“The Long Road to Love”
BBW Romance Series Plots

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Long Road To Love Series (10-Set)

Index for the “Long Road To Love” Series Contemporary BBW Romance Fiction Plots:

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Overview:

Having known Jakes from the time the two of them were in high school, Melanie Johnson has always hoped that the good looking hunk might notice her.

She is aware that most guys are more attracted to the slim model type of girls, something that is not even close to her description. Having always been a chubby one, her body size is still a major concern to her as she has now grown into a big beautiful woman.

Despite receiving countless advances from other guys, none of them comes close to what she feels about Jakes’ future interest in her, and she lives on the hope that he will notice her some day.

In this 10-set series, you will follow Melanie Johnson’s journey to find someone who will love her the way she wants to be loved.

Will she in the end find someone new to love? Or, will she find her way into Jakes' arms?

This story follows Melanie's love life, with its many highs and lows, over the course of nearly a decade.

Book #1

Long Road to Love Series

Overview

Melanie recognizes her feelings for Jake as true love. Unfortunately for her, he does not see her in that light. The most he gives her is general affection, which is way below what she expects of him.

Through several phases of her life she keeps hoping that he will recognize the big beautiful woman she has turned out to be.

Short Summary

Having known him from the time the two of them were in high school, Melanie Johnson has always hoped that the good looking hunk (*Jakes*) might notice her.

She is aware that most guys are more attracted to the slim model type of girls, something that is not even close to her description. Having always been a chubby one, her body size is still a major concern to her as she has now grown into a big beautiful woman.

Despite receiving countless advances from other guys, none of them comes close to what she feels about Jake's possible future interest, and she lives on the hope that he will notice her some day.

An invitation to attend her best friend's party is the opportune chance for her to get Jakes to notice her. In any case no way would she let her friend Chantal Blair down by not attending her engagement party.

She is tired of watching other girls her age going out with the guys they like, yet Jakes barely takes notice of her. Her experience with other guys has been far from ideal. No one else has managed to make her heart race the way Jakes does with only a mere glance her way.

She imagines being in the arms of the tall lanky guy with hair worn in a flip, who makes her swoon with desire each time she sees him. This is not so often, since they both live in different towns after taking different career paths after school. Melanie was cut out for law and she is pursuing the career with hope of becoming a renowned lawyer in her locality. Jakes on the other hand went on to pursue his love for music and is now a notorious Disc Jockey in the township.

Getting involved with Jakes is a dangerous affair as he has half of the town's women after him for his looks. The fact that he is out entertaining every night is a bitter pill for her to swallow as he is exposed to all kinds of people out there. It will definitely be difficult for her to keep a hold of him, should she manage to get him to even notice her anyway.

Taking one last look at herself in the mirror before she leaves for the party, she smiles at the image that stares back at her. Her cascading locks fall over her shoulders and her makeup lights up her face leaving her looking alluring. Not to mention that she has filled out in all the right places!

Character List

Melanie Johnson – Protagonist
Jakes Hammer – Antagonist
Brent Johnson – Melanie's brother and a childhood friend of Jakes
Chantal Blair – Melanie's BFF
Grant Johnson – Melanie and Brent's father
Davis Clark – Guy who has a crush on Melanie at campus

Core Conflict

Melanie is well aware that chances of her being together with Jakes are rather slim. Her brother Brent has tried warning her off him several times since he is aware of Jakes' wayward ways.

All three of them have been good friends ever since they were young, something that allows him to have a good understanding of Jakes.

"*That man is trouble; what with the number of women he has hanging all over him! What is a good lady like you doing, chasing after such a guy anyway?*" she has often heard her brother say.

Yet no matter how much she tries, nothing can dispute the fact about what she feels for Jakes. It seems as if he has inscribed himself all over her heart and will not depart, no matter how she tries.

Since she lives in a different town now, she only runs into him on the few occasions when she comes to visit her parents in her hometown. He has remained there as well, pursuing his passion at a nearby night club. On the occasions she has caught sight of him, he barely noticed her and each time is in the company of some lady throwing herself all over him.

Will Melanie be able to wrench him from his wild ways and convince him of her feelings for him?

Stakes

She risks losing her good social standing among her colleagues by associating with a man who has no value for integrity. She has heard of his drunken ways and he has been in trouble several times for getting involved in all the wrong stuff. Yet despite him living such a modest life she finds herself unable to forget him.

Melanie knows that her family expects her to marry someone of a good social standing and not some club-hopping guy playing music for a career.

The fact that her brother is against her association with Jakes gives her hint of the kind of reception she would get, should she to take him home to her parents. Yet there is no formula to love, so she relentlessly pursues the man she loves.

Chapter 1

A background about the two characters is given here. Melanie Johnson grew up alongside her elder brother Brent and knew Jakes Hammer, as he was her brother's friend since high school days.

Being several years older than her, he regarded her as a kid and did not take her affections towards him seriously. Yet she was convinced that she loved him from an early age and had turned down offers from other guys with the hope that Jakes would finally notice her.

She likes his tall lean body and the way his eyes seemed to light up when he laughs, causing her heart to skip a beat at the sight. She often fantasized about being held in his arms, where she hoped to unearth her one true love at last.

Jakes considers Melanie a kid and even though he has noticed that she is turning out to be a very beautiful girl, but he feels nothing but sisterly love for her.

Being his best friend's younger sister, how could he feel anything but brotherly affection for the beautiful well-endowed young woman she has turned out to be? Her curvaceous body has not gone unnoticed to him however, yet he suppresses any thought there might be anything between them.

Chapter 2

At one event when the two had been alone together, Melanie had done her best to flaunt herself before him with little success. Jakes had come over to visit Brent at their home but missed him. She took the chance to ask invite Jakes into their home for coffee, with hope of spending some time with him.

"*I really should be going since Brent is not here,*" he told her.

Melanie, on the other hand seized the opportunity of having him to herself, while all the time wishing he would pay more attention to her.

"*That is totally unacceptable, that you should refuse to come in for a cup of coffee*" she said adamantly, forcing him to go into the house to be alone with her.

After placing the mug before him she sat across from him, quietly sipping her own cup, while all the time hoping he would say something. She was not so lucky, as all she got was the sight of him sitting aloof as he anxiously glanced at the door, as if unable to hide his impatience to leave.

Chapter 3

Melanie is among the brightest students in her class and a favorite of her teachers. This wins her admiration from other students, and she is not short of invitations to go out with guys of her class. Yet despite some being real good lookers, her sights are set on the lanky lad who has made a record as a time waster in school. Jakes is best known for wearing headphones anytime he is free, and it is no

shock to most when he ends up settling for being a deejay after school.

Despite the glaring contrast between the two of them, she holds on to the hope of him noticing her for the beautiful woman she has become.

His eyes seem to draw her in anytime he looks at her and it is a sad day for her, when he leaves her to continue with high school as he goes away to college. Being several years younger than him, Melanie nevertheless made good use of her time at school, gaining entry into campus to study law.

"*We are so proud of you, Mel. You have done us proud and I look forward to having you join me at my law firm once you are done with college,*" her father told her on admission to law school.

Grant Johnson had hoped that both his children would become lawyers and was yet to get over the surprise that his son Brent settled for a Bachelor of Commerce instead. At least Melanie would be walking his path; he consoled himself on hearing about her admission.

Chapter 4

By the time she got admission to campus, Melanie learned that Jakes was already done with his college studies. It surprised her how he had spent such a short time in college. She saw him several times around town and each time he had company. That always sent pain right through her heart as she could not bear seeing him with anyone else.

"*Why doesn't he notice me instead?*" she wondered to herself.

Brent knew of his younger sister's obsession with his friend and tried to warn her off him at any chance.

"*He is just not your type, Melanie.*"

If only her brother understood how she felt about Jakes, she thought to herself often, trying not to let herself wallow in the rejection of being unnoticed by him.

She was torn about leaving to go to campus in another city, while all the time knowing that Jakes would be left roaming around as he liked. Keen on her studies however, she was set on going on to lay foundation to her dream career the next few years.

Chapter 5

Melanie settled into campus life easily and her studies were her priority. She would be found studying in the library most of the time, while her friends went club hopping on weekends.

Nothing had prepared her for the blunt advances she got from the guys on campus and it took her a while getting used to it.

"*Hi there beautiful, like to come to party with us?*" she heard them call out to her as she went on her

way.

Smiling politely, she made up excuses not to go along, as she had not seen any of interesting ones yet. Later on when she was settled in she agreed to go out with comrades on some weekends.

Apart from the fun of being out among friends, she had no attachments for the guys in campus until Davis came along. It was in his arms that she hoped to lose all memory of Jakes and her disappointment in love.

Chapter 6

Davis Clark was the kind of guy who had all the girls chasing after him. Tall enough to loom over her, Melanie met him on a night out with friends one weekend. Unlike other guys, she knew he seemed to be drawn to her instantly and within no time struck conversation with her.

"*Hi there, name is Davis. Like a drink?*" he asked on approaching her.

Melanie looked up into the kindest eyes she had ever seen and instantly liked what she saw. Looking over the handsome guy towering over her, she took him up on it and soon the two were chatting while sipping drinks. By the time they left the club to go back to campus, Melanie had succeeded in getting her first real kiss, out at the back of the club. She felt giddy at the feel of his lips on hers but quickly threw caution to the wind to enjoy the moment.

Chapter 7

It then became a habit for her to go out with friends and in no time at all her love of fun became routine to her. Having found acceptance among her friends, she plunged in to it and surprised herself that she no longer spent entire days thinking about Jakes.

"*Perhaps I am finally getting over him at last,*" she thought to herself one night as she lay in bed after a hectic weekend having fun.

Soon it was not unusual to see her out and about with friends as she enjoyed flaunting her generous form around.

Chapter 8

It was towards the end of her first year that she suffered heartbreak at the hands of Davis.

The two had been going out for a while and it had become general knowledge around campus that they were dating. Despite having been warned by some of her colleagues about his love for women, she had not paid heed to the warnings.

One lazy Sunday afternoon, bored with sitting in her room alone, she decided to take a walk to his

room and finding the door unlocked pushed it in to go inside. The sight of him curled up in the arms of another girl stopped her in her tracks.

Unable to believe her eyes, she stood watching the unfolding saga until Davis looked up to find her standing there.

"*Holy shit!*" she heard him curse as she ran out of the room.

Chapter 9

Her bitterness at what she considers betrayal by Davis, further diminishes her self-confidence.

The girl she found in his arms was slender and had fitted in with him so well. It makes her think that her size has something to do with the way the guys she likes treat her. Despite the fact that Davis is all over trying to apologize to her soon after, she will hear none of it and instead decides to concentrate on her studies.

It is some time before Melanie decides to give in to her desire to start going out again.

Determined not to let her body size get in the way of having fun, this time she dives into it with a view of being more careful with her emotions. She vows not to get involved with a guy so easily after the encounter with Davis, yet he eventually convinces her to get back together with him after all.

Chapter 10

Melanie gets through the early years of college, torn between her love for fun and being with the guy whom she cannot shake off.

Davis is bent on convincing her of his feelings for her, causing her to eventually give in to him. Not entirely though, as thoughts of Jakes have since started coming back to mind. Despite going out so often with Davis, she realizes that her heart still remains with Jakes no matter what.

"*What is the use of keeping my hopes pegged on someone who does not care about me?*" she wonders.

Soon after, she resumes going out for fun any time she gets a break from her studies. The arrangement seems to work well for her until the end of her second year when she goes for the long holidays and encounters more of Jakes.

Book #2

Long Road to Love Series

Overview

Melanie has realized by now that love does not come easy. This realization makes her look in all the wrong places for the thing she desires most, landing her in the wrong hands in the process.

Short Summary

While trying to gain acceptance from various guys she has met on campus, Melanie encounters the painful realization that she could easily get taken advantage of due to her size. Despite being beautiful, she is aware that most guys assume she will be easy because she is a bigger girl.

So what if she is the chubby girl who does not seem to give a damn what everyone thinks about her — on the outside!

The turmoil within her soul is a constant personal battle for her. And every time Melanie meets a new guy, who betrays her, her self-confidence is shaken further.

Having grown up within the security of a family that accepted her as she was, Melanie finds it difficult to understand why guys find it hard to accept her for who she is.

She comes to the conclusion that the only way to maintain her confidence will be to cut ties with the men in her life at the college. She then becomes the hard-hearted, big girl who cares only for herself.

She might seem well in control however, but deep inside she seeks true relationship with the man of her choice. There is nothing different about her, due to her plus size, as she has desires like all other women out there.

Her path to finding herself begins with her disappointment in relationships while on campus. Yet she still carries an air of confidence around her that only serves to attract the very people she is trying so hard to avoid — guys.

Character List

Melanie Johnson – protagonist
Jakes Hammer – antagonist
Susan Hammond – Melanie’s BFF
Davis Clark – Melanie’s first crush on campus
Ray Barnes – New guy on the scene

Core Conflicts

Melanie feels torn between compromise to gain acceptance among her peers and the need to remain unshaken. It seems that for her to be accepted, she has to give in to some unreasonable demands by some of the guys who are willing to go out with her.

Her reserved background makes this difficult for her, but eventually she decides to give in to her search for acceptance.

"*If only Jakes had accepted me, I wouldn't have to go through all this.*"

All her woes seem to have started with Jakes' rejection of her, and she realizes that no matter how much she gives away in an attempt to attract love, nothing quite replaces the love she has always felt for Jakes. A surprising realization, you might say, especially given that she has not seen him in a long while.

