



# A Friendly Engagement

*Christine Warner*

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## **A Friendly Engagement** Christine Warner

Omar Esterly is married to his job. But when Omar sets his sights on a potential, family-oriented client, his confirmed bachelorhood becomes a problem. Fortunately, his friend and employee, Devi Boss, has the perfect plan...

Okay, so it wasn't exactly Devi's plan to become her friend's fake fiancée. Lies aren't her style. However, Omar offers her a big, beautiful raise—enough to track down the missing father she's never known—and Devi reluctantly agrees to the whole engagement hoax...

This was supposed to be a no-strings-attached win-win for both Devi and Omar, but when they cross the line between friendship and...well, something more, Devi realizes she's made a huge mistake that just might cost her both job and friend—falling for her fiancé.

## **A Friendly Engagement Details**

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Author : Christine Warner

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# From Reader Review A Friendly Engagement for online ebook

## Julie says

A Friendly Engagement by Christine Warner is the first book in her Friends First series. When old friends and work colleagues get together, you can always rely on drama and tears. Within the first few pages, I thought Omar was half in love with Devi, he wants to be more like her. She is free spirited, but has a great work ethic, work hard, play hard on the weekend.

Omar was brought up with the ethics of work hard, work harder on the weekend. He wants his father to be proud of the achievements he had brought to the family company. He wants the contract that his father never could. The only problem, the contract will only work with family orientated businesses.

So Omar plans to get an invite to a week long ocean retreat, and show this company what they are missing. Omar and Devi's relationship starts out as mutual friendship. They like each other, they work well together, so why shouldn't they pretend to be a couple, it's all for the greater good.

But Devi isn't convinced, she hates lies, and liars. She might live her life as a free spirit, but Devi isn't comfortable lying. Omar has it all planned out, and in his head it all sounds perfect, what could possibly go wrong ??? Devi grudgingly agrees. And an engagement is announced, from there it all goes .....not exactly to plan.

Omar starts looking at Devi in a different light, he is wondering why now, why does he feel the need to hold her in his arms and the fierce need to kiss her !? This could complicate things, he wants the contract, but I don't think he wants it at the loss of his friendship with Devi.

The week long retreat starts, and both Devi and Omar realise that their mission to snag the new contract might be harder than they thought. Trying to pin the boss and talk to him was proving harder than Omar thought. And what with his untoward feelings for Devi, poor Omar is in a bit of a bind. And if he had realised that Devi had thinking the same thing, I think he would have taken a few more chances. And when they finally get together, the sparks flew and everything was glorious.

They decide to continue this new development,(neither want to say relationship) both wanting each other, but afraid to say what's in their hearts. The fall out when it happens isn't a pleasant one !!! There are a few twists and heartache that soon follows, family betrayal soon threatens to tear the new couple apart. Will they survive, how do they go back being just friends? You will need to read this book to find out.

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## Bookylicious says

Fun light read. Nothing special. Classic friends to lovers situation. Predictable. Yeah who her father was also predictable even the writer never mention a word who he is. I predict sth that stupid is gonna happen. :)) so if u have lots of spare times to read give it a try sex scenes worth the read though;) those were epic:))) then skip to last chapter:))

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## Amy says

Actual Rating: 3.5 Stars

A Friendly Engagement follows the story of Devi and Omar. Omar is a workaholic. He's lives and breathes work. The last thing he has time for is fun or relationships. He's never had a problem with the way he lives his life until he needs to land a family-oriented client. He's at a loss of how to obtain this client. That is, until his assistant becomes the perfect plan.... Devi is the life of the party. She's always up for a good time and is willing to try anything once. So, Omar comes up with the perfect solution to his problem. Ask Devi to be his fake fiancée. I mean what could possibly go wrong??

A Friendly Engagement was a quick, fun read for me. You can never go wrong with the fake fiancée story-line. I enjoyed the chemistry between Omar and Devi. I found myself asking why it took them so long to open their eyes to each other. Omar and Devi were really cute together and it was fun watching them navigate their "relationship".

