



Grind

Joanna Blake

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EYE CANDY. HARDBODY. STUD. I'm just a piece of meat to the women I entertain. And I love it. That's until she walks into the club. Suddenly, I want more. I want her.

My name is Chandler but hardly anyone knows it. I go by Candy, and when I dance, I go all the way. Women scream my name and throw their panties at me. I take home any woman I want. Sometimes, I take two.

Carolina is the stuck up neighbor who drove me nuts with her prissy ways and her hot little body. Sure, it was high school the last time I saw her. But our families have been going to the same church for generations. And I always had my eye on her. She was the most beautiful girl in town, sure, but it was more than that. She was also the smartest. She knew it too.

We had one night. One kiss. I fell hard, and she moved away. Even back then, she knew I wasn't good enough for her. Now she's here, in my club for her bachelorette party. Her friends push her up on stage. And I decide the bride-to-be deserves a very, very private dance.

I'm not letting her get away twice. Especially when I find out the bastard she's planning to marry. Little Miss Perfect has no idea what's about to hit her. Or how far I will go to get what's mine.... Her.

GRIND is a stand-alone novel with a guaranteed HEA and no cheating!

Grind Details

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Author : Joanna Blake

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Chantal ❤️? says

Ok I added a star to my original review here because of the AMAZING epilogue included in the book GO long by this same author.

This author has improved so much over time here and it is very evident in her amazing way of wrapping things up in the end.

I still can't give it 5 but man it was really close!!!!

So awesome!

If you read this book like me and it left something missing I suggest you read the end epilogue in her new book anthology Go long.

4 sweet family stars for them here. They settled down so sweetly.

-----original-----

MILD SPOILERS AHEAD!

For me, a clue here that's what they both needed.

The hero was such a complete slut. He says he has always loved her but that did not stop him from sleeping with her virgin friends (whom have taken a vow of chastity along with the heroine) while he waited to be allowed into her "holy" vagina!

Good grief!?

Did I really need to hear how many (so many) virgins he tried and researched in order to have his sacred night of holy love? Remembering, of course that It was all for his endless love here people! (Cough bullshit). Now, I must admit that she is one of the most clueless heroine that I have never encountered. However, She goes from naive-innocent-vow-of-chastity-Virgin to gun-holding-stitching up-badass-driving-sex-kitten in one short night!

Don't blink here people or you may miss it!

Just one crazy thing happening after another.

I will admit that some parts were very hot and I enjoyed parts of this book so 3 stars for me.

It's a cute story just not very realistic and the hero being a stripper was a nice change for me here. Normally it's the girl taking off her clothes and not the guy. That was hot!!!

Best scene is in the club during her bachelorette party.

Good thing he was the stripper there that night or they would have missed each other. Ah drama!

A sweet ending and it had some cute parts, but it was hard to get behind his love here and her naive personality.

Good thing she changed a lot or this book would have been painful to finish.

Safe somewhat (said loved her but sleeping with friends before they get together) with some OW/OM drama.

No mention of protection here at all.

Worth a read but not a keeper.

Cheney Stropus says

Two stars because I did finish, but I completely skimmed the last 15 chapters or so just to get it over with!!

Yikes!! I don't really like to write negative reviews, but I just don't have a whole lot of good to say about this one... Chan was a pretty sweet stripper with a heart, and Caro was a nice enough good girl with a naughty

side, but I didn't really feel a true connection. At times I think I did, but then it also just felt so rushed. They haven't seen each other in years, then she shows up in his strip club and he's full speed ahead in hot pursuit, only she's getting married, and the dude is apparently a really bad guy. Caro denies it and is upset, then we meet the guy, she tells him she wants to postpone the wedding and he gets all creepy on her. That whole scene just came out of nowhere. There was no build up to him kidnapping her or anything really. Just a bunch of stuff happening. No build to any of the relationships and no real explanations for anything. The two main characters hadn't seen each other in years and there was not one conversation as to why. They both had their own inner monologues as to what happened, but shouldn't they have discussed it? I think so! She took off without so much as a goodbye. She felt like everything he did was on a dare or a bet, but from his side, it was all he ever wanted! I just think that they should have at least talked about what happened all those years ago. Just not a great book all around. Needed more character development, more plot development and more explanations. Speaking of explanations, what the hell happened to the douche fiancé?? I assume he's dead, but I would like to know for sure. I don't know. Just not a very good book, not for me anyway. The plus side though, is that it was short so my misery didn't last long.

Gilgamesha says

Kind of cute...

★, • * ° * ?*Blanka*?*°°*•. ♥★ says

Good Lord, I don't even know where to start with this one..

The blurb and cover are really interesting and grab your attention, but sadly they just don't hold it..

Caro, our heroine is this twenty something I assume school teacher of some sorts, and the hero is a well known stripper/whore yada yada..

