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Posted on 02 October 2019 By Jennifer Lohmann

`Download Book ? The First Move ? PDF eBook or Kindle ePUB free

Jennifer Lohmann, AB 01AuthorFrom the author An unlikely encounter but he ll take it It seems like fate or something When Miles Brislen spies the girl he had a crush on in high

school at his ex wife s wedding, no less he can t let the opportunity pass He might not have had the courage to talk to Renia Milek back then, but he definitely does now And that s not the only thing that s changed Gone is the rebel Renia used to be In her place is a beautiful woman who s reserved, cautious and holding on to secrets For Miles, this second chance with Renia is too important to let her past stand in their way He ll do whatever is necessary to help her accept her choices and move on even if that means a salsa lesson or two Because now that he s made the first move, he wants the second to be hers. I enjoyed this story quite a bit The realistic aspects of adoption, divorce and childhood trauma were very believable and set the stage for both characters personalities However, while I liked seeing Renia come out of the secretive shell she d wrapped around herself, I felt like many major issues resolved themselves too quickly Her issues with her mother were deep, had been festering for years and seemed to be wrapped up much too quickly I also had a hard time believing that Miles really understood how wrong his actions were and have a hard time believing he won t do the same thing in the future Even within the story I felt that he was a contradiction We see him thinking, Did I really say that How could I have screwed up so bad However, he doesn t understand why his daughter is upset with him If he knew he d screwed up, why didn t he understand why his daughter was angry It just didn t work for me I felt like his attraction to Renia was due to his high school fantasy of her and he never really seemed to accept the reality of the messed up teen she was I m not entirely sure whether I believe that he and Renia will work together long term. This book made me emotional, in a good way I m not a crying sort of reader It rarely happens But there are moments in this story where I was reading with a lump in my throat, and I really think that s on the strength of the heroine Romance, as a genre, tends to spend an inordinate amount of time and energy focusing on hunky, beefcake heroes who are emotionally screwed up because their Mama, Daddy, Brother, Pet Goldfish didn t love them enough Yeah, heroes are great but romance works because at the end of the day it s the heroine s journey It s a genre that relies on studs for the sex appeal, but it gets its running legs from the heroines Renia drives this story Renia pretty much makes or breaks this story And in my opinion She makes it She s stellar. Cute book with lots of plot This is a very full story and honestly, I was a little overwhelmed It felt long to me, but anytime I tried to look for someplace I would cut, I couldn t find one because every page seemed essential to the story line Truly, this book was packed with plot That s common for a Harlequin SuperRomance, but I ve read a decent number in the line to know that not all of them are quite so packed It s not a bad thing, to have a lot of plot, but it does make for a lot of storylines to wrap up at the very end which I think lead to me being overwhelmed Our HEA didn t happen until the very last few pages made it feel slightly rushed even though it worked well with the way the story progressed I think I just kept seeing how few pages I had left and was worried not everything would be tied up nicely at the end. I read this for my romance book club where the theme of the month was secret babies This book fit that theme well, which is all I ll say

to prevent spoilers I did think the baby issue was handled with a lot of care and lot detail than I'm used to. This book was incredibly realistic. Both hero and heroine were incredibly flawed, major mistakes, and dealt with them as actual real people would. Not a terrible thing to read, but not exactly what I'm used to in a romance, especially not in a Harlequin. I bought this book because Jennifer Lohmann is a fellow librarian. Full disclosure I have met her on one occasion and have communicated with her on Twitter both before and after she published and I wanted to be supportive. I was unsure what to expect but I really liked what I read. This was a well written, tightly paced story with realistic characters and real emotion. If all her books are like this, I will be checking out others. Final grade B. I lost interest. My problems stemmed from the series line rather than the author's writing style or plotting which was very good. Why is it we have such negative feelings about women who give up their babies even when the child now grown could never have had a good life other than with the people who raised her. Answers to this and other hard questions are demanded when Renia's back story is revealed and why she has closed herself off to closeness with anyone ever since. The climax when she confronts her mother who sent her away and Miles acts like Renia is again undeserving of his trust came too soon for me. I could have read at least another 100 pages. Great book. Couldn't put it down. My copy of *The First Move* was provided to me by the Jennifer Lohmann herself, after I tweeted her to ask whether she knew if the e version would be available in the UK. I'd read Wendy the Superlibrarian's review, you see, and it sounded like just my sort of book. Renia Milek's world was crushed when she was a teenager, when her father, grandfather and one of her brothers were killed in a car accident. Her mum withdrew into her own head, and Renia Rey, as she called herself then reacted by acting out. There was drinking, drugs and sleeping around. It all ended with Rey getting pregnant and her mother shipping her off to an aunt to have her baby. The aunt was very supportive and helped Rey do what she needed to screw her head back on, including giving her baby up for adoption. At the time Rey thought it best to cut ties to the baby, so she opted for a closed adoption. There was a provision for her daughter to contact her when she turned 18, though, and now that the time has come where she might receive a phone call from her, Renia is both scared and terrified. It's a really bad time to come across Miles Brislen again. Miles was a shy kid who went to the same school as her, and he had a huge crush on her. He recognises her the minute he sees her, but Renia has no idea who he is. She only knows he calls her Rey, so he must know her from her worst times. But as things come to a head with her daughter, Miles becomes a surprising source of support. There was a lot to like here. Renia is a really interesting character, and at a really interesting time in her life. I really appreciated how sensitively the issue of her having given her daughter in adoption was handled. This is not yet another book saying that giving a baby up, even when it's patently the right thing to do, will screw you up for life. It's true that Rey IS pretty screwed up about what happened, but I'd argue that it's clear that this is about her mother's abandonment of her teenage self than about her own abandonment of her baby.