There are a few things that didn't quite work for me. With this story, my biggest problem was the pacing. I would have liked to have seen Omar and Devi's relationship develop a little more. I mean, I understand that they've worked together for a long time, but I feel like their feelings of love developed too soon. Almost like a case of insta-love, but not because they've had a long working relationship. Also, I felt like some of the resolutions were resolved a little too quickly for my taste. Without going into too much detail or spoiling anything, there is some groveling that takes place, but I would have liked to have seen Omar work a little more for Devi's forgiveness. That's just my opinion.

Other than that, I thought this book was an enjoyable read. Honestly, you can't go wrong with a fake-fiancée/friends-to-lovers type story. A Friendly Engagement was fun, sexy read. It had some good angst, even though I wanted more, and also a very interesting twist. This is my first book by Christine Warner and I'd definitely be interested in checking out more of her books in the future.

\*I was provided an ARC copy of this book via Entangled Publishing and NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review\*

My Review can also be seen at: <http://onceuponabookblog.com/2015/05/...>

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## Julie says

A Friendly Engagement by Christine Warner is a 2015 Entangled Publication. I was provided a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

This friends to lovers contemporary romance is a sweet and spicy, easy to read, contemporary romance.

Omar is all work and no play, a trait he inherited vicariously from his father. But, when a potential client he has been after for a long time remains aloof, Omar thinks presenting himself as a family man will get his foot in the door. I knew Omar never gave much thought to the fall out of such an arrangement, and he is surprised by how it all turned out.

Devi has worked for Omar five years and all her attempts to coax him into enjoying life a little more have failed. But, now Omar is obsessed with landing this client, to the point of trying to snare the account by concocting a fake engagement, and trying to get honest to fault, Devi to go along with it.

Devi finally relents and agrees to Omar's preposterous plan, but this scenario now has the couple seeing each other in a different light, one they never considered, even after five years of being great friends. But, Devi has ruled out marriage for herself and Omar of course has made it quite clear he doesn't want a family. But, as the two begin falling in love their priorities begin to shift. However, Devi is on a personal quest of her own, and when she finally makes some progress, the truth she discovers is absolutely stunning and could put an end to her budding romance.

This story has a nice balance of romance, intimacy and conflict, with a touching and heartwarming element added in for good measure. What I liked most was seeing two people focused on their work, without much else going on in their lives, discover there is much deeper meaning to life.

I have a problem with a couple of things, one being that Omar and Devi are kind of boring, although Devi is funny at times, their dialogue is often flat. Also, this is hardly an original plot line and if you use a familiar trope something about your story needs to stand out so that it's not like all the other "friends to lovers" stories out there.

I like more mature couples in my romance novels because while there must be conflict, the angst isn't off the charts. The sensuality in the book was some of the best love scenes I've read in a while since the author described lovemaking with a playful tone, with more than just a physical connection in play, which is becoming rare these days, much to my dismay.

Omar's character is the one with the most growth potential since he has a sad childhood and was turning into the same kind of man his father was. Devi too has some major issues to deal with, but she is a person who seemed able to process things better and was better equipped to handle life's unexpected curve balls.

I loved Omar's grand gesture for Devi in the end, which as quirky as it was, was also really romantic and sweet and most 'animated' Omar ever got in the story, showing his ability to have fun and live a little.

I've been quite frustrated as of late with some contemporary romances, but I found this one to be enjoyable and pleasant. Overall this one gets a 3.5 rounded to 4

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## **Book Gannet says**

3.5 stars. This friends-to-lovers, fake-fiancée tale is both fun and cute and exactly what you'd expect from this sort of read. Omar is a gorgeous, rich businessman hoping to seal the deal of his life, but there's a catch – he needs a wife, or a family, or failing that the promise of one in his near future. Except Omar has no intention of getting married or having a family – the guy barely even has time to date. In fact the only woman he spends much time with is his assistant, Devi... How convenient.