And so she is left wondering whether she should get on with her life without him in it or still remain hoping for a chance with him someday. In the meantime, she kisses a number of frogs, a necessary process before she can meet her prince.

Stakes

Melanie risks losing her belief in true love, as she gets involved with several guys while trying to hide her dejection.

Her studies are affected too as she grapples with bouts of helplessness at watching all the relationships she has been involved in fall apart before her eyes. If true love does exist, why I can't find it, she wonders.

While the reality of her predicament takes its toll on her, she still has to keep hope alive that it will all work out well in the end and she can be with the one who holds her heart.

Chapter 1

It is during the long Christmas break from campus that Melanie finally decides to fervently pursue the love of her life. Not even tales about Jakes marauding ways about town will stop her and she thus goes in search of him once she gets home. Their first encounter occurs when she walks in on him as he sits in a restaurant with a girl, appearing all cozy.

However, this will not deter her from hoping that he will at least notice her. He appears ardent on making certain that she gets the message that she is too young for him. The chance avails itself to her nonetheless, when her brother Brent invites her for an evening out with friends one weekend. Jakes is there alright, only she almost has to wrench him out of the arms of a certain girl, so he can even notice her.

"*Look whom we have here! If it is not little miss chubby looking all grown up and all…*" he shouts out drunkenly on catching sight of her.

Tempted to flee away from him, Melanie stands her ground so that he does not see how hurtful his statement is to her.

Chapter 2

Yet another chance for her to be alone with Jakes presents to her. Melanie is out shopping at the mall when she encounters him on her way in to the store. A wide grin on his face, he pulls her to him in a warm hug that fully awakes hope in her.

The feeling of being in his arms, even if only for a short while, is incomparable to anything she has felt before. When he releases her from the hug, she staggers from the feelings that rush through her entire being at the brief encounter with him.

"*You look so beautiful,*" he tells her, standing back to admire her from arms length. Trying not to feel like an art piece up for admiration, she blushes at the compliment.

"*Tell you what, why don't you get done with your errands and meet me for lunch right after this? I know a good place where we can chat while we eat,*" he tells her, totally unaware how pleasant those words sound to her.

Chapter 3

Melanie feels herself begin to let go after meeting Jakes several times throughout the entire holiday. It appears to her as if he suddenly realizes what a beautiful woman she is and has decided to give them a chance. Or so she hopes.

Jakes is generous in praising her for her looks, and she is riding on cloud nine just hearing him talk that way to her.

Several evenings before the start of the new semester, she gets an invite from him to go out to dinner.

This is what she has been longing for as long as she can remember. Taking her time getting ready to go out with the guy who has her heart in his hands, she is happy with the image that stares back at her in the mirror. Her cheeks are flushed with excitement at the thought of seeing him again. She is certainly looking good for her size and for a moment she turns around before the mirror, to take view of her full figure right before her eyes.

Unaware of what awaits her later on that evening, she steps out to meet Jakes, unseen by members of her family.

Chapter 4

How could he be so insensitive? What would make him treat me like that? Doesn't he recognize the love that I feel for him?

These thoughts and more cross her mind at the memory of her time with Jakes on their last date before going back to campus. It had started out rather well as the two got on with the date that day. However as the evening progressed Jakes started getting bolder with each drink he took. The more he drank, the louder his voice grew, and by the time she realized it was getting late, he could barely stand on his feet.

Knowing full well she could not stay longer, she had asked him if he might take her home and that was when all hell broke loose.

"*So you want to run home now, yeah? Why don't you stay on longer to have a taste of what grown up people do for fun?*"

So saying he swayed up to her, attempting to draw her close. He reeked of alcohol and the glazed look in his eyes got her wondering if he could even drive.

Out in the car at last, she sat right at the edge of her seat as she watched him fumbling around while attempting to start the car. Suddenly he leaned closer and without warning placed a sloppy kiss on her lips. With hands that felt like steel, he went ahead to grope her in the dark while she tried helplessly to get away from him.

"*I thought this is what you have always wanted from me?*" She heard his slurred voice.

"*Not like this Jakes, never like this.*" She said opening the door before dashing out of the car.

She had been fortunate enough to get Brent to come pick her up that night after her unpleasant ordeal.

Chapter 5

Her life changes drastically after the encounter with Jakes. It hits her that she has been hanging on to false hope of winning his love, while that seems to be the furthest thing from his mind. It is clear to her now, more than ever, that he might never regard her in the way she hopes.

The only way of getting over this is for her to go out with other guys. There are several that are quite ready to take her up on that. And so Melanie's life consists of endless partying and she no longer feels the need to hold back on having what fun she can.

That affects her studies too, and she is barely able to get her act together on campus. Davis still remains in the picture as well, despite the two of them falling out several times.

Now known as the big girl with ample appetite for having fun, she is on the list of those who can be seen club hopping most weekends. Having finally decided that there is no need of holding back anymore; she gets involved, as well as drops one guy after another in quick succession.

It is no use for her to invest any feelings any more since it is clear now that the "love" thing does not exist anymore. What, with the way the guys she knows treat her, love cannot be real.

Chapter 6

Towards the end of her college career, Melanie is surprised at realizing how much her grades have been affected by her love for fun.

She remembers how much hope her father had in her and knows that she cannot let him down.

Throwing herself into her studies — concerned that she might have spent too much time playing and not enough time studying to pass, she is oblivious of all else for some time, as she tries to catch up on what she has missed in her studies.

The time that she spends engrossed in her studies serves to steady her a while, and it is during that time that she also finds a chance to flash back on her life.

Except for her studies, she has little else to write home about concerning the way life has turned out for her. She is not proud of the way things have turned out for her. In fact, she is quite embarrassed by the bad choices she has made.

Since she will not accept failure in her studies — no matter what, she has to work extra hard so as to ensure that she finishes her college studies with good grades.

Chapter 7

Melanie has to contend with the pressure of friends who would rather have her go along on the wild side.

Despite having made up her mind that her studies now come first, she has yet to find a way of dealing with those who persistently want to take advantage of her. She has been with more guys than she cares to admit, all in the search for the all elusive acceptance. Yet she has not succeeded thus far in finding the one thing that she seeks most.

It is therefore an awesome encounter when a guy from her class, whom she had not noticed before, turns out as the likely answer for her search.

Ray Barnes crosses her path at a time when she is almost ready to give up on finding anyone who understands her. It is surprising to her how she had not noticed the cool guy with a shy smile from her class before. So when he offers to take her out to a resort club one weekend, she is hesitant at first to take him up on his request but finally accepts.

Chapter 8

Everything appears to be going rather well and it is not long before she realizes what a great person Ray really is.

The day the two of them spend at the resort club, Ray behaves courteously towards her, even though she can tell that he is attracted to her. Not wishing to have her hopes too high too soon, she plays along, only to realize that he has other plans on his mind.

The evening after she has gone to her room to freshen up, she is surprised to hear a soft knock on her door. She opens it to reveal Ray waiting outside, all set to take her to dinner.

Taking her hand in his, he leads her to the restaurant where a table is reserved especially for them. Ushering her to her seat he then takes his own before proceeding to inquire of her choice of a meal.

"*A glass of wine for the lady,*" he tells the waiter while they both peruse the menu. From then the magical evening begins and she does not even notice the passing of time.

Chapter 9

Melanie is so caught up with her new found relationship that she does not have time for anything else. Ray is the perfect gentleman, only doing what is pleasing to her.

He is too good to be true… Who thought such guys still existed?

All of this feels too good to be real; I don't want to think it might end.

Having made up her mind to flow with it, she is nevertheless pleasantly surprised when things turn out even better than she expects them to turn out. Ray appears to understand her better than any other guy she has met before, and she is almost certain that she has found someone worth her time at last.

Chapter 10

In between spending time with her new found guy and school work, time flies fast for Melanie.

When not studying, she can be found in the company of Ray who is still out to make a huge mark on her heart. It seems like he is getting somewhere with this as she feels herself let go of her inhibitions in relationships, when in his company.

The budding connection is not rushed, and at last she is starting to feel in control of her own feelings.

Her only hope is that things will not change between Ray and her and that he might be the answer to all she has been looking for all this time. Only time will tell how far it will go as she has no way of knowing yet. For now, the best thing she can do is to sit back and go along with all that is happening between the two of them.

Book #3

Long Road to Love Series

Overview

Life could not have turned out better for Melanie, than for her to find someone who accepts her for who she is.

Ray Barnes fits into her life like a jigsaw piece, even though at first she is hesitant in getting involved with him due to her past experiences. She finds herself unable to resist him and that sparks off an interesting time of her life.

It seems like her tide has turned to compensate her for the days she has lost in search for love.

Short Summary

Melanie has been looking for love in all the wrong places. She knows that she will not have another chance at it unless she is willing to let go of her hang-ups about relationships. It is going to take some time for her to gain faith in that department, but it is something she is willing to try. It doesn't matter that she has been rejected by the one man she has always hoped would some day love her, as she now has a good reason to believe that all is not lost yet.

Her life on campus is quickly drawing to a close and she anticipates going out to practice law. With everything that has been going on around her, she is proud that her future career has not been affected in any way. She can now look forward to stepping in to do that which she entirely loves, and what a better start but by having a caring man by her side!

Ray has studied medicine and she knows that he is the ideal of what her folks would love for her to take home to them. That is so unlike Jakes, who has managed to make a thorough mess of his life. He still remains in the reserves of her mind, always seeming like a shadow, even when she is involved with someone else.

Character List

Melanie Johnson - protagonist
Jakes Hammer – antagonist
Ray Barnes – new found love
Rachel Baker – room mate on campus
Grant Johnson – Melanie's father

Core Conflict

It feels as if she is making herself vulnerable by allowing someone else into her life. The new guy in her life is doing all he can, trying to measure up to her expectations, yet she is sometimes filled with dread at getting too involved again. She has been hurt several times before and even if she has managed to stick clearly to her defined boundaries, she is not sure how far she can take this.

Ray on the other hand is holding nothing back where she is involved. He is always there for her when she needs him.

She is aware that he is serious about her as he constantly talks about their future together. There is nothing she would like more than a secure relationship with a guy who well understands her, except that something seems to be holding her back.

Jakes is still looming on her mind. Can she release the ghost of the man who remains etched in her mind yet who is nothing but trouble to her?

Stakes

What if at some point Jakes sobers up and comes running to her for the lost love?

It seems as if Melanie is still holding on to the hope that there could still be a chance to be together with the man she has always cared about. Yet it is Ray who is in her life now, and she knows that it is unfair not to give him a chance since he is such a great guy.

Still the niggling uncertainty still plagues her, leaving her unsure about how to deal with the new developments in her life.

Can she take another chance at love without putting too much at stake once more? What if things don't go the way she hopes once more? Will she be able to cope with another heart break if that happens?

Chapter 1

Ray is fervently pursuing Melanie and she finds it difficult not to give him a chance.

The tall sporty type, he compliments her rather well as he is fast on his feet. Melanie thinks that his somewhat shy demeanor is enthralling to her and she loves the way his eyes twinkle each time he looks at her. It is as if his heart is reflected in the way his face lights up, which is often enough.

At times, she finds herself imagining being in his arms, something that he has taken time with so far and at such times she catches herself smiling at the thought. So far the only physical contact they have had between them is holding each others' hands. Unaware to her, that is just about to change.

A few weeks to graduation, the two of them go out to the movies. The entire evening is well planned out, and she can feel the anticipation of what lies ahead of her from the time he picks her up in his old Chevy. Not much is said between them on the drive except for the occasional glance her way, yet the

air around them remains heavy with promise. Driving up to the movie theater, he takes her hand as they both walk in, seemingly in tune with one another.

"*Would you like to get some snacks while I get the tickets?*" he poses to her, ever so politely.

"*That's alright,*" she tells him as he draws out several bills from his wallet then goes ahead to place them in her hands.

They both walk in, arms joined together to enjoy the show.

Chapter 2

Melanie is unable to hold back the tears as the story unfolds on the screen. She can relate well with the characters, as the movie is all about a girl who struggles with her identity due to some events in her past. As the emotions of the movie take hold of her, she notices that Ray keeps sending several glances her way. Could it be that he has sensed what she is feeling right now?

He leans close to her and the feel of his arm going around her makes her relax. The soft scent of his cologne as well as his fresh breath does wonders to her. No doubt she is drawn to him in a big way. She can hardly wait for more to unfold between them, only she does not want to appear too eager. And so, when he leans across to seek her lips in a kiss, she finally throws caution to the wind letting herself go.

Chapter 3

The cool wind is blowing, sending her hair all over her face. Ray notices her distress and calmly reaches out to try and put back the locks into place. The stubborn wind is not letting up and he wonders if they should not go back inside.

This has to be the most beautiful place on earth. The magnificent view that is spread out before them makes her breath catch at the beauty of it all. It seems Ray picked out the perfect place for their last weekend on campus. It will certainly be a memorable one, if what she has seen so far is anything to go by. The ranch is set with a backdrop of some hills that are spread across the background. This is the place the two of them will be spending the weekend together and she shivers, thinking of what lies ahead for them both.

"*Let's go inside. It is getting pretty windy out here,*" Ray tells her, gathering her in his arms. Without a word she obliges as together they walk back into the hall, hand in hand.

Chapter 4

The flurry of clearing from campus takes up most of Melanie's time, the next few days. The place is filled with so many memories and she looks back at some of the monumental moments she has spent there.