So, back in their small town in GA, the hero screwed everything with legs while Caro took a vow to keep her virginity til she got married..

Now she is engaged to this big russian mafioso, however she is soooo green behind the ears that she doesn't know that part of him..

Smart little Caro is marrying a gangster that she doesn't know, nor has she done anything but kiss him.. Her gf's kindap her, take her to the strip joint Chandler works at, and not seeing him for so many years yada yada yad..Chandler now wants her, he realized he loves her meanwhile he slept with half of Miami and most of Georgia..

Next day, Caro is questioning everything, day three she wants to call it quits with her gangster, day 4 she is head over heels in love with Chandler..

SERIOUSLY?

WHAT THE HELL?

Where is the story line? What about some connection? I felt like I was reading someone's facebook posting about the calories they consumed. Like how the hell does this church going virgin just all of a sudden change her mind? Again, NO story line.. time wasted unfortunately.

Swinging says

2.5 stars

This book was just boring to me. And the whole religion angle just bored me. Chan wasn't an alpha though I loved his enthusiasm, Caro was an unbelievable heroine. I enjoyed the best friend Joss, though he didn't feel like Chan's best friend, he felt more like an acquaintance Chan runs to for help.

Sad thing is if there was ever another book with Joss's story, I'd love to read it but I won't. This author's writing style and I just did not click.

Follow-up

I stand by this review except the ending when I say I won't read anything else by this author. I picked up BANG not realizing it was in this series or by this author (yeah, stupid of me once I actually look at the two covers next to each other, my only excuse is that I read a lot of books, oh well). Well, to paraphrase, I liked BANG - didn't love it or anything, but it got a 3 star rating from me. Though now it looks like the author changed the name of BANG to HEAT after publication, that's just bad form in my opinion. Especially since I've already proven to be a dumb-ass when it comes to similar titles and covers. LMAO

Sue says

I pretty much devour everything Joanna Blake writes...like a delicious snack late in the evening...when nobody is looking =)

All of her stories are funny, sexy, dangerous and quirky with more of an emphasis on the "danger" part in this one in particular.

Man candy in the form of Chandler "Candy", a male stripper who wields a mighty sword and has the ladies drooling at his feet and his first love from his youth, Carolina, a woman who is too innocent and trusting for her own good make up the romantic duo in Grind.

When they reconnect at her bachelorette night out and sparks fly all over again, it becomes Chandler's mission to not only save her from the man she is marrying but to have her all to himself.

This book had a lot of anti-climactic type action, scary moments and a ton of steamy, hot sex but underneath it all was a story of family love and misunderstandings with the message to never give up your hopes and dreams. A sweet and exciting quick read.

***** 5 ***** "holding on to those vows till the very end" stars

Amy says

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4 stars

Think sweet innocent girl . too innocent for me .. LOL ... meets hot stripper and kaboom. However the key here .. these two are old friends. One kiss is all Carolina had and then she bolted town. Chandler remembers the kiss and cant believe who he finds sitting on his stage. Women throw themselves at him on a daily basis all over town whether or work or not but the one girl he cant forget, who means something is sitting right there in front of him and she is engaged. Not only is she engaged but her fiancé' has a attitude that needs to go ... and Mr. Grind himself is the man to show her that HE is what she needs. Not the douche she is engaged to.

This story is a quick read. There is humor, sex, and ... danger. Yup there is an element of dang didn't see that one coming in this read. Carolina is that too trusting girl that finds out the hard way she shouldn't be so free with that emotion. Chandler sets out to save her from the man she is marrying and will stop at nothing to make sure Carolina is his and safe.

Not bad. I liked the fact that there was some excitement in this quick read along with the steamy stuff. Chandler is a good guy but Carolina made me nuts. Grow a pair girl! Pick this one up for a easy read.

I was gifted an ARC for an honest review.

Paula Genereau says

Caroline was a school teacher who was getting married. Her friends take her to a club. That's when she runs into a guy she knew from home. He's determined to get her but there's no way her fiancé is giving her up willingly

What a awesome book. Loved every minute of it

Nancy Lovallo says

The storyline didn't hold my attention. It starts with Carolina's bachelorette party. Chandler is a male stripper and has had the hots for Caro since they were young. She gets pulled in stage and Chandler does his best to get her attention. I don't know a better way to describe it. Chandler finds out that she on marrying Max, a crime boss. Chandler tell her and Carolina had no idea and doesn't believe him. Carolina is a good Christian girl. No sex before marriage. What confused me was how Carolina, a School Teacher meet Max. They don't go into that all.

Next minute she wants to call off the wedding but, Max won't let her. She goes to Chandler for help and the story quickly goes by.

It just felt to easy for them to bring Max down. He's a crime boss, shouldn't he be surrounded by bodyguards?