Even though I knew where things were going before I even picked this book up, I still thought it was nice that Devi had some reservations about lying. She's a friendly, gregarious woman and she doesn't like lying to people, so it was nice that she questioned Omar's idea and his ethics about the whole thing. Even though I

knew she'd cave. In fact I just liked Devi. She's fun and funny, and I loved how she pulls Omar out of his comfort zone. The running joke and use of Aladdin's *A Whole New World* was very cute, if a little, er, inappropriate during one scene. (But amusing.)

Omar is a typical alpha hero with a sad childhood. His behaviour isn't always perfect, yet at other times he's sweet and romantic and adorable. A little less pig-headed stubbornness wouldn't have gone amiss, but his big apology scene was pretty special. (And am I the only person not expecting a Bradley Cooper lookalike with a name like Omar? I have to admit the misleading names made me a little sad.)

If you like friends-to-lovers, fake fiancées or even boss/secretary tropes, then you'll know what to expect from this and will probably find plenty to enjoy. If you're looking for something fun and easy with plenty of heat, this will also tick most boxes. Perhaps a little more emotional development in the relationship between the two might have been nice, but overall I enjoyed this. I'm curious to see if Omar's younger brothers get their own tales some time.

(I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.)

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### **Deserie williams says**

3.25 stars! Sweet friends to lovers read. somewhat an enjoyable read. At times it was slow and I didn't quite connect to both heroine and hero together at times but the sex was hot :)(when it finally happened lol) With that being said I did enjoy the heroine. She was outgoing, free spirited , fun, sweet girl. The hero was a big workaholic but it was nice to see him slowly let loose. Both didn't want relationships but of course start falling:) I really needed and epilogue!

safe with exception: h has worked for H for five years. they were only friends. Both have been with others during that time. we don't see anything, no other men or other women drama but it is mention H dated a bit and h too. they both didn't do relationships and never loved! since both had others this didn't bother me. it seemed like both had an equal healthy sex life . although for the last few months H haven't had anyone do to being a workaholic. it isn't mention how long for h but I got it's been alittle while to.

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### **Toni says**

Fun, flirty, sexy, romantic; just a few words to sum up this great story! I was skeptical after reading some of the reviews, but I think Christine Warner did a great job developing the characters of Devi and Omar into the perfect friends to lovers couple. I found myself cheering Devi on in a few scenes when Omar was being such a stick in the mud! Again, I really found this book to be a fun read and really got caught up with the characters. I would have loved to have delved farther into their past, but overall I still loved it!

Omar Esterly is a no-nonsense workaholic following in the footsteps of his late father from whom he inherited his company, Esterly Financial. Omar has long since decided he doesn't need or want the heartache or distraction that comes with having a family; especially after his lonely childhood and watching his parents strained marriage. His business and success is enough to keep him happy...or is it?

Devi Boss is a fun, energetic, live in the moment type of woman. Devi understands how fragile life can be after losing her mother during childbirth and being raised by her grandparents. She enjoys her independence and never wants to experience the heartache her mother endured when she told Devi's father she was

pregnant and he turned his back on her. Her independence and love of life is enough to keep her happy...or is it?

Omar and Devi have had the perfect working relationship and friendship for the last five years. So it comes as no surprise when Devi comes up with the idea for him to get a fake fiancée to secure an invite to an exclusive week long meeting with THE potential client Omar has been relentless pursuing for the last three years. But, to Devi's surprise, and dismay, Omar chooses Devi to be his fake fiancée...what is a friendly engagement between friends? Throw in a weeklong exclusive beachfront getaway and sparks fly as hidden desires are revealed...

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## **Emmeline (The Book Herald) says**

*I kindly received this ARC from Entangled Publishing, LLC via Netgalley in return for a honest review*

***She lived by the motto of live your life in the moment, and he subscribed to neat and exact- nothing out of place of unplanned.***

Let get straight to the plot!