Not to be forgotten are the days she spent bent over her books all in an effort to achieve her goal. Neither are the countless times when she staggered back to her room on campus, after spending the weekend partying heavily. She is proud of her forthcoming graduation, since she has accomplished her mission of being there. Her family is sure to be proud of her, especially her father, for living up to her dreams.

"*Can you believe how time flies? Only the other day we were checking in here and now it is time to go,*" her roommate Rachael Baker points out to her.

"*It sure does. So much water under the bridge yet here we are,*" she answered pensively.

The two have become really good friends over time and have shared a lot of memories together, both good times and sad times.

She will miss Rachael so much as they have really bonded and it almost feels like she is separating from the sister she never had.

Chapter 5

It felt different for Melanie to be back home with her family. She would soon be working anyway, but she had decided to take a break after leaving school. It was a good time for her to catch up with the rest and most of her time was spent making up for lost time in effort to spoil herself.

"*You deserve it, Mel. That was no mean feat you had there. Go on, take time to have some fun,*" her father prompted her.

Fun to her was now increasingly taking on new meaning as it meant spending time doing the things she liked to do on her own. It was no longer a group thing, and she savored her new found freedom at last. From taking walks around to going to the mall, every activity she was involved in was geared at making her feel better. She had been through quite a lot while away on campus, and this was definitely time for her to live it up, after all she deserved it now, didn't she?

Chapter 6

"*Can you believe it? He wants me to accompany him on holiday to the country,*" Melanie tells Rachael on the telephone.

"*Don't tell me you want to decline the offer. You sound a bit hesitant,*" Rachael shoots back.

"*You know me well, Rachael. I do not want to get my hopes too high about this guy even though he seems so good to me.*"

"*Don't get started on that. You will never get anywhere with those hang-ups you have about the past. It is time to let go girl and take on new challenges.*"

She nods in agreement, knowing that her friend could not have put it across in a better way. Indeed it is

time for her to take a leap into the unknown, after all, isn't that what life is all about?

Chapter 7

It is difficult for her to believe she has only known Ray under a year. He fits in so well in her life, and she has no doubt that he cares deeply about her. The two of them have spent quality time together ever since they traveled to the country. From taking long walks in the evening to her attempts to ride the horses, she has enjoyed herself immensely the entire time they have spent here.

It is time well spent since she has learned a whole lot about him the entire time. His shy nature comes from growing up with a dominant and no-nonsense father who does not believe in anything short of perfect.

"*I grew up with the knowledge that if I wanted dad's approval I had to be the best at what I did,*" he had told her as the two of them took a break while out on a walk.

Now glancing at the guy lying quietly next to her in the big bed, she is more convinced than ever that she has met someone worth her time, at last.

Chapter 8

Her father wanted to know, several days before Melanie made a move away from home, "*How does it feel, finally coming out of the nest?*"

She had found a job in another state and would be living there as well.

"*Both happy and sad. Happy that I can now live my dream, while sad that I am leaving all this behind. It kind of feels like nothing will ever be the same for me again,*" she tells him.

Grant Johnson looks proudly at his daughter realizing how well she has turned out. This is exactly how he envisioned her life, and now the only thing left is for her to find someone, with whom to settle down. It is still too soon to think about that but then he hopes that she will make the right choice in that department as well, when that time comes. She is a bright girl, after all.

Her move to another state is only made easier by the fact that she will now be closer to someone she cares deeply about. She will get to see more of Ray now, as he too is going to work in the same state, albeit some distance from where she will be.

Chapter 9

Finally her journey has begun and she takes a final check to see if she has everything she needs. Nothing has been left behind and she is all set to leave. Watching her family as they stand watching her go, she feels a lump forming in her throat. Amidst hugs and goodbyes, she finally gets into the car to depart.

Having decided to drive there, she has to start out early so as to get there in good time. Ray will be waiting up ahead for her, as he is already settled in to his job already.

Warmth spreads out throughout her entire being at the thought of the guy who has given her nothing but good memories in the short while they have been together. She blushes as she flashes back to their time together and cannot help but look forward to what the future holds for the two of them.

Chapter 10

Life takes a new turn the minute Melanie starts her career.

She finds that she barely has time for anything else and has to put in more hours every day in order to cope with the workload. In between hectic working hours and taking time to rest, she barely has time for anything else. Yet, she will have to get her act together somehow so that she does not wear herself out on the job. Fortunately, her colleagues at the office are very helpful at helping her to settle in with work.

"*So, am I ever going to see you any time soon?*" Ray sounded desperate on the phone.

"*You will Ray, just that it is taking me a while getting used to all that is going on at the office. I don't want to make a mess of things, so I am taking time learning the ropes,*" she tells him.

Even though he sounds convinced about what she has told him, Melanie still carries the guilt of not being able to see him as often as they would both like. She misses being with him in a way she had not thought possible and can only hope that things will get better with time.

Book #4

Long Road to Love Series

Overview

Melanie now has to grapple with a new life of independence, as she fits into a new role. It is a challenging one, given that she is working with lawyers who have been in practice for many years.

Her relationship with Ray Barnes has somehow been put on hold as she is still trying to juggle working life and being in a long-distance relationship.

Short Summary

What a contrast that she has found the one thing she has always been looking for, yet she does not have the chance to enjoy it! She has only managed to meet Ray a number of times since she arrived, and she knows that this separation is putting a strain on them both. The challenge is for her to make time to spend with him, as she will not allow their relationship to suffer.

Ever since she moved to the new state, she has noticed that Ray is getting bolder with time and is placing quite a number of expectations on her.

There are still no clear boundaries set in their relationships yet, therefore she is not quite clear of his expectations of her. Even though their times together are all she might have ever wanted, she is in the dark about what he has in mind, as far as the two of them are concerned. Her thinking is that she needs to tread carefully to avoid placing too much expectation on him.

That is until temptation comes walking into her life.

Character List

Melanie Johnson – protagonist
Ray Barnes – her long-distance boyfriend
James Cole – Troublesome workmate
Tom Hardy – Gym instructor
Rachael Baker – campus roommate
Chloe Skiller – Guy in the gym

Core Conflict

Melanie cannot afford to give away her heart in unclear terms yet again. Yet this is how it is turning out for her with Ray.

She is now a confident and beautiful woman who will not settle for just anything in her relationships. She has however, on several occasions, wondered if she did not take Ray for his word way too soon.

He tells her that he cares about her, but she is left to wonder how comfortable he is with her weight. Despite her constant attempts to lose a few pounds, she has not succeeded in doing so.

She can no longer deny that her weight has a huge effect on her view of relationships. This is especially true as she is now struggling to cut out a professional image on the job, while several of her colleagues keep making comments about her plus size.

Given that others seem to not tolerate her extra weight, she wonders if she should she believe that Ray is genuinely interested in her and is not bothered about the extra pounds sitting on her body?

Stakes

It will be a sad day for her should she discover that Ray's interest is only for the moment. She can feel herself falling hard for him yet the niggling doubts keep coming up in her mind. Unsure about how to deal with them, she can only hope that the feelings he professes to her are true.

Should it turn out that he, like the others before him, is only taking advantage of her, she risks losing confidence in herself. Once more she does not know if she possesses the will to go through something like that yet again. Yet she cannot dismiss his stated interests in her, merely on the suspicion that he is just taking advantage of her, since none of his actions points that way. It would be a big blow for her to fall out with him due to her own fears of inadequacy.

Chapter 1

As she settles into office life, it becomes clear to Melanie that she will have to work hard in order to keep pace with the rest of her colleagues.

Fortunately, she is doing something that she loves to do, therefore she is willing to give it a lot of attention to get where she wants to go with her career.

"*Hi big girl, want to go out and catch some lunch?*"

It is that pesky man in the office trying to wear her down with his advances once again. Ever since she stepped into that office, James Cole has been trying to get her to go out with him through all manner of speech. A much older man whom she feels should content himself preparing for retirement; he seems to have found reason to believe that she could be interested in going out with him.

"*No thanks, I will catch a snack later on as I have a lot to do,*" she responds to him.

Chapter 2

"*You seem to be comfortable being on your own any time you are free,*" Ray told her on the phone again.

How will I be able to tell him that I am only handling this the best way that I can?

Come to think of it, the poor guy has a good reason to complain since I barely even have the energy to call him as I get back home too tired from the office. I really have to make some effort on this, lest I lose a good guy along the way. Damn this weight I carry around making me feel tired all the time!

Realizing that so much depends on her, Melanie gives in and invites him to dinner at her place that Friday evening.

"*Cool, I will start out on the drive early enough. I look forward to seeing you then, Mel*" he says happily while hanging up the phone.

Regarding herself before the mirror on her way out of the bathroom, she notices that nothing has changed with her weight, despite her attempts to cut back by skipping lunch at the office.

Chapter 3

Things are easier between Ray and Melanie, after the evening spent together. Ray stayed the entire evening and she realized how much she needed the break. Spending time with someone she liked could be the magic to get her to momentarily forget the stress associated with her working life.

"*You really need to find ways to free up some time. It is important that you balance your work and your social life as well,*" Ray points out as he gets ready to leave.

That is easier said than done, she thinks quietly to herself. Without saying another word, she sees him out while promising to take heed to his advice.

The thought keeps popping up in her mind, "*Perhaps if I was slightly slimmer I would have more energy to get more done.*"

Chapter 4

It is raining heavily outside and Melanie is thankful she decided to spend the day indoors. Being a Sunday morning, she is in no hurry to leave her bed where she lies staring blankly at the ceiling.

Many thoughts cross her mind, many of which have to do with the way her life is going so far. She is finally catching up at the office, and she has even managed to quiet the troublesome James by a show of dedication to her work.

The thing that worries her most now is the fact that she has not been able to cut back on weight so far. Her view of being on a diet is that she should shed some of the weight, something she is yet to see

happen to her. She wonders whether her full figure is her determent in making her relationships work and if that is the case, then it is only a matter of time before her relationship with Ray goes the way of the previous ones.

"*This is the perfect weather for working out,*" she whispers quietly, willing herself out of bed to begin some morning exercise.

Chapter 5

"*Excuse me ma'am, are you looking for something your size?*" the attendant at the clothing store asks.

"*Yes please, I need some pants to wear to the office,*" she answers.

The girl goes to check at the back office only to come back with a disappointed look on her face.

"*I am so sorry ma'am, I can't seem to find your size for that.*"

Trying hard not to let her disappointment show, Melanie gets ready to leave but not before noticing the sympathetic look on the girls' face. Smiling in a bid to reassure her, she walks out of the store, none too happy about what just happened.

As Melanie walked out the door, she muttered to herself, "*Damn this awful weight. I can't even find something decent to wear to work?*"

Chapter 6

Melanie is delighted that her college friend Rachael will be over for the weekend. The two have not seen much of each other since graduation, and she cannot wait to catch up with her.

"*The only way I am going to get information about what is going on in your life is if I come over and get it from you,*" Rachael retorted on the phone.

"*I could use some company Rach. I really look forward to having you over,*" she tells her.

As she gets started making dinner after a hectic week, she has to admit to herself that Ray was right. In reality, she needs to give her social life a boost as she feels energized at the thought of seeing her friend again.

Rachael arrives late Friday evening and cannot hide her excitement at seeing Melanie again.

"*You look wonderful, Mel,*" she calls out the minute she steps out of the cab, before drawing her in for a warm hug. It hits Melanie only then, how much she had missed the feel of genuine friendship upon seeing Rachel.

"*You look good too. Common in, you must be worn out after your flight.*"

The two friends chat long into the night after having dinner. They catch up on details about each other, and not long after Rachael pops the expected question, "*So, how are things between you and that shy*

dude getting on? I bet you spend quite some time together now that you both work in the same state?"

Shaking her head, Melanie admits that they do not have so much time together. Her friend edges closer for a better understanding of the reason why things are that way.

Chapter 7

Melanie has enrolled into a gym where she goes by every morning before heading to work. She hopes she can get rid of some weight, so that she can get around much more easily. She is also tired of attracting curious glances while around town and not being able to wear what she likes, due to her size.

"*Good morning Mel, you up for the treadmill today?*" inquires the gym instructor as she walks in. Tom Hardy is a lanky guy who manages a smile each time he sees her.

"*Yes Tom, I will take it on today as well,*" she tells him.

"*Careful though, you don't have to push yourself too hard too soon,*" he points out to her as she defiantly takes to the mill.

Done working out, she is heading to the changing rooms when she encounters an athletic man coming out of the gym as well.

"*What a tight body,*" she thinks to herself, noting how well toned he looks.

The man flashes her a smile as they pass each other, and she cannot help but notice how good that looks.

Chapter 8

Melanie is surprised to discover that she looks forward to going to the gym each day. She is aware there is another reason for her interest but is not yet ready to admit it yet.

After encountering the attractive guy at the gym, her hopes are that they get to bump into each other again.

She has seen him working out earnestly each day, and each time has his earphones on. Watching the rippling muscles of the man she barely knows has her thoughts going wild and she has caught herself fantasizing about him several times. Yet each time the two meet he acknowledges her only with a polite nod before getting on his way.

For some reason she cannot explain, she keeps hoping he would pay more attention to her. Yet for the following few weeks nothing of that sort takes place and things continue in much the same manner between them. That is until the day when she is late to the office after working out, when she encounters the man whose name she had recently learned — Chloe.

"*You late getting started out too?*" he asks her in the most sexy voice she has heard so far.

Chapter 9

"*No, not too fast. Explain to me so that I might understand what you are saying,*" Rachael is telling her on the phone. She is almost falling over herself as she narrates to her best friend about the new guy on the scene.