As for Chandler, all he thought about was sex, sex and more sex. It just got tired of it after awhile.

That's my opinion of the book

Tarsha says

The male stripper and the school teacher.

This was a cute story. Chan was a male stripper and Caroline was a school teacher. They knew each other back when they were younger. Chan was in love with her since then but Caroline thought he wanted her for a bet. They met again years later at Caroline's bachelorette party at the club Chan strips at. Caroline is actually getting a lap dance from Chan and then they recognize each other. The story takes off from there. There's a bit of drama involving who Caroline fiancé and who he really is. He's bad news and Caro doesn't know it yet. Will Chan be able to stop the wedding and have Caroline for himself? Will Caroline realize that Chan really does want her and have for some time now? Will the bad guy be stopped before it's too late?

Nicely paced story with some nice love scenes and likable characters.

Brandi says

Short, sweet, and to the point.

- Humor? Check
- Hot bad boy? Check
- Sweet, innocent girl? Check
- Sexy time? Check
- Disaster? Bad guy? Check and Check
- Wedding? Check
- Three* weddings? Check

Since this book basically has it all, I don't really need to elaborate, right?

Nice, short, and entertaining. Grind is the book to grab if you want a book that is super fast-paced and a HEA.

Ashleyjo says

Same general problems here as with "Player"...

1. Alpha that doesn't come off as alpha. Here, the male MC comes off as a half-cocked TSTL dude.
2. Ditz female MC with tree bark for IQ and a personality like the dried leaves of autumn.
3. Every plot point advances only due to over the top, unbelievable, illogical actions. Ex: female mc is engaged to a sado mafia dude that sells drugs and women. She brags about how wonderfully kind and sweet he is. He is patiently awaiting her virginity till after marriage. Male mc comes in and tells female mc what a

bad dude fiancé is... Bam, all of a sudden the female mc sees him for how he *really > is *eyeroll* because he for no reason whatsoever decides to drop his good guy mask and act like a douche. And, every single plot point is like this... Just illogical shit!*

April Symes says

A gifted copy was provided by the author for my honest review**

This is the story of a boy and a girl who are friends...grew up together and when they meet again, it's the kiss that rocked both their world and sent her running....

Carolina is the sweet, innocent church going good girl that Chandler has wanted to corrupt/touch/love pretty much all the time since he has known her, since she has grown up and he realized he wanted her.

Carolina is back in town and she is at “THE SHOW” watching a male stripper show when she sees “The Grind” in the act when she sees a man she knows and that man sees a woman he knows—Chandler sees the woman he never forgot —his Carolina. He finds out she is there for her bachelorette party and when he finds out who she is marrying- welllll, lets say Chandler does not like her choice in fiancée’. Her fiancée is a bit lacking and there is something sleazy and underhanded about him so Chan needs to save her from making a mistake and that is something he is going to do. Carolina is a sweet, innocent, too trusting type of gal and he needs to protect her—and well, he wants her and isn’t going to let any other man have her since she is back where he wants her. HE will be her only—A chance meeting where they get to talk again, and where Chandler can make inroads with Carolina and then the chemistry between them is so explosive—OMG, it is so good. Caro really torn—she has always had feelings for Chan but left because she wasn’t sure what to do —now, now that she is back and they are in the same place—she can’t let these feelings go. Once Chandler had her, there was no letting her go. There was some great twists and turns in the story and YES, there is a villain, one you didn’t expect—and no, I cant tell you who- but you will realize it when getting into the story. I wasn’t expecting this to happen for the villain but I could sort of see that happening. The ending was fabulous and swoon worthy. Another great Joanna Blake story for which I am now needing another fix...Chan and Caro were great...loved this story

My rating: 4.6 stars ****

Future Slayer Girl says

I liked it but something was missing...

You know. I did like this book, but at times I could tell a woman was writing the man. I also am not totally sold on the villain. Only because the whole thing happened to quick and I was really afraid of him. Feelings didn't overwhelm me while reading this. I didn't cry, and I wasn't in shock when the thing happened in the hospital at the end. That's only because I thought it was a bit 'unneeded'. If I was critiquing I would've noted it needed to be cut, it gave the story a disjointed feeling while reading. I would like to read other stories by this author. I just wasn't bursting when I was done reading this. It wasn't horrible, I do think a lot of people will enjoy this book! It's got popular themes and with Magic Mike being so popular it's going to be a must read for women! It just wasn't enough for me personally as a reader.

Heather andrews says

Sometimes a man needs to backtalk his granny to get his point across, “Caro is not a pretty little thing. She’s a strong, bright, independent woman. I’ve been in love with her since before I knew what that even meant.” This book had some steamy scenes and some action scenes as well and I’m not just talking about the bedroom action. This book was different than her others but I loved it all the same.
