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Told You Twice (Told You Series Book 2)



Synopsis

Alexis Murphy is done messing with the wrong kinds of men. She could not be happier planning a personalized Grace Evangeline wedding with her fiancé, Jeffrey, who is so right for her. Or is he? Stage star and spokesmodel, Bo Corrigan, could be the ultimate disruption. Alexis "Exi" is caught by his talent and sexual magnetism. Yet under the glow, she senses trouble, not only danger from Bo's past mistakes, but something inside tearing him apart. From the moment Bo sees Exi, he knows she's special, but not only that she's real. Unlike the theater scene he's been immersed in, she sees the man he is and won't stop until she's reached inside and brought that person from despair to life if only they have time. With violent forces against them, can they get beyond the damage to love that heals and restores?

Book Information

File Size: 3497 KB

Print Length: 417 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: bHd Books (August 11, 2016)

Publication Date: August 11, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01KAICYCS

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #7,209 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #19 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Literature & Fiction > Romance > Mystery & Suspense #20 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Religious & Inspirational Fiction > Christian > Romance > Mystery & Suspense #135 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Religious & Inspirational Fiction > Romance

Customer Reviews

We first met Bo Corrigan on the pages of *Told You So*, but his supporting role in that book only scratched the surface of the complexities of his character. His devil-may-care facade is just

that â “ a facade, masking a heart far more sensitive (the bouquet making scene!!) and broken than appears at first glance. Besides his gorgeous exterior, Bo is a character who truly fascinated me (his ability to shift into just about any persona!). He broke my heart more than once (someone warned me to have tissues handy â “ she was NOT kidding!) and yet at the same time he solidly won a place in my heart forever. Rock bottom isnâ™t pretty. When weâ™re wallowing in it in real life or when a favorite character hits it in fiction â “ no matter whoâ™s down there itâ™s pretty sickening. Kristen Heitzmann has captured this journey down to the pit and the road home with authenticity, raw emotion, mercy, grace, and HOPE. Having only authenticity and emotion without the mercy, grace, and hope would leave us, the readers, destitute by the end. But she strikes the ideal balance â “ framing Boâ™s story the way it needs to be told from start to finish. Exi and Boâ™s romance is also raw and authentic and covered with mercy and grace and hope. Their tale is not the same as Grace & Devinâ™s from Told You So â “ Exi and Boâ™s downfall is one born of deep internal baggage rather than lust. While there IS some humor sprinkled throughout, Told You Twice (and Exi and Boâ™s romance) is much more intense and emotional and agonizing than itâ™s more comedic predecessor. And itâ™s worth the ache and the copious amounts of tissues youâ™ll need before the end â “ because the romance itself is a picture of redemption and because when the mercy and grace and hope rain down, it hits you in the marrow of your soul.

There are good stories, and then there are stories that so embed themselves in your heart you know the characters will forever be a part of you. Told You Twice was THAT kind of story for me. Being an avid fan of Kristen Heitzmann, I had purchased Book 1 in the series (Told You So) almost as soon as it became available. I love Heitzmann's writing style and was anxious to begin a new offering from her. The more I read, the more I realized something was different: there was an edginess and contemporary realism not as overtly present in her previous books. The characters became very real to me and when I finished the book I could hardly stand that I'd have to wait for the next one! Told You Twice did not disappoint. Bo's story began in Book 1 where you get a glimpse of a brilliant actor hiding behind the many roles he plays. When he and Exi meet in Told You Twice, he cracks the door a tiny bit to let her in. The two of them are drawn together (in spite of Exi's engagement to another man) by the common denominators of loss and self-doubt --- and the ability to see the hurting places in each other. Others discourage the relationship for varying reasons but they are inexplicably drawn together. Things come to a head when elements of Bo's past catch up to them, bringing danger, angst, and entry into the heretofore unknown world of hit-men and terrorist operatives. In realizing he's the one who brought these elements into Exi's life,

Bo turns away from everything he's ever known in order to protect her. He sees his "Death Star of a life" drawing in to hurt and harm those he loves. There are so many things I loved about this story.

Told you Twice – Book Review - by Kristen Heitzmann: Alexis (Exie) Murphy is engaged to the "perfect" man and looks forward to a Grace Evangeline wedding and a happily-ever-after life. She's willing to give up her talents and the essence of who she is in order to have the stability she craves and to make Jeffrey happy. Then she meets Bo. Bo Corrigan is a talented New York stage actor and model. No woman can resist him, and his playboy lifestyle and gambling are the stuff of legends. But all that is the persona he wants others to see. When he meets Exie, he is shaken to the core, for she sees the real man beneath the role, and she senses the tragedy, sorrow, and guilt that drive him in his brilliant performances. Bo convinces Exie that they need to explore the connection between them, and so Exie puts her engagement on hold and starts to get to know this complicated man. Unlike Jeffrey, Bo encourages her to pursue her many talents, and Exie's extraordinary ability as an artist and musician begin to unfold. Then Bo's past catches up with him, and dangerous forces threaten to destroy their fragile beginning. I loved this book! I've read all of Kristen Heitzmann's books, and it is an understatement to say she has a gift for character development. The people in this story are deep and complicated, with good qualities opposing their faults, weaknesses, and messy lives. They are searching for happiness and love, but they don't know how to achieve it. I loved Exie's goodness and her positive outlook on life, and I ached for her. She doesn't see that Jeffrey will snuff out the creative flame within her, and that eventually she will be an empty shell. As an artist, I enjoyed her exploration of art and the overwhelming need to create what is within one's soul.

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