"*He has the most handsome body I have ever seen, Rachael. I am afraid to admit that I live for the day he will pay more attention to me.*"

"*Are you telling me that you are now falling for a man you hardly know and now long for him to notice you while at the same time going out with Ray? What has happened to you, girl?*"

Melanie takes a fantasy trip in her mind later that evening. Closing her eyes, she imagines how it would feel, being in Chloe's arms and momentarily loses herself in her flight of imagination. She only snaps out of it on realizing how far gone her time is as she has to get to bed if she has to make an early start the next day.

Yet even then, the man from the gym will not leave her mind as she dreams of him in the most intimate manner possible.

Chapter 10

It has become increasingly difficult for Melanie to put a reign on her thoughts. Ray is starting to notice her distraction and seems unhappy about the way things are going between them. She feels sorry for him since he is such an honest guy, yet she is unable to understand the path her emotions have taken lately.

She still makes time to spend time with Ray, but it is more out of sympathy for him. Most of the time they are together, she finds herself silently obsessing about Chloe.

Chloe might as well have cast a spell over her from the way she obsesses over him. The thoughts that go through her mind, each time she sees him are nothing she has had before and that in itself has her all excited.

The man is vibrating with sexual energy, I wonder if he is aware of his effect on me? How can he not be, when he so brazenly walks past as if without a care in the world? I wonder what he does for a living?

She is out shopping for new gym wear when she looks around into a familiar set of eyes. Right across from her stands the object of her desire. Chloe gives her his characteristic smile, but this time he walks up to her making her heart lurch at the sight of him.

"*It seems our paths keep crossing,*" his deep voice tantalizes her. Lost for what to say, she fumbles helplessly for a while before finally finding her tongue to answer him.

“*You can say that again*,” she simply tells him, made uneasy by his steady gaze.

Book #5

Long Road to Love Series

Overview

So much confusion reigns in Melanie's min,d ever since the day she met Chloe. After the encounter at the store, they start warming up to each other and now stop for a chat each time they meet at the gym.

Melanie does not understand herself any longer, but one thing is clear to her. The way he makes her feel is alien to her and she finds herself drawn to him in a way she is unable to resist anymore.

Short Summary

With her career now well on track, the only challenge that remains to her is accepting herself well enough to believe she deserves love. From the rejection that she got from Jakes, who has was her first love, she has been on a chase to find love and this has led her on quite an adventure. That, coupled with her desire to cut back on the pounds, is keeping her well on her feet.

Chloe notices the voluptuous woman at the gym and not ever having had interest in plus size women does not give her much thought. Yet the two of them keep bumping into each other more often, each time prompting him to acknowledge her politely. She is beautiful alright; if only she can succeed at cutting back some weight, she might have more going for her. Her generous body does little to conceal the beautiful woman within, and he is impressed at her persistence in going to the gym.

I like watching a woman who knows what she wants and puts all effort going after it, he thinks to himself.

Character List

Melanie Johnson – protagonist
Ray Barnes – her long-distance boyfriend
Chloe Skiller – Guy at the gym
James Cole – colleague at work

Core Conflict

Everything dictates that she should stick to the guy she has been going out with for a while now. Yet her emotions are bent on taking her elsewhere. She has to wrestle with the desires that Chloe awakens in her and is shocked to discover how she longs to know him better. He is still a very mysterious guy to her, and she wonders if she can handle knowing him better with time.

What if he proves too much for me to handle, then what?

Being the first time she is so drawn to a man in that manner, there is no way she can ignore Chloe. Perhaps if she gets the chance to know him better, she might lose interest in him. Perhaps the desire will pass with time and she can go back to being with the guy who loves her with all his heart. What if that does not happen and she gets stuck with feelings for a guy who could be out of her reach?

Stakes

The risk of having found love then losing it in her quest for more excitement is now more real than ever. Still, she knows that the ache that remains in her will remain un-quenched if she does not give in to her desires. The wanton yearning that has suddenly taken over her is threatening to capture all her reasoning, and she is unable to stop the roller coaster that is her emotions lately.

In the event she gets a chance with the one she is yearning for, what is the right path to trend with him?

Chapter 1

The two of them are sitting together in the park and Melanie recognizes Ray's efforts to have things go back to what they were between them before. He has noticed that she is drifting further off and all his efforts to bring her back are proving futile, as far as he is concerned. He wonders what has come over her, but he cannot find it in himself to ask her since she has not given him reason to doubt her.

Moreover, he is sure this has nothing to do with her work as she is already well settled in. Leaning closer to the woman he loves, his attempt for a fleeting kiss is repulsed, leaving him even more in the dark about what is going on. Melanie on the other hand feels nothing but repulsion at his attempt. She cannot believe that this is the same guy she has spent nights with a number of times before. It is as if the attraction she felt for him no longer exists.

Chapter 2

Having only just stepped out of the gym she is surprised to find Chloe waiting at the door for her.

"*Hello there, did you have fun with your morning exercise?*" he asks her.

"*Oh yes I have, certainly a good start to my day,*" she tells him, as she proceeds to wipe off her sweaty brow.

The two of them walk on in companionable silence and when she gets to the changing rooms bids him goodbye.

"*Tomorrow then? Perhaps I can give you a run on the mill,*" he teases, all the while smiling at her.

"*I will definitely take you up on that,*" she replied.

Did I imagine it or were there emotions hidden in his eyes? What was all that about anyway, she wonders to herself.

The rest of the day is spent in the office with little time to think of anything else. Only when Ray calls to take her out for lunch does she look up from her work.

"*Ray, what will I do with you now?*" is her silent plea, as she gets ready to meet him for lunch.

Chapter 3

Chloe is already ahead with his workout when she steps into the gym the next day. She feels her heart leap at the sight of him and quietly takes to her exercise. She is soon engrossed in what she is doing, coming from the encouragement that she has been feeling slightly lighter on her feet. She is not sure yet if it is her mind playing games with her, but she is determined to find out the truth at the scales, on her way out. In the meantime, she has an intense work out ahead of her and she plunges into it with fervor.

"*I did not see you come in, did you forget we had a deal?*" Looking up, Melanie finds Chloe watching her. His eyes roam all over her body and she notices him trying hard to remain in control.

"*I am sorry I came in slightly late today and did not want to disrupt your workout,*" she tells him.

As she is done too, the two of them walk out together as they go to freshen up for the day.

"*Since I missed the chance at the gym, will you let me buy you lunch later on today?*"

As soon as the shock wears off, she nods her consent and the two of them settle on a venue before going separate ways.

Chapter 4

Sitting across from him at the Italian restaurant, she cannot help but stare in amazement at him. The man might as well be a god sitting across from her. Bent over his meal, she takes yet another chance to have a look at him and feels a shiver running down her entire being at what she sees.

The way he does everything speaks seduction to her. Even the way he chews on his food has her wondering if he is not out to make her entirely aware of his presence. Everything he does is in the slow lazy manner he carries himself around with.

"*Enjoying your meal?*" he asks her, on noticing she has barely touched her meal.

"*Yes, quite. I love spaghetti bologna.*"

"*Good to hear that. I do not like to see food left uneaten.*" That sounded more of a warning to her not to abandon her meal.

The rest of the time is spent in uneasy silence as they both ate their food fully aware of the chemistry

between them.

Chapter 5

The entire office staff is going out for the weekend to a resort. There are deliberations that need to be put in place and it has been passed around that they should all go there for the weekend.

Melanie has packed a few sporting clothes since she is sure there will be some activities on the trip. Even though not keen on letting her colleagues see her in the tight fitting gear, she has no choice in the matter, but consciously packs a change of clothes.

The morning sessions comprise of lessons on best practices in law, where afterwards they get changed and go for other activities in the afternoon.

James will not let up on her, but sees this as an opportunity to further his intentions for her.

"*Hi there Mel, you sure could use a hand in this,*" he says, offering her a hand to get on her feet after exercise.

She ignores him, choosing instead to get on her feet by herself. After snubbing him so openly before the others, he keeps away from her the rest of the stay at the resort club.

That man should know that I can get around pretty well without his help!

Chapter 6

Life has now settled into the usual routine once more. Her relationship with Ray is more balanced now, even though she still has hang-ups about Chloe. As he still presents as temptation to her, she is not being too optimistic about being over him.

She walks into the gym early one morning a few weeks later and the two of them meet right outside the door. He appears anxious to get started with exercise, but on seeing her immediately stops.

"*Hi beautiful, how are things?*" he calls out, causing her to blush.

Before she can say anything in response, he pulls her into his arms and then proceeds to kiss her passionately on the lips. Her breath catches at that, but then she finds herself giving in to the passionate kiss. Eyes still closed, she does not realize it is over until she opens them to find him staring down at her.

"*Looks like you enjoyed that as much as I did. I have wanted to do that from the first time I saw you,*" he tells her before proceeding to go off for the morning routine. The rest of the time the two of them spend there that day, has neither of them saying anything to the other.

Chapter 7

"*You don't say! You have even gone ahead and kissed him?*" Rachael is half shouting over the phone.

"*I did Rachael. It was the most interesting kiss I have ever shared with anyone before. I would give anything to do it all over again.*"

"*You know what girl? I have no idea how you plan on getting yourself out of that one. I will be interested to see how you go about it,*" Rachael says, as the two conclude a phone conversation.

Melanie has spent enough time trying to think things over but is still unable to figure out what is going on with Chloe. It seems like a good idea for her to stay away from him for some time so that she can come to some conclusion about what is going on between the two of them.

The two weeks she manages to stay away from the gym is spent trying to keep her mind on other things. She even makes time to go home to see her folks with an aim of cooling her heels after the encounter with Chloe. Still not sure how far she will get with that, she can only hope that time will offer her direction on the way to handle it.

Chapter 8

Melanie is in high spirits as she awaits word from Ray. Ever so sweet to her, he is on his way to her place for the weekend, and she is anxious to see him. He gets there just as she is getting done preparing lunch. Ray pulls her in for a hug and the two of them walk into the house to have lunch.

"*I have missed you so much!*" he tells her as they sit across each other at the table. She feels some remorse, knowing what has been going on in her mind all this time but quickly pushes those thoughts away.

"*I missed you too Ray,*" she answers, as they both dig in to the sumptuous lunch.

By the time the weekend is over, she is left with no doubt about Ray's feelings for her. Yet it is unfortunate that despite the love he is offering her, she is still having thoughts about Chloe.

Hoping that the time she has spent away from him has brought a difference in the way things are, there remains only one way for her to find out. What will it feel like, seeing Chloe after the time away?

Chapter 9

Rachael is looking her over with her eyes full of concern as the two friends sit close to each other on the couch.

Melanie had chosen to take the 3 hour drive to her place with hope she might have time to figure it all out. Even now, as she sits close by her friend after sharing everything about the one night stand she had with Chloe, she is no closer to finding the answers she seeks. She is just through narrating to her about what happened between her and Chloe a few days ago, something she is yet to come to terms with herself.

“*What is it you are trying to find with all this running around, Mel?*”

The question hangs over her head, left unanswered, and Rachel all but wants to scream to her to stop. Yet if anyone can give it to her straight it is Rachael as the two go a long way back.

Melanie walks to the mirror in her friends’ bathroom and standing there looks herself over for some time. Her full figure makes her want to squeeze further into herself as if that might help the way she feels. It is then that she realizes that she will have to confront the issue at hand in much the same way she has her weight. With patience and by accepting to take on the challenge involved.

Chapter 10

She is floating on cloud nine as Chloe keeps taking her one level after the other in passion. She yields to him since it is the thing her body desires most and seeing her willingness to go along with him, he accelerates the assault on her emotions.

She knows she should not be doing this, yet she cannot find the strength to stop herself, no matter how she tries. He is playing on her passions and relentlessly continues taking her places she has never been before.

Melanie wakes up from the dream and for a while remains staring into the dark before finally switching on the lights. It had felt so real, as if it was happening all over again between them. Her mind has not forgotten the encounter with Chloe and she slumps back into bed with realization that the thing she had with him is far from over.

Can she succeed in forgetting the man who gave her the experience of a lifetime?

Book #6

Long Road to Love Series

Overview

Melanie is losing her mind at the mere thought of the emotions Chloe brings out in her. Never in her entire life had she thought herself capable of so much feeling, and it almost feels as if she has finally come alive.

Her love for Ray remains intact, but it is Chloe who manages to tap into the recesses of her passion, bringing out more than she was formerly aware she possessed.

Short Summary

Within the short time he has been in Melanie's life, Chloe has managed to unearth so much passion in her that she is surprised at the depth of her passions.

She can think of nothing else, every waking moment and all other relationships she has had before are overshadowed by her secret rendezvous' with Chloe. Well aware of the effect that all this might have on her stable relationship with Ray, she is unable to hold back however, continuing instead to keep going for more.

It seems not even her weight will deter Chloe from making the best of their times together. He always gives her a touch of heaven and all the while she surprises herself at her response. The man is a guru, certainly well knowledgeable on the art of pleasing a woman her size.

So what is she supposed to do when her heart beats for one man, yet her body is crying out for another?

Character List

Melanie Johnson – protagonist
Ray Barnes – her long-distance boyfriend
Chloe Skiller – Melanie's secret lover
Tom Hardy – Gym instructor
Brent Johnson – Melanie's brother.
Jakes Hammer – antagonist.

Core Conflict

The course of true love has never been easy. Even after getting her hearts' desire, Melanie is still on a chase for something she did not know she needed.