That issue with Renia's mother leads to my favourite aspect of the book, which is the very complicated relationship between the two. They have a very civilised relationship now, but a distant one, and it's clear Renia's mother is desperate to fix that, but doesn't know how. There's a long overdue conversation near the end that had me choking back tears. In fact, the family angst was the best thing about the book, and it was really, really good. In addition to the sections about Renia's mother, there's the stuff with her birth daughter. This is developed really slowly, and Lohmann doesn't make it into some sort of insta connection. It feels realistic, both painful and hopeful at the same time, and I really liked it. I also liked Renia's relationship with Sarah, Miles' daughter, in whom she sees bits of herself. I was a bit less enthused by the romance. Renia questions whether Miles loves the real her or whether he's just reacting to his old crush on her 16-year-old self, and I must say, I questioned that at times. Also, although Miles was pitch perfect most of the time, always being very accepting of Rey's past and her current issues, there was that fight at the end, which seemed to show that deep down, he wasn't quite as accepting as all that. I'm in two minds about that. On one hand, I liked seeing he wasn't quite perfect, but on the other, that might have come a bit too late in the book, and he didn't quite redeem himself from what I felt was a really mean, almost unforgivable thing to say. On the whole, though, I really enjoyed this. The writing is good and flows smoothly, and the pacing is generally good as well. There's a bit of a draggy section round the middle, but things got going again soon after, and I raced to the end. MY GRADE It's a B.



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A man and a woman are dancing on a light-colored wooden floor. The man is wearing a white button-down shirt and dark trousers, and the woman is wearing a bright red dress and high heels. They are looking at each other and smiling. The background is a warm, golden light.

The First Move

Jennifer Lohmann

was ok but not compelling I was not glued in It swomens fiction than romance. The majority of the story is about Renia s grief, self doubt, and related issues She was pregnant at age 16, gave the baby up for adoption, and is still grieving about it 18 years later She has never been in love The reason was not explained other than it was somehow related to her messed up mental state Apparently the few times she was involved with men, she did not treat them well and quickly broke up with them. Miles had a crush on Renia when they were in high school He is recently divorced and their paths cross He now acts on that crush Renia treats him bad, but he continues his pursuit and she softens toward him That was the best part of the story It brought the book into the romance category, but their relationship felt like a secondary story More time is spent on other relationships like Renia wanting to meet her adopted daughter Ashley, things going on with Sarah Miles 16 year old daughter , and Renia s troubled relationship with her mother I enjoyed things happening between Sarah and Renia It would have been neat if happened with the adopted daughter Ashley This is for readers who are in the mood for problems and emotions surrounding giving up a child for adoption. There were three brief sex scenes I don t recall any emotional reaction to them. DATA Narrative mode 3rd person Story length 298 pages Swearing language strong but not often used Sexual language mild Number of sex scenes 3 Setting current day Chicago, Illinois Copyright 2013 Genre contemporary romance. `Download Book ? The First Move ? An Unlikely Encounterbut He LI Take It It Seems Like Fateor Something When Miles Brislenn Spies The Girl He Had A Crush On In High School At His Ex Wife S Wedding, No Less He Can T Let The Opportunity Pass He Might Not Have Had The Courage To Talk To Renia Milek Back Then, But He Definitely Does Now And That S Not The Only Thing That S Changed Gone Is The Rebel Renia Used To Be In Her Place Is A Beautiful Woman Who S Reserved, Cautiousand Holding On To Secrets For Miles, This Second Chance With Renia Is Too Important To Let Her Past Stand In Their Way He LI Do Whatever Is Necessary To Help Her Accept Her Choices And Move On Even If That Means A Salsa Lesson Or Two Because Now That He S Made The First Move, He Wants The Second To Be Hers

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