



Built to Last

Aurora Rey

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Olivia Bennett is on the tenure track at Cornell University, the resident expert on Southern women writers.

After moving to upstate New York from Atlanta, she falls in love with and purchases an old, run-down farmhouse. The only catch: she knows nothing about renovating a house, taking care of land, or snow.

Joss Bauer is a New York native who grew up in her family's construction business. She has a soft spot for old houses, but no patience for overpaid debutantes who want to play at country living.

When Olivia hires Joss to do the renovations on her new home, the sparks fly, in more ways than one. It turns out both women have a lot to learn about life, love, and the meaning of home. But when a scandal threatens Olivia's professional reputation, it puts her priorities and her new found love on the line.

Built to Last Details

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Author : Aurora Rey

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From Reader Review Built to Last for online ebook

Pin says

I like romances in combination with home/house renovation or construction, and I also like strong female characters that women with a tool belt and power tools usually are, so there was no question whether I would pick up this novel from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

The book did not disappoint, but I was not too thrilled either. The leads each got their half of the book to be likable or to be irritating. An interesting approach, but not really my idea of well-done characterization. The sub-plot about Olivia's professional scandal was forced and unconvincing, and what is even worse -- it remained a moot point.

Nonetheless, the book is a pleasant read and a good way to spend a couple of hours, so 3 stars for that.

ARC provided by publisher via NetGalley

Loek Krancher says

Loved it!

Joss was too quick to judge and often jumped to wrong conclusions. Olivia gets under her skin and the flirtations aren't helping. Joss is gorgeous and takes Olivia's breath away. Actually, this applies to both. The house reconstruction, working side by side, day after day, things start to heat up. A budding friendship starts to form. Joss is a little old-fashioned and has a strong opinion and principles about dating. Forging a relationship seems impossible. Their feelings and priorities are put to the test. Can Joss act on her feelings? Both have their share of heartbreak, love and loss. Not everything runs smoothly. One act of compassion and an accusation turned the world of Olivia upside down. Can Olivia break free from her control issues? Building a strong foundation is hard work and demands commitment and time. Is this all worth it? The characters came to life for me and that makes the story extra enjoyable. I could identify with both the main characters. Joss' family is awesome, full of love, no judgement and family means everything. This in contrast to the family of Olivia. They do everything for the outside world, everything is about ambition and status. Olivia and her parents have nothing in common. This book leaves me feeling good and it melted my heart. A must for all lovers of romance.

Sandra says

This is my first novel by Aurora Rey and it was a pleasant read.

The characters are likeable and the story flows on a steady rhythm. But there wasn't that much ups and downs to really be exciting. It wasn't bad, but there was something missing.

I like very much stories with strong and handy women with craftsman professions. It was a nice romance with some great love scenes.

Overall a really nice romance. My rating 3,5 stars

Pippa says

Olivia Bennett is an academic specialising in Southern women writers. While working studiously towards tenure at Cornell University, she buys a rundown house on the outskirts of town. Between semesters, she jumps into house repairs, but is smart enough to hire the capable and gorgeous Joss Bauer and her family construction business to do the renovations.

Joss and Olivia have an instant attraction to one another. Joss, however, has a problem with academics after an ex-girlfriend ditched her for a career interstate. And Olivia comes from a family used to prioritising work at the expense of everything else. No matter how strong the attraction, overcoming their collective history will be a challenge for both women.

This is a clever romance with plausible characters and enough challenges to be interesting, but not so many as to be ludicrous for them to overcome. I really enjoyed spending time with Olivia, although I found Joss to be a little juvenile at times, and sometimes even a little irritating.

There were some laugh out loud moments, which is always a blessing with romantic stories, and some cleverly handled situations for the characters. The plot worked well, and the pace was effective. I did skip over some of the sex scenes, as while they would be normal for a new couple, they did get in the way of the story a bit towards the end and told us less about the relationship of the characters.

The ending felt a little rushed. There was certainly an appropriate resolution, but it felt like there was a bit more to tell for the characters. Perhaps this was simply an expectation, considering the pace of the book prior to the last few chapters.

I really did enjoy the book, and I look forward to reading the author's next one.

Advanced reading copy provided by NetGalley for an honest review.

Diane Wallace says

Ok read! very challenging story,felt way too much like a reality show/series where someone was showing others on paper the tools and the mechanic of the 'how's' to repair and restore an old house. Then the next in this storyline the author had both leading ladies dealing with their relationship on another level by them having angry dialogue back and forth then switching up right away and both falling in love immediately then they hit the sack(bed)ever so often. Questionable chemistry and relationship structure but i did enjoy the family dynamic and stereotyping was a huge issue and also at least the ending was better than expected

Heidi says

Built to last

The second book by this author. Great dialog with witty banter. The two main characters, Joss (a contractor) and Olivia (a college professor) meet when Olivia is buying an old farm house and needs an inspection done. Sparks fly! Not necessarily all good sparks. I loved the descriptions and could see the work being done on

the old place to give it a new shine. Nothing like an old farm house that needs repairs to make or break a relationship.

I kept thinking about the soap "Guiding Light" with Olivia and her money and Joss with her construction. (Like Olivia Spencer and Joshua Lewis). The Farm house, the banter and arguments.

The book wrapped up rather quickly, but had a very nice and believable conclusion.

Looking forward to more stories by Aurora Rey.