Yet behind every woman is the desire to meet the man who makes her fully aware of her needs. In her case, that man is Chloe as nothing beats their now frequent passionate entanglements.

Ray is keeping up with his pursuit of what he believes is a stable relationship. Melanie is lucky he does not live close by, as it might have been difficult for her to go on her regular escapades with Chloe.

Most nights, lying down in bed, the guilt of what she is doing behind Ray's back comes up from the recesses of her mind and at such times she finds herself beating herself up, if only for a while.

Stakes

Melanie will never be able to forgive herself should she end up hurting Ray with all that is going on. It is her fault entirely, since she is the one who is unable to steel her nerves against the temptation that is Chloe. Not that she has even tried to stop something that feels so right by all standards.

Chloe's life is as mysterious as they come and so far she knows little about him. He has not spoken about any emotional commitments to her and what they have is based purely on their obsession for each other.

What is the true essence of her life? Being with a man who loves her entirely or a few stolen moments with this stallion in her life?

Chapter 1

It is as if he can read her mind. It is Monday morning and even amidst other people at the gym, she can feel his eyes boring into her. The sudden shiver that goes through her is not from the cold but from her imagination of him. His presence is well defined to her in the room, mainly from her knowledge of just what he is capable of doing to her.

When it is time to go, she steps out of the room to go get changed. There is work to do, and for the moment, she has to leave all emotions at that to concentrate on other things.

Regarding herself carefully in the mirror, a smile crosses her face despite having noticed that her weight remains unchanged.

Chapter 2

The office is abuzz with news of imminent change coming up. Melanie has caught wind of news that things are about to change and even though she doubts any of that will directly affect her, she is curious to know what is going on. She goes along with the rest as they discuss the possible effect of the coming change, while all she longs for is to be rid of that awful nag that is James Cole. That old bag of bones has always made her life miserable with his persistent advances at the office.

"*Things will not be the same around here,*" she has heard her colleagues discuss at the cafeteria. She

does not give it further thought, but instead awaits whatever decision will be made.

Towards the end of the week a major overhaul takes place at the office. It is a great moment for her as she is handed more responsibility at the law firm, something of great importance in the growth of her career.

It surprises her then that something other than this should be the source of her excitement. She has to admit that the reason for her sleepless nights has nothing to do with a new role in the office. It has everything to do with anticipation of the next time she will get a chance to be with Chloe.

Chapter 3

"*Hello, how are you doing?*" She can recognize that drawl anywhere.

Straightening up, she is now alert after recognizing Chloe's voice over the phone. That kind of call is better taken privately so she steps out of the office to speak to him. In much the usual manner, he is straight to the point in passing his message across.

"*Tonight at 7. I will pick you up at the restaurant, if that's fine with you?*" he says, his tone coming off as more of a command than a request. She shivers inwards at the urgency in his voice.

"*I will be there. See you then.*" She returns to the office, with a smug look on her face.

"*You look like you worn the lottery, care to share the good news?*" James asks, looking up on seeing her walking back to her seat.

"*No thank you James. It is nothing you would be interested in hearing about,*" she tells him, with a smirk on her face.

"*You know you can tell me anything,*" he continues as she buries herself in her work to cut him off. Her moment of joy now interrupted.

Chapter 4

The room is well lit and Chloe opens the door for her. She steps in to the sound of slow music playing in the background. Looking nervously around, she turns around to face the man who looks all set to take her on. He smiles on seeing how tense she looks and then proceeds to take her in his arms.

"*You are quite a beautiful handful, you know that?*" he whispers in her ear. The tone of his voice is her undoing and her silent whimper unleashes his animal desire as he leads her to the couch. It is a while before the two emerge from their liaison, by which time it is well into the night.

"*See you at the gym tomorrow,*" he calls out to her, before seeing her off to her car. She is not sure she can make it, as she prefers sleeping in most Saturday mornings.

Melanie goes home to sleep off her evening of passion and not even once does Ray feature in her mind.

Flashbacks of the time spent in Chloe's arms overshadow Ray, and it surprises her how natural everything feels for her and Chloe.

Chapter 5

"*I am inviting you over for the weekend and would love it if you can confirm this to me.*"

Melanie replays the message on her answering machine, as if trying to find hidden meaning in it. It had to be Ray calling her so early on a Saturday morning, she thinks, as she throws the covers over her head once more.

No way can she make it to go over to his place to face him, in the heat of what transpired the night before. She still feels evidence of her time with Chloe, a feeling that is not altogether bad for her.

I guess I will just have to call him up later and tell him I will not be able to make it. I have no reason to give him yet, but I will have to find a good one for letting him down.

That settled, Melanie spends more time in bed, to be awakened the persistent knocking on her door. Looking at the time, she is surprised to see it is way into the afternoon and she wonders who it might be on her door. She does not have long before finding out as throwing the door open, she comes face to face with Ray Barnes!

Chapter 6

Between persistently lying to Ray and making time to go off with Chloe every now and then, her life continued unabated.

Melanie had by now become used to the fact that she could not have all her needs fulfilled by one person. It was her excuse for seeking the company of several guys at the same time.

Her early life had taught her not to put all hope in one person, a lesson she was living out as well. Every so often, she remembers the way she had her hopes on Jakes, the guy whom she believed might have met most of her needs single-handedly. The only problem was that he had not given her a chance to find out; despite her making it clear she would have liked nothing more.

The fact that she was doing very well in her new position at the firm gave her the necessary boost to continue in her pursuit for happiness. Having long accepted the fact that she could do little to change her outward appearance, she was now more confident in her skin.

Most of her weekends were spent out shopping or going out with friends, but she really was more comfortable spending time on her own usually. Such time was spent curled up on her bed with a book or catching up on news when she was not trying out a new recipe in the kitchen.

Of late, her craze for healthy eating was taking over most of her free time, in a bid to cut back on weight.

Chapter 7

She was having trouble accepting the fact that anything might change for her in the near future.

Ray had started talking commitment, a thing that scared her more than she was willing to admit. It was not exactly her idea to be stuck with a guy for life, knowing that she was engaging with another on the side.

"*Perhaps we should give this a bit more time, see if we are compatible,*" she suggested to Ray.

"*More time Melanie? How much more time do you need to determine whether you love me enough to spend the rest of your life with me?*" He was starting to sound exasperated, something that concerned her a lot.

"*You know I love you, Ray. I just don't want to get into anything much too fast. Is that too much to ask?*" When she made it sound like she was a victim, Ray usually gave in to her demands. It was not different this time.

"*Alright then, you can have more time to make up your mind. Please don't take too long though.*"

Chapter 8

Going back to her hometown always gave her a feeling of anticipation. While driving to see Brent, Melanie weighed various matters on her mind. She was not sure she could afford the time, but had decided to make time to go see her brother.

His call asking her to go over to see him had sounded rushed and she was curious to know what it was all about. It had been a while since she saw him anyway and the initial time after they met was spent catching up. She meant to go home to see her parents for the evening, before driving back to her place the following day.

"*You look well settled now. How is work?*" Brent asked her as they sat across each other over lunch.

"*It does get hectic at times but I cannot complain,*" was her answer to him.

It was after they ordered that Brent informed her of his reason for asking her over.

"*Remember Jakes Harmer?*" he asked, as if there was a chance she could ever forget him.

Nodding, she waited for him to continue.

"*Jakes has taken a wrong turn in life and is in trouble. He requires someone to present him in court for being involved in a scam. Do you think you can take up the role?*"

Chapter 9

So much time has passed since she last saw him, but seeing the guy she knows will always have a place in her heart in these circumstances makes her sad. Jakes had to go get in trouble again, this time requiring her to bail him out.

She has to take time off from work so that she can try to help him out on this. There is no way for her to find rest, while he is out there trying to prove his "*innocence*."

The guy who sits facing her is not the same one she knew growing up. Jakes is now a shadow of his former self and seeing him that way still affects her nonetheless.

I guess I will always love him anyway.

"*You came to see me even after the way I have treated you in the past,*" is his opening remark on seeing her.

Chapter 10

It makes more sense for her to have someone else deal with Jakes' case. For one, she cannot afford to stay too long away from work. Yet she understands that the case requires someone who is patient, since Jakes is hardly sober the few times she has seen him.

It is then that it crosses her mind that her friend Rachael might be able to be of help in the case. A fiery lawyer in the state, Rachael can be trusted to take the bull by the horns. while also covering up dirt found on Jakes. It is time for her to call up Rachael, see what both of them can agree on, regarding the case.

By the time she is ready to return to work, she has spent a lot of time with her folks and everything is well set out concerning Jakes.

Looking at the messed up guy before her, she feels sorry for the way he has turned out. Perhaps this is just what she needed to completely get over him while also gaining closure over his rejection of her. At least she is leaving him in secure hands, she figures as she gets up to leave.

"*Goodbye Jakes. It is always good to see you again.*" And with that statement, she marks the start of her attempt to heal from the past.

Book #7

Long Road to Love Series

Overview

Contrary to what she expected, Melanie is far from over Jakes. Relentlessly pursuing his case from a distance has managed to convince her as much and this in turn poses a threat to her relationship with Ray.

Now more than ever she doubts she would be making the right choice by accepting Ray's proposal, having realized that Jakes still occupies a large part of her heart.

Short Summary

The case involving Jakes bothers her more than Melanie expected, and she puts in a lot of effort to get him off.

Funny how seeing him brought up feelings she thought were long forgotten, despite the fact that he does not look like his former self. Rachael is handling the case rather well and constantly updates her on the progress. Jakes too, has found reason to call her every so often and his helpless voice on the other end is fast becoming her undoing.

She and Chloe are still an item, while Ray appears to be fading into the background with each passing day. It breaks her heart that things should be that way, but then realizes she is not in charge of her emotions.

And then news of Ray's accident are relayed to her, leaving her filled with guilt at everything she has been doing behind his back.

Character List

Melanie Johnson – protagonist
Jakes Hammer - antagonist
Ray Barnes – her long-distance boyfriend
Chloe Skiller – Melanie's secret lover
Rachael Baker – Melanie's friend
Doctor

Core Conflict

It seems as if Melanie has bitten more than she can chew. She is still unsure of how to deal with the

guys she has let into her life, as they all demand attention from her. On the one hand she is yet to meet one who will complete her needs fully, so that she does not have to rely on seeking fulfillment elsewhere.

Her first love is now showing his face, this time in need of her help. She reckons she is helping him on humanitarian grounds, but she also recognizes there is more to it when her feelings for him start to awaken after their meeting.

Stakes

While it is clear to her that what she has with Chloe will not last, she is worried about Ray. He is the perfect gentleman, always ready to give her a chance even when she least deserves it. He is the most deserving of her love yet — the one she least shows concern about. In need of her now, more than ever, she is finding difficult juggling the various needs of the men in her life.

Yet she did not hesitate to go back running in aid of Jakes who caused her so much pain in the past. Perhaps unconsciously, while she has been away from him she has been on the lookout for compensation for what they never had together. The thought hits her so hard in the face, staggering her instantly.

Chapter 1

Once back at the office, Melanie immerses herself in trying to make up for the time she was away from office attending to Jakes. Even at the thought of him, she feels anxiety starting to rise in her. The sooner he is acquitted the better for them all so that she can get back with her life once more. Funny that he still wields power over her emotions after all the two have been through.

Rachael seems to be making progress on the case leaving Melanie with no reason to keep hanging on to the details. Rather, she will not admit how worried she is that Ray might have to face the consequences that come with the crime he is alleged to have committed. Yet, why does it concern her so much?

Chapter 2

"*What do you mean Ray Barnes has been involved in an accident?*" Melanie shouts into the phone.

"*Yes ma'am, it is unfortunate he has. He asked to have you notified at once.*"

Cursing under her breath, she feels a headache coming on but then reaches for her phone to call Ray. His phone is switched off, making her realize how serious the situation is.

"*Dammit! I did not even ask what hospital he has been taken to!*" she chastises herself, as she gets up to go take a bath so that she can go see him.

As wave after wave of guilt consumes her, Melanie rushes to go and be with Ray. All she has learned so

far is that he was involved in a car accident on the way from work. It sounds pretty serious, going by the tone of the person she spoke to on the phone. She cannot wait to get there to see him as he might be badly hurt.

What have I done with such a great guy, taking him so much for granted and all? How will I live with myself knowing how much he loves me yet I do not feel so committed to him anymore?

Chapter 3

She inquires at the hospital where Ray is admitted, "*What do you mean I will not be able to see him now?*"

"*The patient is in no state to see visitors. I will let you speak to the doctor for more clarification now,*" the nurse at the reception offers her. Shaking her head in disbelief, Melanie is yet to be let in on just how bad Ray's situation is. After waiting a few minutes, she is ushered into the doctor's office where he invites her to have a seat.

"*I take it you are a close relative of the patient?*" the doctor inquires, in order to prompt her to identify herself.

"*I am a very close friend of the patient,*" is all she can say.

"*Ray was brought into hospital in critical situation with multiple injuries in the head, from the accident. I am afraid he has been in a comma since then.*"

Everything around her blanks out at the statement, and try as she might, she cannot stop the desperate whimper that escapes her lips. She allows the tears to flow as the doctor sits calmly at his desk, trying to reassure her. After a while she appears calmer and requests to leave, but not before posing a final question.

"*What are his chances, doctor? Do you think life will be the same for him again?*"

The doctor hesitates before he reassures her further.

"*It is difficult to tell at this point. We will just have to wait and see how he responds to treatment,*" he says with finality in his voice.

