with the obvious sexual desire burning beneath the surface. And after one kiss--one that wasn't part of the deal--it's even more difficult to keep feelings hidden. When the person you're pretending to date is a person you're told you can't, it definitely causes friction. Will the two of them be able to come out unscathed?

The Hookup Hoax has it all--stolen kisses, steamy moments, true romance. I loved the focus on family, and the love that the family has for one another. And that, despite the obstacles, Sawyer and Olivia have a connection they can't deny. I'll definitely be checking out more by Heather Thurmeier.

My Rating: Very Good

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## Smut Matters says

Heather's review from Smut Matters

I received this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not change my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

This book combined one of my favorite romance tropes (the fake relationship) and my absolute least favorite romance trope (we can't date because you're friends with my sibling). For some reason I've read several of those in the last few weeks and they're wearing on me. For crying out loud. You're adults. Date who you want to, and tell your sibling to get the fuck over it.

Anyway. Sawyer Sterling's grandparents have decided they're going to leave the family cabin to whoever could pass it down to future generations. Sterling and his cousin Tyler are the only candidates, and Tyler's already married and has a baby on the way. Sterling really wants that cabin. He spent a lot of time there as a kid and doesn't want it to go to Tyler, who doesn't love it the same way he does. Olivia Morgan has just returned from an extended period of traveling around the world. She's going to stay on her brother's couch until she can find a job and an apartment, but Sterling tells her she can stay in his spare room if she'll pretend to be his girlfriend for three months to help him convince his grandparents to give him the cabin. He'll also give her a job as an administrative assistant and when the charade is over, he'll give her a great

recommendation to help her find a new job. Olivia obviously says yes, because living in a great apartment with an actual bed sounds a lot more appealing than sleeping on her brother's couch.

Sterling and Olivia quickly develop actual feelings for each other, and as far as I can tell, the biggest reason they fight their attraction is that her brother Aidan told both of them that he wouldn't allow it. Which is ridiculous. His reasoning is that Olivia's ex hurt her, and Sterling is a player, so they can't date. Get over it. Olivia's an adult. Sterling's never been anything but honest with her about his disdain for long-term relationships. If Olivia wants to be with him anyway, it's none of your business. Stay out of it.

I'm digressing again. I did actually like this book, despite Aidan. And Olivia didn't have a problem telling him what he could do with her opinions of her relationship with Sterling. I liked Olivia and Sterling together; he was really supportive of her and made sure to follow through on his promise to help her get a job. Right away he was introducing her to people who could help her with that, though he eventually realized she'd be a great addition to his own company, obviously. She had a lot of good ideas, and he took her seriously and listened to what she had to say. She, in turn, tried to encourage him to take better care of himself and maybe walk away from his office once in a while. Sterling's parents died young, and he just assumes he's destined for the same fate, but he wants the company he built to be his legacy. Who he's going to pass it to wasn't very clear to me, since "There was no way he'd risk having a wife or family while knowing he could die at any moment, leaving behind a wake of sadness and loneliness." A bit melodramatic, but losing his parents the way he did would obviously leave some scars.

Overall this was a fairly standard romance. It was an entertaining take on the fake relationship concept. I enjoyed it, and I'd read more of Heather Thurmeier's work.

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## **Fizza says**

An old tale with a new spin, it is light and entertaining read. I must read for romance lovers and those who like stories about fake-turned-real relationships. I enjoyed reading this light hearted romance.

Sawyer is owner of a successful business but having difficulty keeping his company at the top. And now he learned that his grandparents plan to leave their cabin to a family member who will pass it on to next generations. He knows that it can't be him since he has never had a real relationship and never plans to marry. Now that must change or he will lose the cabin, which he has always wanted.

Olivia is his best friend's sister. She is back in USA and who can be better than her to play his fake-girlfriend. But things doesn't go the way two of them planned. They fell for each other. Will they be able to overcome their fears and give each other a chance?

P.S. I received a complimentary copy of this book, for which I'd like to thank the publisher.

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## **Mandy says**

Sawyer is a workaholic who is trying to save the family company. On top of that, his grandparents decide they want to give their family cabin, Sawyers favorite place in the world, to one of their 2 grandchildren. It's between Sawyer and his cousin Tyler. To give himself the edge, Sawyer decides he needs to pretend to have



a girlfriend to show the grandparents that someday he'll have a family to spend time at the cabin. Olivia is back to town after having traveled the world for the last 5 years. When she goes to dinner with her brother Aiden and his best friend Sawyer, the last thing she expects is a proposition to be his fake girlfriend. What I enjoyed most about this story was the sexual tension between Sawyer and Olivia. I really liked both characters and enjoyed the chemistry between them. This book mixes two of my favorite romance type books, a fake relationship and a brother's best friend storyline. I really enjoyed this story and look forward to reading more by this author.

**\*\*ARC provided in exchange for an honest review\*\***

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## **Lindsey Gray says**

I can't tell you how much I love the sibling's best friend stories. I've even written one of my own. Thurmeier throws us a unique twist far from the norm.

Sawyer is a wealthy man and could probably buy anything he wanted, except his grandparent's cabin. After the death of his parents, Sawyer was raised in the beautiful home. His grandparents are moving and have decided they want Sawyer or his cousin, Tyler, to have the cabin. To win his childhood home, Sawyer needs a girlfriend to show his grandparents he is serious about keeping the cabin in the family to pass on to his kids someday.

