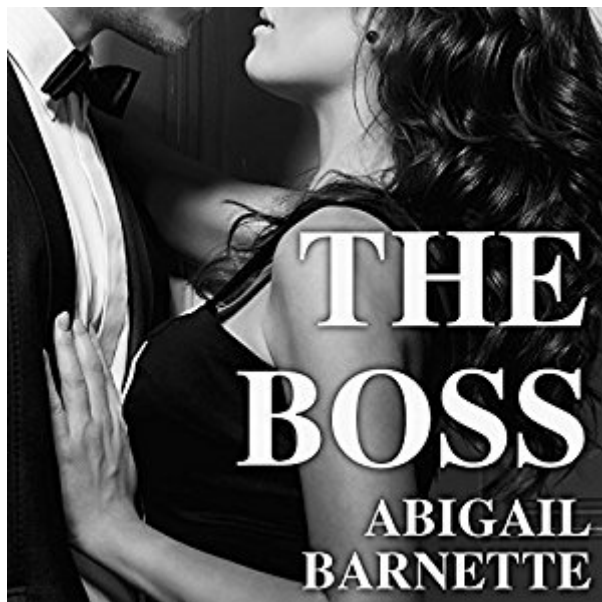


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# The Boss: Boss, Book 1



## Synopsis

Sophie Scaife almost ran away once, trading her ticket to college for a ticket to Tokyo. But a delayed flight and a hot one-night stand with a stranger changed her mind, putting her firmly on track to a coveted position at a New York fashion magazine. When the irresistible stranger from that one incredible night turns out to be her new boss - billionaire and publishing magnate Neil Elwood - Sophie can't resist the chance to rekindle the spark between them...and the opportunity to explore her submissive side with the most dominant man she's ever known. Neil is the only man who has ever understood Sophie's need to submit in the bedroom and the only man who has ever satisfied those desires. When their scorching, no-strings-attached sexual relationship becomes something more, Sophie must choose between her career and heart...or risk losing them both.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I loved this book so much. The main characters are very richly developed and are totally flawed and I love them immensely because of that. It is essentially the story of a D/s but with so much sass and sarcasm thrown in that you forget that you shouldn't giggle out loud in public until tears leak out of your eyes. I did it many times anyway. I also Love Holli (yes capital L!). She is the perfect straight man for the insanity that Sophie dishes out like a short order cook. She is the voice of reason and rationality and she is badly needed in the story. I think otherwise Sophie would just come across as itchy and needy instead of complex and a bit naive. The sex is hot and amazing but the relationship created by Neil and Sophie is so much more important. They run into big problems related to family, class, work, ageism in America, etc. They struggle, fall down and ultimately have to make big

decisions. I won't spoil it for you but seriously you should read this book. There is a cliffhanger ending and if you love the characters as much as I do, you will do as I did and immediately buy part two and devour it until your eyes beg for mercy. (RED!) By the way, I am totally stealing the line "And a box of cereal!". I laughed until I embarrassed myself then I laughed at that. Some of you will totally understand, others not so much. This author has a special flair for the written word and I think she has just been made a permanent part of my top 5 must read authors.