Chapter 4

Melanie wonders at the unfairness of life while sitting by herself on a park bench. Visions of her and Ray going about happily back on campus prevail in her mind, bringing a sad smile to her face. It is difficult for her to think that the sweet guy she has been going out with for a while now lies unable to move in a hospital bed. She will not allow her mind to wander off to thoughts about the change of feelings for him.

She is about to get up and go back to her hotel when her phone rings. It is the hospital, and she is

informed that she needs to go there immediately. In the shortest time, she is there and is informed by the doctor that Ray had temporarily regained consciousness and called out her name. With tears threatening to spill out of her eyes, she asks to go to him and is then led to where he lays.

The pale man staring at the ceiling cannot be Ray! He stares unseeingly into space and does not show any sign of recognizing her.

"*Ray dear, I am here now. I came to see you but was not let in to your room. I am so sorry about your pain and I will remain right here to see you through with this.*"

There is no hint that the man on the bed has heard anything she has said and for a while she stands beside him hoping he might respond. Realizing that he probably has not heard anything she has said, she feels a wave of helplessness threatening to engulf her. After watching him for a while, the doctor comes back to usher her out of the room.

"*We do not want to tire him too much already,*" he points out to her. She takes a last glance at him before bending down to place an affectionate kiss on his cheek, before leaving with the doctor.

Chapter 5

After one last visit to the hospital, Melanie started on the drive back to her place. The three days she had taken off work to be with Ray were now over and she now had to go back to work. She felt sad leaving him behind in that state, but knew she could drive to see him anytime.

It was a time of reflection for her as she drove back. She prayed that he would get better soon enough and be back on his feet again. It was not going to be easy for her to concentrate on work in the office, she realized.

News about progress on Jakes' case awaits her as soon as she gets back home. Rachael knew of the tragedy that befell Ray, therefore she had given her a break on updates about the legal proceedings. "*It is more difficult than we thought, Mel. This guy might not have such a strong defense after all,*" Rachael tells her when they speak on the phone.

She badly needs a break from all the bad news around her and the following morning she hits the gym with a vengeance.

"*Where have you been? I worried about you while you were gone,*" the lazy drawl can only mean that Chloe has already caught sight of her.

Chapter 6

Between calling to check up on Ray when unable to drive over to see him and keeping track on the proceeds of the case involving Jakes, Melanie has her hands full in the following weeks.

With barely any time for her to go to the gym, she finds herself crammed with work in the office, way

after closing hours.

Ray is still in a comma and each time he comes to, asks to see her. She has driven frantically to see him on several such times, only to get there and find him back unconscious again. The sight of him laying in the bed not moving makes her want to pull him into her arms. He looks so frail and she can almost tell how helpless that must make him feel.

She has heard of people who remain in a comma for long periods and hopes this is not one such case. The sooner Ray gets back on his feet the better for both of them, as they can embark on the way forward for their relationship. It might be a long wait for her, and she wonders how much longer she will be able to hold up. Yet, it is the noble thing for her to do in respect to the love they have shared over time.

Chapter 7

It is the first weekend she has been home in a long time. The past weeks have been hectic with all the issues needing her attention and she looks forward to catching up on house chores over the weekend. Dancing to the music that softly plays out of her stereo, she gets to work around the house, momentarily catching sight of her reflection in the glass partition.

Not too bad for one who has been regular at the gym, she concludes. Even though the bulges seem exaggerated by the tights she has on, she is however lighter on her feet. Dancing to the music makes her feel better and for a while all responsibility is shelved as she enjoys herself immensely.

Chapter 8

Early Sunday morning and exhausted from the week before, Melanie lay in bed oblivious of anything but the peace and quiet. She finds herself unable to sleep after a while as thoughts assail her mind in a rush. Ray seems to be calling out to her and she sits up surprised. Since the last time she saw him, two days ago, she has not heard of any change in his state. Perhaps I should call to find out how he is doing as soon as I can.

"*Good morning Doc, I am calling to find out about Ray. How is he getting on?*" she asks, soon as the doctor picks up the phone.

"*I am so glad that you called as I have some good news for you. Ray is awake and it looks like he is well on his way to recovery now. When can you come over to see him?*" the Doctor inquires.

"*Right away, Doc. I will just get ready and get started out as soon as I can. I can't wait to see him!*" she says, excitement evident in her voice.

Chapter 9

Unable to get enough of seeing him conscious at last, his family stands around Ray's bed talking in excited chatter. She walks in, then and goes straight to give him a hug. Careful not to hurt him, she remains in his arms only for a short while before disentangling herself to stand back with the others.

He follows her with his eyes as he is not able to talk yet, and she in return stays with her eyes on him.

Quietly, in her own mind, she said, "*I am so glad you are back with me, Ray. I hadn't understood just how much I had missed you until now.*"

Later on after she is assured he is okay, she takes her leave, happy that the man who loves her unreservedly is back in her world.

Chapter 10

The soft hum of the air conditioner brings her senses awake. Her night of passion is over now and she opens her eyes in search of the man responsible for it. Disappointed at not finding him next to her, she gets off the bed to go in search of Chloe. He is nowhere to be seen and she heads back to the bed. It is then that she notices the note placed on the bedside table.

Unbelievably, she reads the contents therein, not believing what is contained inside at first. Chloe recounts the way the two of them have spent several passionate episodes together. Toward the end of the note is the one thing she least expected from him.

> I am grateful for the time that we have spent together. Nevertheless I will not be able to see you again as I have decided to go back to my wife. I will be flying back in a few days to be reunited with my family. Spending time with you has greatly helped me reach the decision and once more I wish to thank you. I wish you success in your search for happiness.

Surprisingly, she is not sad to see him go. She knew all along that he was but a fleeting shadow in her life, one that could not be pinned down anyhow. Thinking back to their last night of passion, she smiles as she gets ready to leave the rented room where the two of them had spent the entire night.

Book #8

Long Road to Love Series

Overview

Now that it is over between her and Chloe, Melanie can now concentrate on her relationship with Ray. He is recovering from the accident, but he is still unable to speak. She feels sorry for him as his life has been interrupted so unfairly.

Rachael informs her that she has unearthed substantial evidence that her client Jakes might have actually been involved in a scam. His case is proving to be more difficult than she anticipated, and it is dragging on forever.

And then some dreaded news hit Melanie hard, leaving her reeling for a while.

Short Summary

After getting over the shock of reading Chloe's note telling her it is over between them, Melanie realizes all they had between them was fireworks. It surprises her that she does not miss him, but in reality, she misses how he made her feel. It would be right for her to admit that Chloe's presence in her life served to make her aware of the passion inside of her. Theirs was the kind of encounter every woman longs for, at least once in her lifetime.

She is now left with the chance of getting things back the way they were with Ray. That should not be difficult for her to do, except with every passing day she feels unsure of her feelings for him. Yet she dare not even think about the issue at a time when Ray is struggling to stay alive. Perhaps a wait and see position is the best she can do for now. For as long as it takes.

Character List

Melanie Johnson – protagonist
Jakes Hammer - antagonist
Ray Barnes – her date who is unwell
Rachael Baker – Melanie's friend
Marlin Jones – Melanie's neighbor lady

Core Conflict

She has to brace herself for the outcome of Ray's treatment. The doctor's do not sound too enthusiastic about his pace of recovery, as it now almost a month after the accident. It would be unfair for her to

give up on him now, as this is the time he needs her most. For the sake of the love she feels for him, she will have to remain true to him.

Jakes has realized how much he needs her help, and he is putting undue pressure on her now. She is spending a lot of time following up on his case, and they now speak regularly on the phone. Could the frequent contact awaken her feelings for him from the reservoir of the past?

Stakes

Should she continue entertaining thoughts about Jakes' personal problems, as they might lead to something else? The last thing she wants right now is dealing with someone from the past as it might end up compromising her current relationship. Yet, she is not sure of her feelings for Ray anymore, something she was in doubt about way before the accident took place.

She risks losing the love of a man who has stayed true to her, should she be unable to cut off ties with the one from her past. She is torn between who goes and who remains in her life. Well, not for long anyway.

Chapter 1

Days after Chloe steps out of her life, Melanie is left to deal with the reality of the deep seated desires she carries within. That man has made her realize that the most important thing in her life is to stay in tune with her desires, as this gives her great happiness.

It might not be about her weight after all, but it could be about living up to the feelings she had not even known existed in her before she met Chloe. It is funny that the person who managed to make her aware of those deep needs, is the one man she knew so little about. Yet she feels as if she connected with him on a much deeper realm than with anyone else.

Thinking back to the times they shared together, she is convinced that his coming into her life was not a mere chance. Chloe managed to make her more aware of her needs than any other man she has ever encountered in her life.

Chapter 2

Ray is still confined to the hospital bed and the doctor's are considering doing even more tests on him. They cannot seem to find out the reason for the delay in his recovery yet, and they need to identify anything that might be the cause.

"*Won't performing tests on him in his state be risky for him?*" she inquires from the doctor the next time she goes to visit Ray.

"*That is the only way we can be able to get to the real problem behind his condition, therefore we do*

not have much choice. Unless of course we let him remain comatose, with no guarantee of when he will snap out of it?"

"*It is important to explore all possibilities to allow for recovery,*" she admits to the doctor as well.

She stays close by to allow the doctors to perform the tests, alongside with other members of his family. Ray is thereafter subjected to all manner of tests in a bid to determine what is delaying his recovery.

Chapter 3

Chloe keeps tantalizing her to greater heights with skillful lovemaking. Her weight does not seem to stand in the way of him taking over her body with an ability that astounds her. It is as if he has mastered everything there is to know about her entire body as he brings out wave after wave of exotic pleasure from deep inside of her. She is fast approaching fulfillment, as her body speeds towards the end of the pleasurable torture he is putting her through. Just as she is about to hit the summit of their lovemaking, Melanie wakes up, sweaty from the wild dream she has been having about her and Chloe.

The intensity of the entire dream has her exhausted. As her heart still beats fast from the effect, she recounts details of it all, astonished that her body's reaction is as a result of a dream.

"*What have you done to me, Chloe? How am I supposed to forget you when my body seeks the fulfillment only you can offer? Do you miss me the same way that I miss you too?*"

Chapter 4

"*You have to help me, Mel. I do not want to spend years behind bars for something I had nothing to do with,*" Jakes tells her over the phone.

"*You are in good hands, Jakes. I am sure if anyone can handle your case it is Rachael.*"

She is starting to get drained with the way the legal proceedings are going and the interactions with Jakes, but she does not want to admit that to him. It looks as if there is a lot he is not telling her about the allegations leveled against him. He is aware of the hang-ups she has for him, and he is making full use of that to have her running all over taking care of his legal case.

Melanie knows that she should not let him manipulate her feelings for him, yet is enjoying their interactions nevertheless. Each time Jakes calls her, she hopes he might mention something personable to her. That does not happen, as he just keeps going on and on about the issue at hand, in complete disregard of anything else.

The notion that she is entirely free of hoping for a chance between them seems further off, yet she knows that Jakes is only after his own selfish motives. Nonetheless, why won't she see him for what he is, an opportunist who cares less about anyone but himself?

Chapter 5

The results of the tests performed on Ray revealed he had suffered damage to his spine. That was the reason he had been unable to get out of the hospital bed so far. On learning that, she wanted to know what the doctors could do to correct it.

"*We have to keep him longer and operate on him. This will be a sensitive operation as it involves the nerves. We can only hope for the best now,*" the Doctor told her.

She remained staring into space at the impact of the Doctor's words. If that was the case, it meant chances of full recovery for Ray were getting slimmer each day.

The poor dear, will he be able to get on his feet again?

The pressure that came with that knowledge, as well as having to be fully involved with Jakes' case, was wearing her out. While at the office, she dreaded picking up her phone, fearing any new news. Her life had become so uncertain that she did not know how to deal with it all.

I need some form of distraction from all that is going on, and fast! If I keep on going this way I will definitely crash under the weight of it all.

At such times she wished Chloe was still close by. He would have been a good way for her to forget it all, even if only for a while. The only way for her to draw comfort was to keep replaying their times together. Her mind kept leading her to scenes of those times they spent together, and in a funny way that served as a refuge for her troubled mind.

Chapter 6

The approach of Christmas made her more aware of just how lonely she was.

It might be a good time for me to hook up with a few friends or colleagues for some fun times together, she thought.

The only trouble with that was that most of the people she hung out with were mainly interested in the booze. That was something she did not indulge in, and the most she could take was a glass of red wine to wash down a good meal. Either way, she decided to go out on a date with some friends that weekend, as a way of letting her hair down.

"*You look as if you are on sacrifice here. C'mon, loosen up and have some fun!*" It was a Marlin from down the street.

"*I am just not used to going out to such places, that's all,*" was her reply.

The club was nearly full and so far the two of them already had several advances coming their way. The guys there all seemed to believe that the sole reason that two women would go to a club on their own was to get laid and beg for drinks.

After spending an entire evening brushing guys off, Melanie found her way home, more tired than refreshed. Going out was not her kind of thing, she would rather curl up with a book on the couch at home.

Chapter 7

The office is quiet as most of her colleagues have taken leave. That happens in most offices at Christmas time, as most people go to be with their families during the holiday. It is a chance for Melanie to make progress on her work, as she has been spending quite some time away, going to check on Ray's condition.

So engrossed in her work, she does not hear the phone ringing nearby. Only when she gets up to take a small break does she realize that she has missed quite a number of calls. It is the same number that has made the call and on a closer look she realizes that it is Ray's doctor who has been trying to reach her.