*Omar Esterly is a dashing owner of Esterly finance, he knows what he wants and he goes after it.*

*But that's only in business. In life, Omar stays away from anything that could complicate his life.*

*Devi Boss loves life, she loves to take chances and be the burst of light in a dark moment.*

*They are nothing alike and yet, they are very close friends.*

*Omar is so close to getting the deal of a lifetime that he can almost taste it!*

*Only problem is that the man he is trying to sell his pitch to has a rule.*

*whoever he chooses must. be. married.*

*Omar ever the glorious bachelor suddenly hits a brick wall.*

*But then he gets an idea...what if he asks his closes friend Devi to fake being his fiance until he gets the deal?*

*hmm...*

***"What's an engagement between friends?" (he asked)***

***"A risky business." (she answered)"***

and so begins the ultimate ruse, only problem is, when the ruse becomes a reality and emotions become hard to deny.

Overall, I really enjoyed this story for the most part.

However, i think that i should have a clear **warning**.

This book is 100% **adult** and that means there are sex scenes fairly graphic ones too.

It caught me a bit aback because I guess I wasn't expecting it. The way it began was fairly chaste and they \*BOOM\* the sexual descriptions started hitting you in the face. If you don't mind that, then this book is for you pikachu! but for me, i like my romances with much less description of what happens in the bedroom, bathroom or beach-side if you get what i mean.

The Characters were so sweet, Devi is such a funny and free character who embraces life. It was cool to see how she made the stress-ball Omar relax and smile.

Okay so description of Omar in this book was-

***" If Bradley Cooper had a twin, Omar would be it."***

yeaa....he sounds REALLY handsome in that book.

But this is in essence a best-friend falling in love story. Which is usually my favourite kind of romance, so if you are okay with a few \*cough cough\* scenes then you'll like this one.

I will honestly say that it isn't the most original story, but it was cute so why protest?

well that's that, i don't want to spoil the rest for you guys!

Stay Wonderful!

-The Book Herald

*tweet me @thebookherald*

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## **Kathleen R. says**

Overall Stars: 4 STARS

Drama

Hoax

It was simple: an arrangement to suit the two friends for their own gain, only it became complicated

Omar Esterly is married to his job. But when Omar sets his sights on a potential, family-oriented client, his confirmed bachelorhood becomes a problem. Fortunately, his friend and employee, Devi Boss, has the perfect plan...

Okay, so it wasn't exactly Devi's plan to become her friend's fake fiancée. Lies aren't her style. However, Omar offers her a big, beautiful raise - enough to track down the missing father she's never known - and Devi reluctantly agrees to the whole engagement hoax... This was supposed to be a no-strings-attached win-win for both Devi and Omar, but when they cross the line between friendship and...well, something more, Devi realizes she's made a huge mistake that just might cost her both job and friend - falling for her fiancé. (Amazon blurb)

Devi is everything Omar isn't, which makes them a perfect team. While his father managed the accounting company, Omar tries to land a high ranking client only to realize that he's family oriented. I must admit that I had troubles connecting to this couple in the beginning simply because we're thrown right into the chaos of Omar's wanting to get into the client's party. While Devi is wild, carefree and takes on more of a hippie state of mind, Omar is more of a loner, a stay at home type of man and married to his work - and considering those qualities aren't those I look first in individuals, they quite frankly surprised me. However, I like the



concept of this story, the different nuances and especially the humour that Devi brings into the relationship between Omar and herself. For a first time reader of Christine Warner's, I enjoyed it, and hope to see more in her next novels.

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\*\*Received a copy in exchange for an honest review. Read and reviewed by Kathleen for Alpha Book Club\*\*

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## **Elaine says**

Omar Esterly is a workaholic and his PA, Devi Boss, is also his best friend. He's heard about a potential client and he's keen to obtain his business but the client will only consider family oriented and that's something Omar certainly isn't! He comes up with a plan to get himself invited to the gathering at which William will decide which company to work with . . . he'll pretend to be engaged to his best friend, Devi! Whilst initially reluctant, she hates lies and lying, she eventually agrees after Omar promises to come clean and tell William about what they've done and why. Now all they have to do is spend a week at William's mansion, together with the other contenders for his business . . . And so, the fireworks are about to start crackling, especially when they see the sleeping arrangements! Will they be able to resist temptation? Will love find a way? What will happen when William discovers their deception? You'll just have to read it to find out!