Penelope says

An honest review thanks to NetGalley. There were points in the book that I liked a lot, but overall I just couldn't love it. The relationship between the two characters never seemed real to me, and the first reaction from Joss followed her throughout the book, as she constantly continued making assumptions. Either Olivia or Joss was the least liked characters as they didn't listen or understand the other. Everything else was ok but the relationship between these two characters just didn't work for me, but I love other works by this author, just not this one. It was an ok read, but I will not reread.

Corporate Slave says

Very slow but well written. Nice characters but nothing special. Got bored at around 50% of the book and the only exciting thing was supposed to be a scandal at the university which really made no sense at all and I felt it was a bit rushed. We didn't even know who or why it happened so there was really no reason for it which in the end made the book quite predictable and boring. The only good thing was I liked the characters a lot .. 2.5 rounded up to 3 because of how well written it was.. Just needed some more spice for my taste :)

BookFiend17 says

I loved this book! My first Aurora Rey read but definitely not my last. I can't wait to read more by her. Such a sweet romance. Oooh and delicious sexy times. :)

Kate says

Olivia is a lecturer who buys a house that needs serious renovation, in steps Joss who's family own a construction business. Sparks fly as the two women work together to renovate Olivia's house. Joss automatically assumes Olivia is a typical southern debutante but she soon realises she's more than that.

Apart from a few subplots such as an issue for Olivia at work this book mainly focuses on the two women. I did enjoy this one. I don't think it's quite a 4 star for me but it was an enjoyable read none the less.

ARC received from publisher via NetGalley.

~ * K E L L I E * ~ says

This is the second book I've read by Aurora Rey, the first being her debut novel Winter's Harbor.

Our leading ladies are Olivia Bennett and Joss Bauer. Olivia is a university professor who purchases an old farmhouse in need of renovations. Joss is the contractor who Olivia hires to fix up the farmhouse.

As with Winter's Harbor, I struggled to immerse myself into the story. Usually I'd read this length book in a couple of days, however it took me a week to read this one. I honestly don't know why I couldn't connect with the characters in Built to Last. At some point in the book both characters seemed to annoy me for one reason or another.

I think Ms Rey's work is improving book by book and I look forward to reading her future work.

Even though I couldn't fully connect with the novel, Built to Last was still a nice read in which plenty of other reviewers have enjoyed. Overall, I'd give it 3.5 stars.

ARC provided by publisher via NetGalley

Ian says

If you're a below average musician who dreams of a career in the music industry you have a few choices. You can do session work, you can manage a band, you could switch to bass guitar or if the only person who thinks you're any good is your mum, you could play christian rock.

Put a cross or a fish on the cover and christians will buy it.

Honestly that's what this book feels like. It's the christian rock of lesbian fiction. It's average...it's sweet...it's mildly entertaining.

It might have been saved by a kick-ass narrator (I listened to the audiobook), but I'm sorry to say, the narrator like the book was only OK.

I don't read a lot of LGBT fiction. I've read enough to have an idea of it but my opinions are from the perspective of a heterosexual male so I may not be the best judge. That said I do have a recommendation...but it's a lot steamier than this one.

The Midnight Hunt by L.L. Raand is quite a hoot. Give it a go.

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

A.W. says

Olivia Bennett is an English college professor and just bought an old house in Ithaca. She hires contractor Joss Bauer to do the work on her house. Olivia is attracted to Joss and vice versa but Joss doesn't like the fact that Olivia is a professor, she was burned by an academic in the past and still carries negative feelings about it.

I couldn't say that I liked both main characters because they each annoyed me during parts of the book at one point or another. However, I did like the supporting characters and would've liked to have read more about them.

As much as I didn't like the conflicts which arose within the book, I have to admit that it was quite realistic problems and arguments the couples would have.

I wanted to enjoy this book more than I did but was slightly disappointed, I enjoyed the first half of the book but thought it dragged in the latter half. Overall, a nice light read for an afternoon.

Review also posted here: <http://wp.me/p4Pp9O-ee>

I was given a copy of this book from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Catherine says

My feelings of this book are a bit up and down. Mainly I struggled to truly connect to the book and its characters however there were moments that had pulled me in where I was enjoying the read and thinking this isn't so bad. I personally didn't feel the chemistry between the two. Olivia was likeable, kind, charming and sexy. However Joss is another matter for me, it took me about half way through the book to like her enough to enjoy the remainder of the read. She was judgemental and rude. Even when they started to date Joss constantly thought the worse of Olivia. The romance started as an instant attraction but I didn't feel the progression from it being physical to 'I love you'. Joss had doubts and then she didn't, I just found it didn't flow well for me.

The story dragged a bit and I found myself skipping some of the sex scenes to get things moving quicker. I liked the storyline which isn't particularly unique but found that was what kept me interested to keep reading (can't help but love a renovation and romance with the contractor). The big scandal created little angst for me. I think that could have been done better as well.

The ending left a few things that I would have liked resolved in regards to Olivia's work, even though I understand why this may have been left out but it just felt unresolved for me.

This book was mediocre and I know I haven't given a glowing review however I didn't struggle to finish the book (that's a win) and was interested to know what happened in the story. So it wasn't awful but it wasn't one for great praise. I think this will appeal to some and not others.

I was given this book by NetGalley for an honest review.

Netty says

That really did bore and irritate me....