Full disclosure: I was given an ARC of this book on the condition I would review it. The Boss is one of those books that I didn't think I'd get into all that much. Not because I don't love Jenny Trout/Abigail Barnette. I do love her. I sort of hero worship her from afar and wish that I could be like her. I love her writing, especially on her blog. (Fun fact: every time I press "j" in the URL bar the first site that autocompletes is her blog.) Honestly, I'm just not that big a fan of erotic romance. Generally speaking. I've enjoyed reading it in the past and I'm sure I'll enjoy more in the future, but it's not a genre I really actively seek out, and often it leaves me wanting (or rolling my eyes). Furthermore, I'm not a huge fan of BDSM/kinky erotic romance -- not because I'm not kinky. Because I am, and so few BDSM erotica stories are actually hot to me (without being triggering -- long story there; not worth getting into). I was worried because I knew The Boss was a male-dom/fem-sub erotic romance, and -- even though I totally trust Barnette's ability to write an erotic romance that I find hot, as I'd already read *Bride of the Wolf* a while ago -- I've been burned before. (Not literally. Few of my partners have gone in for the candle wax thing.) So I was quite cautious. I was pleasantly surprised. The Boss was the hottest BDSM erotic romance I've ever read. I could not put it down, and not just because the sex was so hot. The plot was compelling and intriguing, and I found myself trying to guess what would happen next (and only being right some of the time). The characters were well-developed and dynamic and they came across very clearly. When the book ended, I scrolled on my iPad so hard that I ended up loading another app. I then screamed out "JENNNNNNNNNNNYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY!" as if I were Kirk, and she Khan. I wanted more. I could hear Neil and Sophie's voices clearly in my head. I could picture them easily. (Neil was basically Anthony Head, because I find him rawr.) I loved their interactions; they were real and cute and funny and heartbreaking (in a totally good way). Often their relationship reminded me of mine, which made me smile and get all tingly. While I read The Boss I was completely wrapped up in what happened to the characters. I desperately wanted them all to succeed. (Except the antagonists. I wanted them to be set on fire.) When Neil had a headache, I felt concerned about his health. When Sophie died of mortification, I did too. The sex scenes were...steamy. And there were a lot of them, but not so much

that they superseded the plot -- in other words, just the perfect amount for an erotic romance. The amount of BDSM was perfect for me, too -- obviously, your mileage will vary, but I personally don't like the really hardcore ones. I prefer my sex (and scenes thereof) to be more Neapolitan than...um...Rocky Road? Whatever the ice cream equivalent of hardcore BDSM is. Anyway, people often forget that vanilla is a flavour . It is not the absence of flavour. But that's a rant for another time. Basically, if you're not terribly BDSM inclined, you'll probably find *The Boss* very hot, and if you are BDSM inclined and don't mind less hardcore erotica, then you'll probably find *The Boss* very hot. And if you like romance, you'll definitely love it. Bonus? The book passes the Bechdel test. That's pretty rare for heterosexual erotica or romance. Oh, and Sophie IDs as a feminist. Win. *The Boss* is the first in a series. The next books aren't out yet, but as soon as they are I'll be grabbing them. I need to see what happens to these characters with whom I've fallen so in love. Rating: 5 out of 5 stars/would bang.

I really wanted to like this book. As many reviewers have mentioned, this book was intended as an antidote to FSOG, and it certainly accomplishes that goal. The BDSM content was well-handled, and the sex scenes were great. The prose was well-written, and the characters seemed realistic. I read the author's blog regularly, and I find her very funny and engaging there. My main issue with the book is that there is a lack of tension here. I kept waiting for conflict to arise, but the protagonists, Sophie and Neil, are just a bit too perfect, and consistently make the right choices. They are always thoughtful about other people's feelings about all issues, and immediately apologize when they make a mistake. Over time, this starts to seem a bit preachy. For example, Sophie is careful about not judging other people's bodies, not judging other people's sexuality, not being catty towards other women. Her only "flaw" is that she seems to be a bit of a commitment-phobe, but that just doesn't ring true for me, as she spends almost 100% of her time with Neil right away, and isn't bothered by it. They have a few fights in the story, and they are framed as though they are really major fights... but they are resolved very quickly, and there's not really any lingering tension after these fights. Even the major conflict at the climax of the story seems minor to me; both Sophie and Neil are totally reasonable and seem justified in their stances, even though it creates difficulties for both of them. For me, as just erotica, this book is great. But as a romance, I didn't feel like there were any stakes, I didn't feel like the characters had much room for development and improvement (they are too perfect and sensible at the outset) and ultimately, as a story, I did not find it compelling. As other readers have mentioned, the book does end in a cliffhanger. I didn't mind this, but the problem seems like it will be easily resolved, and I'm not too

interested in reading the next book.

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