This is an enjoyable romance where two folks who've been friends for years suddenly find themselves more than just friends, indeed more than just friends with benefits. The angst of searching for her unknown father, his from reconnecting with his family and finding out about the past all add turmoil and dissent to their budding romance and keeping the reader anxious about what will happen next. It is well written, making it easy to empathise with the complex characters - especially after the big reveals and subsequent heartbreak.

Thanks to the author, publishers and NetGalley, too,  
for letting me read an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Sultan \* Baby Mama Smut-a-teer\* says**

This was my first book by the author and I really enjoyed this story. If you know me you know one of my favorite genres to read is fake relationships that turn into the real deal. This story had the added element of friends to lovers as well. Which is another fav of mine.

Omar was all business and no play, well hardly any play. Devi made sure that Omar saw some lightheartedness and fun in his day to day life. She made sure he didn't take himself or life too seriously. However, even with the charm and charismatic Devi in his life, Omar still struggled with find the balance between work and home life. His days were filled with his financial company and so were his nights. Even the reason behind the fake engagement was all for business. But if Devi had her way ( and she often did) she was going to make sure that Omar stopped and smelled the roses once in a while.

Both characters were struggling with past demons and issues that they couldn't let go of. Omar only knew how to work and his main goal was to continue the legacy that his father had started and passed down to him.

Debi's issues were more personal and family oriented, however both were a big part of who they were as people.

I really enjoyed watching Omar and Devi fight their growing attraction and need for each other. I think this was of the reasons most people bought their farce of an engagement. The lingering looks, soft touches and sweet words they spoke to each other had everyone just in awe of them. However, all good things must come to an end, and when these two got their expectation date, things got a little .... Sticky to say the least. I will defiantly read more from Thai author. I enjoyed her writing style, her wit and how she spun a tale so lovely it left me all smiles. I recommend this book to anyone who's ever wished for a fake fiancé to spoil them rotten and show their love in an epic and grand manner.

\*\* ARC was kindly provided by the author in exchange for an honest review \*\*

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### **Itsy Bitsy Book Bits says**

A Friendly Engagement.  
By Christine Warner.

What is a guy to do when the biggest client he could possibly land wants a 'family oriented' financial planner to handle his accounts. Well ask his best friend to be his fake fiancé of course. What could go wrong, right? They are both adults, neither wants a relationship or is looking for love.

What is a girl to do when her best friend pleads for her help landing an account that could help the business? What about the hefty raise he is willing to give her because, oh yeah, he is her boss too? Well of course she accepts. What could go wrong right? They are both adults, neither wants a relationship or is looking for love.

Devi Boss is a fun-loving, live in the moment kind of girl that works for Omar Easterly. She has been his assistant for five years. They had an instant friendship. So when he proposes a preposterous idea she is unaware of what exactly she is getting into. The hefty raise however will help her find her lost father. Without her mother, her need to find him and find out once and for all if Grams was right is weighing heavy on her shoulders. Will this idea cost her something more than she is willing to lose? Friendship? Job? Her morals? How far will this have to go?

Omar Easterly took over his dad's company when he retired. Hiring Devi as his assistant was something he would never regret. From her live in the moment attitude to her heart she is a great friend to him. When she spouts off ideas and gives him the solution to his problem unintentionally he only has to convince her. Will things go to far? Will something from his past collide and blow up any chance of a future he thought he didn't want?

One push starts a dominos effect. Follow these friends as they find out what happens when business turns into a friendly engagement? Can they remain as they are or does everything change from the moment he asks.

Christine Warner needs a standing ovation for this friends to lovers unique story!