Olivia is back in the states after backpacking her heartbreak away in Europe for five years. She needs a job and a place to live other than her brother's couch. After dinner with her brother, Aiden, and Sawyer, she gets a job, a place to live, and the chance to play house with the hottest man she's ever seen.

There is good amount of will they or won't they in this story that had me flipping the pages faster than an Indy racer on Memorial Day Weekend. The story wasn't all about getting to the next steamy scene, a real relationship percolated between the two as they dragged their collective baggage with them. An exciting twist toward the end had my jaw dropping in surprise. I loved that! It is so refreshing to read a story where I don't have the ending figured out beforehand. If you are looking for a story with substance, outstanding character development, and sizzling romance, The Hookup Hoax is for you.

Thanks so much to Heather Thurmeier and Entangled Publishing for granting me with a copy of The Hookup Hoax in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Ivy Deluca says**

Sawyer's been focused almost exclusively on the family business, deciding that he doesn't do relationships. Of course. Except his grandparents are getting ready to deed the family's lakefront home, and the choice is between bachelor Sawyer, and his married cousin Tyler. He's despairing he'll never get the house....but then Olivia presents the perfect solution.

Olivia's been traveling the world for several years after a failed engagement. When she gets home, her

brother Aidan's best friend Sawyer proposes that she pretend to be his girlfriend AND come work for him. She gets to have some professional experience and save money to get her own apartment (since she'll live with Sawyer for a while) and Sawyer can prove that he's the settling down type.

So what happens next? Yeah....romance, of course.

### **The Good, The Bad and Everything In Between**

- ***Good Chemistry*** : When the story focuses on Sawyer and Olivia, there's definite heat and chemistry. Their banter was good and I would have liked to see more of it.

- ***Sweet story*** : In general, the angst is pretty low and mostly generated by their own self-doubt.

- ***But would have liked more depth*** : While it's a fairly simple fake relationship plotline, so much wasn't explored. For example, these are two allegedly intelligent people, yet neither one of them ever thought about the most basic things such as needing to touch and kiss to convince others of their relationship. Also she's barely concerned about living with her boss and yet she hasn't even thought of the ramifications of being involved with him and how it will affect her relationship with her co-workers. So much could have been established, a strong foundation for what angst there is, if they had spent some time just discussing the plan and getting to know each other, and less time spent in their own heads bemoaning the other's alleged lack of attraction (? seriously didn't get why either would think that). Which leads me to....

- ***Suffers from the repeats*** : The one thing I would have liked less of was the constant "I can't be with him/her, he/she doesn't me" refrain that Sawyer and Olivia sang in their heads. The story needed more of a balance between their actual connection and their denial of their feelings. A lot of their romance was on a fast track to justify their constant woe of being together.

### **The Bottom Line**

I liked it, even if I had some issues with it.

\*\*ARC provided by publisher via netgalley for review\*\*

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### **Janey says**

**ARC provided by Entangled Publishing in exchange for an honest review..**

3.5 chick flick style stars

The consummate playboy, Sawyer Sterling finds himself in need of projecting the complete opposite.

His grandparents cabin is to be passed on to another family member, and they're keen to ensure that that continues. As well as Sawyer being the most unlikely candidate for true love and ever after happiness, his cousin may pip him at the post with his wife and 0.5 kid.

The cabin holds many memories for Sawyer, not all good, but the whole ambiance grounds him. He needs to be a contender, and therefore needs a woman he can trust to help him pull this off.

Olivia Morgan has been chasing around the world for the last five years in her daisy dukes, and now needs to come back to reality. Living out of her backpack and camping on her brother, Aidan's sofa, she mulls over her necessity to find a job and get herself an apartment post haste.

Sawyer and Olivia have known each other since they were kids, but nothing prepares them for the fake out they agree to embark on.

A new author to me, I found this a cute read, which traced the fake relationship of Sawyer and Olivia very nicely. Both MC's came with enough backstory to compliment, and the supporting characters were explored enough to do their job well too.

I enjoyed the dalliance between these two, as they negotiated the easy and not so easy temptations of each other.

"One room.  
One Bed.  
And Sawyer.

One room.  
One bed.  
And Olivia.  
Shit."

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### **Renee says**

The set-up for this hoax in the Hoax series is cute and endearing. Sawyer Sterling really wants his family's cabin. The reason I fell for Sawyer was mostly his sentimental need for his family's cabin. I loved how he wanted this on the inside and outside he was cool about it. So showing up with his best friends sister as his girl was adorable for me.

Olivia is introduced and has spent so much times just going with the flow. She has traveled all over the world and now sort of wants to settle down and be normal. Her character was needy in a very special way.

She doesn't appear or act like a whiny girl I was surprised at how fast I fell into a groove with this couple.

I loved this sweet, fluffy and romantic book. I am such a fan of this author and I read everything she writes.

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### **Aliana Milano says**

**\*4.5 stars\* ...**

Well that was such a pleasant surprise! I liked this book so much more than I thought I would!

This author did such a wonderful job of making such an almost cliché subject turn into something unique and beautiful and I loved every minute of it!

Olivia was so carefree and adventurous and I loved that about her. She had lived every girl's dream come true! And Sawyer! Sawyer was... well you can imagine how Sawyer was cause I gave this book such a high rating! Loved him too :)

I feel like this book has the right balance of happy and sad moments and I really hope the author turns this into series cause I really want to read a book about Aidan! He deserves to fall so hard...

Wonderfully written book and I really enjoyed it :) Now go read it!

*\*ARC kindly received, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review\**

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