Frantically dialing his number, she impatiently waits for him to pick up the phone. He takes the call and his next statement sends a cold sweat down her spine.

"*Things are not very good with Ray. You better come down as soon as you can,*" the doctor tells her, as she fumbles for her car keys, to be on her way.

Chapter 8

On arrival at the hospital she heads straight to his room. Just as she is about to get there, she hears her name being called out from behind. Ray's doctor is behind her, and he beckons her to wait up for him.

"*You sure got here fast!*" He tries to make light of the situation without much success. She cannot wait to find out what is going on and looks at him expectantly.

"*Well, aren't you going to tell me why you asked me to come over?*" Instead of giving her an answer he leads her back to his office. The resigned look on the doctor's face tells her that things are not right. When he finally speaks out, she wishes he had not spoken at all!

"*I am so sorry, Melanie. Ray succumbed to the injuries early this morning.*" A mournful wail is all she manages before she passes out.

Chapter 9

Melanie wakes up to so much pain without any recollection for a while. All she remembers is that something so drastic has happened and recollects none of it for a while. Then it all comes to mind and she wishes she had stayed blank.

Ray cannot be dead! That her sweet college lover is no more is something she is not willing to accept just yet. Looking around, she notices that she is lying on the examination bed in the Doctor's office

alone. After a short while the door is thrown open and the doctor comes in to see her.

"*I see you are fine now. You took the news a bit too hard, I must say.*"

She remains wordlessly watching him as he checks her vitals before sitting on the edge of the table.

"*You have to be strong about this. His family is here. Would you like to go have a word with them?*"

That sounds like a good idea, only she cannot find the strength to get on her feet to go meet them. Her tongue feels heavy too and for a while she says nothing. Eventually she finds strength to talk but remains lying down.

"*What were his last moments like?*" she wants to know.

"*He went without a struggle, from the effect of the drugs that were administering on him.*"

She closes her eyes at the words, wishing the entire thing was a nightmare she would eventually wake up from.

Chapter 10

The next few days pass as if in a daze, as she finally comes to terms with the fact that Ray is no more. She has spent most of them recounting their happy moments together, in a bid to erase the pain she feels. Plans are underway for Ray to be laid to rest at his parents' home. She will have to be strong to go bid farewell to the guy she loved.

Come the day of the burial, and she gets up with a absolute resolve to be strong. He would have wanted her to be, she is sure, as tears well up in her eyes at the memory of his shy smile. She feels the heavy pain in her chest and calls out to Rachael, who has come over to be with her.

"*I am not sure I can do this, Rachael,*" she says, head firmly clasped in her hands.

Her friend looks helplessly around, as if for something to take away her pain.

"*You will make it Mel, I will be right there with you as long as you need me.*"

The two friends then get up to leave to go bid farewell to someone they both knew very well. For one, Ray was a guy she knew, but for the other he was a loving guy who held promise to a full and happy life.

Book #9

Long Road to Love Series

Overview

It takes longer than she expected for Melanie to get over the pain of losing someone so close to her heart. In a bid to get on with her life she now spends more time in the office. The weekends are tricky, as it is during those times alone when she thinks about him most. It is as if the memories assail her more when she is alone, something she is trying real hard to avoid.

The case involving Jakes has them talking more each day, and so when he finally gets acquitted, she is over the moon with happiness. Only he wants to celebrate by taking her out an entire weekend.

Short Summary

The road to recovery is made easier for Melanie, by the fact that she is kept busy with work. Add on to the case that is going on with Jakes, and she has her hands full. That is except when she has to spend time alone, which is every evening when she is home alone. Most weekends are spent going out with friends now, more for the company it presents to her. Jakes is a regular feature in her life too, as he keeps calling to find out about the ongoing case.

So when he is finally free of the allegations, it is only natural for him to want to thank her for the part she played the entire time. Melanie sees nothing wrong in going out for a weekend with the man, who has a special place reserved in her heart. Only she is not aware of what lies in store for her on the weekend that she goes out with him.

Character List

Melanie Johnson – protagonist
Jakes Hammer – antagonist
Rachael Baker – Melanie's friend
James Cole – Melanie's nuisance workmate
Brent Johnson – Melanie's brother

Core Conflict

Melanie is taking a chance going out with a man who has hurt her before. Yet since love believes, she trusts that he only wants to express gratitude for winning the case through the help of a friend she referred him. It has not hit her yet that Jakes might have more up his sleeve than presents itself on the surface.

She would be foolish not to grab a chance to be with the man she has always longed for her entire life. Despite the mess that is his life, Jakes Hammer is temptation she cannot resist.

Stakes

It is not clear what Jakes' exact motive is for taking her out for the weekend. Even though she has the chance to say no, she does not dare, with this being the chance she has always hoped for her entire life. Deep down inside, there is hope things could actually work out for the two of them, in the end.

What if he manages to woo her again and then abandon her like in the past? Can she heal again from the trauma that this would cause her? Or is he genuinely out to show gratitude to her for what she has done for him?

Chapter 1

The first few weeks of mourning have her looking all over for ways to cope with bereavement. The happy times she spent with Ray threaten to make it impossible for her to let go of the memories. She now has to find ways of coping, some which include seeking out her friends for company. There is no way she will be able to do this alone, as when on her own the memories are overwhelming.

She wonders what would have been their future together with Ray, seeing as he had been so keen on making their relationship work. He had his good side too, and she can't help but think that he was too good for her in some way. Ray had remained true to her, even when she made it obvious that she was not sure where the two of them were heading with their love.

Chapter 2

It was a different kind of love she had shared with Ray. Even though it had not been the kind that had her rushing madly around when she was with him, no doubt they had shared something special between them. In a slow smooth way, he had given her love and even their lovemaking had been gentle and considerate. Many of the times when she had woke up beside him, she was amazed knowing that she had found someone so entirely devoted to her.

Melanie had to admit that death had robbed her of a good guy. In a level headed manner, Ray stayed true to her and had been of great help in helping her get a taste of real love, since their college days. It was in Ray's arms that she had first felt accepted, as he made no issue about her weight and all. She smiled when she remembered the way he had lovingly referred to her as '*my big love*' during one of their light moments together. She would miss him with everything he had taught her about love.

Chapter 3

Rachael calls her as she is getting ready to leave the office for home. "*Hello girlfriend, how are you getting on?*"

"*I am doing great, how are you?*" she answers her friend.

"*I am calling to give you some great news! Your friend, my client has been acquitted of all charges involving his case.*" Melanie gives a shout of joy, interrupting her friend in the process.

"*At least something has gone the right way,*" she tells Rachael.

The two of them then continue chatting for some time before she ends the call for the drive back home. It is already dark and the streets are lit already. The drive is a blissful one, as she is happy that Jakes is off the hook at last. She has something to celebrate now at least.

When she gets home from work her phone is ringing, and she picks up the phone to hear Jakes on the other end, full of jubilation at the way things have turned out about his case.

"*This calls for celebration! I would like to take you out this coming weekend, if you don't mind,*" he half shouts on the phone.

Finding no reason not to accept his offer, Melanie agrees to go with him.

Chapter 4

She can hardly wait for the weekend as she will be going out with Jakes. The guy she has always loved deep inside her heart has finally found enough reason to take her out. It doesn't matter to her that his reason may not be about him having feelings for her. She is happy to get a chance with him, at last.

Come Saturday morning, Jakes arrives early to pick her up for the ride. He has had to take a flight to her state and having given him her address, arrives just as she is wrapping up breakfast. Pulling her into his arms, he goes ahead to plant a kiss on her lips, making her full of promise to the weekend that is just starting out.

Chapter 5

The place is beautiful and she cannot remember feeling that happy in a long time. Jakes is giving her all his attention as, sitting together they remain watching the sunset. He takes the chance to charm her some more.

"*You have saved my life! Your friend was brilliant on the case and I owe you for introducing me to her,*" he says, sounding very sober as he has lately been.

Being so close to him evokes deep seated feelings in her, and she has to try hard to keep them in check.

He notices her silence and wondering about that makes a move closer to her. The moment is tense as all

her deep-seated inhibitions start to melt. The evening breeze sends a shiver through her and noticing that, he gathers her in his arms.

"*Let's go inside. We had better get started on freshening up for dinner,*" he tells her. Jakes looks pensive the entire time they are together. Wondering if he is having reservations about their time together already, she is surprised on realizing he has booked one room for the two of them. Once inside the room, she looks around in wonder at seeing only one bed. He might as well have read her mind as he immediately goes into explaining things out.

"*I think it is time we both acknowledged the attraction that we have always had for each other.*"

Chapter 6

They ended up not going anywhere for dinner, but placed an order from the room. Half of the night was spent recounting the past and she noticed that he looked forlorn when discussing the way he had treated her in the past. It was more as if he had suddenly snapped out of a reverie, to appreciate her feelings for him.

Nothing could have pleased Melanie more than hearing the man she had always loved reaching out to her now. It felt like a rebirth to hear him openly admit he had been wrong not to have given her a chance.

"*You can't blame me though. Your transition from the chubby little girl I knew to a beautiful big woman was not automatic for me. It took me a long while to realize you were no longer just my friend's little sister but a full grown woman.*"

She wondered silently how long it had taken him to realize that but did not dare ask him. Instead she let him speak his mind as he confirmed what she had always known about the two of them.

Chapter 7

"*You are absolutely crazy, you know that Mel?*" Rachael could not help but let her know her thoughts.

Melanie had just finished updating her friend about what had happened that past weekend between her and Jakes. Unable to keep the emotion out of her voice, she had been on about updating her friend in on the entire details of the two days spent together. The excitement in her voice was evident and Rachael could tell it meant so much to her. But even then, was she over Ray already?

"*It was the most spectacular experience for me. You know me, Rachael. I have been in love several times before but I have always wondered about my long buried feelings for Jakes. I am so glad that we finally got to explore them.*"

"*So now what? How long do you plan on going on this way?*" inquired Rachael, out of concern for her friends' feelings.

"*It is difficult for me to say, Rachael. We will just have to go along with it, see how things go along.*"

In the weeks that followed, Jakes called to catch up with her daily. She was enjoying the attention immensely, as not so long ago it was something she might have longed for only in her dreams.

Chapter 8

Work at the office was building up again, and once more Melanie found herself buried in it way after office hours. Without much else to do after work, she really did not mind working late into the night at the office. After all, she now had the weekends to look forward to as more often than not Jakes would drive over to her place.

Funny, how things had changed between them as he was now the one pursuing her relentlessly. Not sure if her involvement in his case had made any contribution to his change of heart, but she made it a point to find out from him, the next time they met.

Her brother Brent had already got wind that she was going out with Jakes, and unable to hold it in had called to find out.

"*You are now seeing Jakes, is that it? Good thing the guy has changed a lot as I don't see him running around like he used to before,*" Brent told her.

That sounded like sweet music to her, knowing that the man she had always loved had changed for the better. Hearing it from Brent made it easier for her to believe.

Chapter 9

Life has taken a whole new turn for Melanie, ever since she started seeing Jakes. The way she views herself has greatly improved as secure in his love, she finally accepts the way she looks. Weight is no longer an issue to her, as she has his acceptance. Perhaps with all the men she has been involved with before, all she was seeking for was acceptance.

She now does not spend so much time checking herself out before the mirror. Neither is she too conscious about her weight anymore. All it took for her to be confident about herself is the love of the man she gave her heart to, a long time ago. The realization leaves her with a smile on the face. Surprising how a heart connection can bring out the best in someone!

"*Penny for your thoughts!*" James calls out to her on catching her smiling to herself. It surprises her that the man never gives up after all she has put him through. Now more than ever, she has no reason to give him an ear, since she has found the love she has been looking for so long.

You just don't get it, do you James? When will it get into your head that I do not care to share anything with you?

In much the usual manner, she buries herself in her work, in a bid to further discourage conversation

between them.

Chapter 10

"*Where do you want to go this weekend? Do you have anything in mind?*" Jakes wants to know from her.

"*Not really, I was thinking of spending a quiet time indoors this weekend,*" she tells him.

"*Alone? Are you tired of me already?*" he asks her with a chuckle.

"*Would I be Jakes, knowing how long I have waited to be together with you?*" They both laugh on the phone, at the way they sound so desperate to be together. Finally they agree to her plan of remaining indoors, only on condition that he joins her there.

Jakes arrived on Friday evening, anxious to start the weekend with her. Since he had a spare key, she was shocked to find him in her apartment, when she let herself in later that evening.

"*Surprise!*" he shouted startling her, when she switched on her bedroom light.

Flying into his arms, it was a while before she freed herself from him, as the two started a fun weekend together. Much later on in the night, when both of them were starved for food, they headed to the kitchen to fix themselves a meal.

Sitting half dressed at the kitchen table together, they might have passed for a very happy couple. In fact, they were very happy and the time they spent together the entire weekend was proof of that. Not once during those two days, did either of them tire of seeing the other. It was as if they were both making up for the time they had lost, ever since their youth.

"*Let's go to bed now,*" Jakes told her, attempting to carry her in his arms.

Book #10

Long Road to Love Series

Overview

Melanie is enjoying her life to the outmost, as she is finally with the man she has always loved.

Even though they have not yet discussed much about the future, she is happy with the way things are. It looks like her wildest dream has finally come true, as Jakes is doing his best to ensure she is happy.

She now has something to look forward to, as most weekends are spent together taking part in one activity or the other. What matters to her most is the fact that she has found a place in the heart of the guy she cares so much about at last.