BUY TODAY - <http://amzn.to/1LMhk2U>

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## Julie says

Check out more reviews at [Little Miss Bookmark!](#)

Omar has one priority in life: work. If it doesn't have to do with his business, he wants nothing to do with it. Then comes along the client that wants to know he has a life outside of work and Omar sets out to find himself a fake fiance. He looks no further than his assistant, Devi. Devi really wants no part in this massive deception but after Omar assures her that he will come clean after the client realizes how valuable pairing up with Omar would be, she relents. Neither was ready for what happened next.

I thought that the summary sounded cute on this one and I couldn't wait to dive into it. Honestly, it was ... okay. I didn't really relate in any way with Omar or Devi. They seemed like shallow characters that didn't have anything to them. Omar works hard and loves working hard and works to love work and loves to love work. Got it. But what else? There were these little hints dropped about his background but nothing was ever really fleshed out. I enjoyed his character but I just didn't know him. And I felt the same way about Devi. And then them together ... just didn't seem realistic. For a dude who has his head only focusing on business and it had been that way for forever ... I just don't see him falling for some chick after one day. I mean, come on. Can people fall in love that fast? Sure. But the way that his character was set up, it just didn't seem authentic.

The story was pretty good. Although, there was a moment when things escalated so quickly that I actually wondered if I missed a chapter somewhere. Again, it just didn't seem natural to the flow of the story that was established in the first chapter.

Basically, I felt conflicted about this one. It wasn't my favorite but it wasn't the worst either. I will probably give the author another shot on her next novel because I did enjoy the story line.

\* I received this novel in exchange for an honest review \*

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## Shameeka Alexis says

*A Friendly Engagement* follows the story of Devi and Omar.

Omar is a workaholic. The last thing he has time for is fun or relationships. He's never had a problem with the way he lives his life until he needs to land a family-oriented client. He's at a loss of how to obtain this client. That is, until his assistant becomes the perfect plan...

Devi is the life of the party. So, Omar comes up with the perfect solution to his problem. Ask Devi to be his fake fiancée.

*A Friendly Engagement* was a quick, fun read for me.

I enjoyed the chemistry between Omar and Devi. I found myself asking why it took them so long to open

their eyes to each other.

Omar and Devi were really cute together and it was fun watching them navigate their “relationship”.

There are a few things that didn't quite work for me. With this story, my biggest problem was the pacing. I would have liked to have seen Omar and Devi's relationship develop a little more. I mean, I understand that they've worked together for a long time, but I feel like their feelings of love developed too soon.

Almost like a case of insta-love, which is a big no-no for me.

Overall, it was not bad.

*\*ARC provided via Entangled Publishing and NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review\**

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### **Amy says**

I thought this was a great fake-fiancé, friends-to-lovers story. Omar and Devi have a great boss/employee/friends relationship and you could feel the fun loving chemistry between them. Omar has his eyes set on a client he wants in his financial firm but this man is looking for a planner who is family oriented. That is so not Omar...he is all business and no play. Family and love are just distractions he wants no part of. Omar realizes to get the opportunity to present his financial plans for this client he needs a fake-fiancé and who better than his right-hand gal, his trustworthy and loyal assistant, who is also his best friend. Devi is a live-in-the-moment free spirit who is constantly trying to get her uptight boss to live a little, to let go and have fun sometimes. She is very hesitant about creating this lie and deceiving their co-workers and her friends, but Omar ultimately convinces her all will be ok and everyone will understand when they come clean about the ruse after they land the contract. They are already affectionate with each other but when they have to add romance to make their engagement believable, they are both taken back at how right it feels to be together.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading *A Friendly Engagement*. I loved the banter between the two. You could feel the chemistry between them. Once they added the sexual, flirty fun in their relationship the sparks flew! There was so much sexual tension, you could cut it with a knife. When they finally gave in to their desires, oh my, talk about some of the most sensuous, hot, sexy scenes written. WOW. It's amazing what you find when to open your eyes, step back, and look at what's been right in front of you. There is a great twist, tons of comedy and laughter, off-the-charts sex, heartache, and of course....love.

Definitely a great book to pick up! I really enjoy Christine Warner's writing style and am looking forward to reading more from her.

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