Good thing too, that he has decided to settle down to doing business. Then, while she is still getting used to having him around, he springs a pleasant surprise to her.

Short Summary

Never before has Melanie felt this happy. It seems Jakes' life has turned around for the better, ever since she succeeded in getting his case resolved. The attentions he is giving her has evidently worked at her self confidence, and now more than ever, she does not feel the need to seek affirmation elsewhere. Her colleagues at the office notice the change in her and are curious to know about the change of attitude.

The blissful encounters the two of them have when together sufficiently make up for her past. It is as if by coming into her life, Jakes has blurred her past through offering her better love than with anyone before. He has always held the key to her heart, a fact that is confirmed by the way she has blossomed with him in her life. It feels to her as if she is home at last, having Jakes actively in her life.

Character List

Melanie Johnson – protagonist
Jakes Hammer – antagonist
Rachael Baker – Melanie's friend
Brent Johnson – Melanie's brother
Grant Johnson – Melanie's father.
Marlin Jones – Melanie's neighbor lady

Core Conflict

There being no guarantees in life, Melanie is bent on making the best out of the chance she has finally got to be with Jakes.

She is not thinking about what could go wrong, from their previous experience together, but is concentrating on her present happiness.

Anytime the thought that this could go either way and that she could get hurt once again comes to mind, she effectively pushes it away determined to enjoy the moment.

Jakes is really trying his best to make sure she is secure in their love. He still has quite some back issues from his past, something he hopes she can accommodate in their relationship.

Stakes

Melanie might have chewed more than she can take taking Jakes at his word. His past is daunting to her, as he has been involved in all sorts of things before they started seeing each other seriously. Yet the way she feels for him overshadows what is at stake in their relationship.

She might have quite a lot to deal with concerning his dark past, a thing that could turn out to be very costly to their love. However, she considers it would be unwise not take a chance at being happy at last. It makes more sense for her to remain in the relationship, and hope that things will work out just fine between the two of them.

Chapter 1

Melanie feels fulfilled now that Jakes is back in her life. Not only is he present but is also trying hard to make her feel secure in his love.

It feels great having him around and being sure to see him on a weekly basis gives her something in her life for which to look forward with optimism. The distance between them is not an issue as he does not find it cumbersome to drive over to see her anytime he likes. She in fact reckons it is for her good, as she is not sure she would get any work done, were he to remain close by.

It pleases her to know that she has someone to dress for as well, and she has already had a wardrobe change, for that matter.

Hearing him compliment the way she looks is a boost she cannot get enough of, no matter how often it comes her way.

Chapter 2

"*Tell me all about it! I am as curious as can be to hear about getting back together with your first love,*" Marlin tells her, getting cozy on the couch.

Amidst constant giggles between the two of them, Melanie narrates the entire background about her relationship with Jakes from the start. The more she talks about it the more her friend seems to be amazed at the duration of time it took them to finally be together.

"*You mean that he wanted nothing to do with you all those years?*" Marlin is curious to know.

"*Yes. Not only did he completely ignore me but even when we encountered each other, would act as if I was a child to him,*" sh tells her friend.

"*Must have felt really awful, seeing the guy your heart cries for ignoring you like that?*"

"*It was terrible. I got involved with several other guys in a bid to forget all about him.*"

She thought back to the time she spent with Ray and sadness came over her. Ray had sincerely loved her and she was not sure how it would have gone, were he still alive. Marlin listened to her story in awe and like most people, thought it was the classic story of love.

"*You two were certainly meant to be,*" she breathed out finally.

Chapter 3

The trip seemed to stretch forever, as it was now five days away from home. The training that Melanie was attending in another State was going to last an entire month and was quite intensive. She barely had time to rest, let alone attend to anything else, and she could not remember the last time she felt that worn out. She was missing Jakes terribly, and he had been stunned on learning she would be inaccessible for a month.

"*You don't think I could fly over to see you?*" he wanted to know, unable to hold back longer. Melanie wished he could but from the look of things she would not even get time to spend together with him, should he make it over.

"*Thing is, even if you come over, you will be disappointed as I get back to my hotel room late at night and leave early each day. The only day I get to rest is Sunday and then I just flop onto my bed the entire day from fatigue.*"

They both agreed it made no sense and would just have to wait until she got back home so he could drive over to see her.

"*I miss you so much, Mel. It feels as if it has been such a long time since I last saw you.*"

"*I miss you too, Jakes.*" Then excusing herself to go back in to the training after her break was over, she bid him goodbye.

Chapter 4

When she is free during the time they spend apart, Melanie spends her time thinking back to the times

they spent together with Jakes. Memories of her in his arms, have her longing to feel his warm embrace once more, and she looks forward to the end of the remaining time away.

The training that she is undergoing is critical for her work and she has no choice but to stay sharp in order to grasp all that is being taught to her. As a result of the intensity of the training, she does not even get time to call her friends back home. With so many reasons for her to look forward to going back home, it is no wonder she is one of the happiest people when the training ends.

On the phone that last day before her flight, the excitement is evident as she speaks to Jakes, informing him of the time she would be home.

"*My flight leaves in the next hour and I should be home in three hours,*" she tells him.

"*Great! That is just enough time for me to start out on the drive to come and pick you up at the airport. I can't wait another day to see you,*" he tells her, and then ends the call so he can start his journey.

So this is how real love feels! When you are away from the one you love you feel incomplete, as if unable to wait a moment longer. This feeling is altogether new to me and I love every minute of it!

Chapter 5

Jakes is already there when she arrives and catching sight of him in the waiting area, she drops her bags to run into his arms. The warm embrace in his arms makes her feel complete again and it is a while before the two lovers wrench out of each other's arms.

"*I missed you so much,*" he whispers in her ear. Overcome with joy at seeing each other, they happily walk to the car to start the drive home to her place.

Immediately they are settled in the car. "*Tell me about it, how was your time away?*" he quips.

She attempts to explain things were to him, even though it is the furthest thing from her mind. All the while she is thinking of the time ahead and as if on cue both of them soon fall into a comfortable silence for the 30 minutes' drive. When he pulls into her driveway, she heaves a sigh of relief at being home again.

After taking in her bags, they both fall into the couch in a warm embrace. He regards her with so much affection and soon words are not enough to express how much he has missed her. As she goes to freshen up, Jakes unpacks the food he had ordered earlier.

"*Eat up your dinner. I am sure you must be worn out after your trip,*" he tells her, as they both start eating.

"*It was thoughtful of you to order, I had not realized how starved I was,*" Melanie tells him.

Regarding her with a naughty glint in his eye, he smiles at her and then tells her, "*You need all the energy you can get for tonight.*"

Chapter 6

It is becoming increasingly cumbersome for Jakes to keep traveling to see her every week. The three hour drive is no mean feat and he wishes she did not live so far off. Jakes has succeeded in putting together funds to start his business and he plans on opening a fitness center. He has discussed this with Melanie and she welcomed the idea. Now all that is remaining is for him to identify a place where he can put up the business. But first, there is something more urgent on his mind.

Being a Friday evening, Melanie is not in a hurry to go home from the office. Jakes has not called to tell her he will be over so she plans on putting in a few extra hours tonight. It is the start of the weekend and the others are getting ready to leave when her phone buzzes. It is Jakes and he wants to know whether she is still in the office.

"*Yes I am, I will be here for another hour or so,*" is her answer. With a simple '*Okay*' he hangs up leaving her thinking he might be on his way to her place.

Nothing to worry about, even if he gets there before me he will let himself in, she figures.

When he calls her again, after about ten minutes, she wonders if something might be wrong. Picking up the phone while full of apprehension, she is surprised by his next words, "*I am waiting down in the reception area. Would you like to come out and see me?*"

Work is instantly forgotten as she walks into the arms of the man she loves. Thankfully, it is only the two of them at the office and they sit together catching up for a while.

"*I will go get my things. I cannot work any further now,*" she says rising to go get her bag. Unknown to her, more surprises await her as the evening has just began.

Chapter 7

From the moment the two of them step out of her office, Melanie senses something is going on with him. Jakes leads her to his car and soon after drives to a hotel nearby. Being Friday evening, the place is abuzz with activity and she wonders if they will be able to secure a seat in the restaurant. He has it all planned out, she realizes, as they are led to a table soon as a waiter spots them.

"*How did you manage to get a table?*" she inquires from him. He smiles softly before helping her to her seat.

She is getting nervous from his silence and is about to ask him if anything is wrong. The place is beautiful and many couples are dinning all around them. Then he goes down on his knees and pulling out a ring from his pocket pops the question.

Everyone holds their breath as they too wait to hear her answer. She is so happy and does not to answer him.

"*Yes, I will marry you Jakes!*"

Everything goes back to normal after the loud applause from other diners. The moment is theirs, from then on.

Chapter 8

The visit to go see her parents went better than she had hoped. It seemed like Brent had gone ahead to clear any doubts about Jakes to her parents, as they were well received on arrival.

In between dinner, Grant Johnson took time to congratulate them both. Jakes may not be his ideal partner for his daughter, but their love had held up long enough. The best he could do for the two of them was to give them blessings for their lives ahead.

"*You two deserve each other,*" he told them, little sad at losing her.

Chapter 9

"*You are engaged! You never cease to amaze me Melanie Johnson,*" Rachael was on again, after hearing the news.

"*Aren't you happy for me, Rach? I would think you would be happy to see me settle down at last,*" Melanie told her, softly laughing at her surprise.

"*Of course I am very happy for you, silly!*"

The two friends continue catching up with each other for a while before finally fixing a date.

"*I have to see you. I can only hear the rest, face to face with you,*" Rachael tells her, as they end the call.

Chapter 10

With their wedding coming up, the two love birds barely have time to themselves. Melanie is trying hard to juggle their plans with work, as she will only be able to take leave a few days before the wedding.

"*I don't want you to wear yourself out before our wedding,*" Jakes says playfully.

They are done picking up their rings in town and all that is left now is for them to get a few more items. He looks so handsome in jeans and t-shirt, as together they stroll along to find a place to have a bite to eat. She smiles shyly, thinking how long it has taken them to get here.

"*What's going through your mind? I just saw you smile wickedly,*" Jakes wants to know.

She cannot begin to explain how happy she is at being with him this way. The two of them are just about to embark on the most joyous time of their lives.

About Plot Set

The Long Road to Love Series Plots originally published on FictionPlots.com

If you have ever struggled with ideas that you could work into a book, or you have found yourself struggling with writer's block, then you should take a few minutes to check out the program available at FictionPlots.com.

I currently have several plot writers in my employment – most of whom have published their own books, who develop the series fiction plots that I make available to my members.

Most plots available on the website are laid out in such a way that you can easily turn those stories into a book series. And as a member of the website, you will be able to get your hands on several series plot sets each month, in a variety of genres, for a very attractive price.

Most series are delivered in sets of ten plots, with a few series delivered in sets of three and five plots.

All of our plots are about 2500-3000 words in length and are written in the following format:

1. Overview
2. Short Summary (*not always short, depending on the writer*)
3. Character List
4. Core Conflict
5. Stakes
6. Ten Chapter Outline

We are delivering more than 50 plots per month in a number of series. As each individual plot is finished, it is uploaded to the website.

We also take requests from our members. If there is a specific style of plot series that you would like to see created, drop us a note, and we will assign your plot request to a writer.

It should be noted that the plots we deliver will not be available only to you; they will be posted inside the website to help everyone with their story ideas. At less than $20 per month for the membership, we cannot afford to make those plots only available to you, since our plot development costs are **a lot more** than $20 per plot series.

However, just because other people see the same plots you do does not mean that they will derive the same story from the plot as you will.

Typically, fiction writers take individual plot ideas and customize those ideas to tell their own story. They change the names of characters, create different worlds (*or place the characters in a different city*), and they will sometimes change the genre in which they will use the story plot.

A pre-written plot is simply a loose outline that you can use to create your own stories. It is a story idea

that will spark your creativity. Once you have outlined your story, your imagination will fill in the details that will make your telling of the story truly unique.

Within the FictionPlots.com membership site, we already have a number of series in the paranormal, fantasy and science-fiction genres, with most of those being in the paranormal genre. The site also contains a fair number of romance plot series.

Although not restricted to the genres mentioned in the previous paragraph, the site was originally launched on November 2nd, 2014, so its content base is still smaller than it will be in the near future.

When you look at the sales page for the FictionPlots.com membership site, you will be able to see a sample plot right there on the page. Instead of making you purchase your membership blindly, I always provide at least one sample that you can see in the public area of the website.

As a member of the FictionPlots.com program, you will – in effect – have my plot writers working for you, and your cost will be less than $20 per month. To my knowledge, this is the first website of its kind on the Internet. And the program is so inexpensive that my competitors might have to struggle to figure out how to match my offer.

Click Here to Learn More...

About Bill Platt



Bill Platt is a single father, raising his three boys in Stillwater Oklahoma – the home of Oklahoma State University.

Born in Enid and raised in Ponca City Oklahoma, Bill has lived most of his life in Oklahoma, and he self-identifies as an "*Okie*".

He started writing professionally in the mid-1990's, then he stepped up his game in 2001. By March of 2005, he was able to quit his job and take up writing as a full-time enterprise.

Since 2001, Bill has worked with other writers, first as a service provider and later as someone who teaches writers "*how to be the very best they can be*."

Learn about some of Bill's other projects, by visiting the following websites:

http://ProfessionalBookMarketing.com/
http://WritingPuzzle.com/
http://KDresearcher.com/
http://NFbullets.com/
http://FictionPlots.com/
http://PlattPublishing.com/