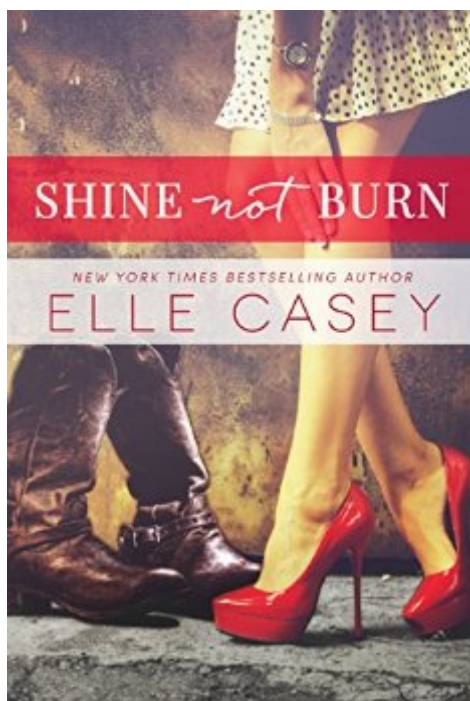


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Shine Not Burn



Synopsis

Andie Marks, known as the "Party Girl" in her college days, is now a whip-smart lawyer on the fast track to success. Determined to move on from a bad break-up, she joins her girlfriends for a wild bachelorette weekend in Las Vegas, promising to let her hair down just this once. Vegas is a blur of cocktails and blackjack, and in the middle of it all she meets Mack, a real-life cowboy with a winning hand and an irresistible body. They get lucky in the casino and luckier back at the hotel, a hot night of passion that was definitely not part of Andie's life plan. By dawn Mack is gone and all she has to remember their one-night romance is a hangover and a pile of casino chips. Or so she thinks.

Revised edition: This edition of *Shine Not Burn* includes editorial revisions.

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Customer Reviews

I enjoy a good "cowboy" book every once in awhile, and after reading the premise for *Shine Not Burn* I thought I might have a winner on my hands. And while this book is definitely not the winner I was hoping it was, it was completely awful either. *Shine Not Burn* is about Andie and Gavin; two people who meet in Vegas, have insane chemistry, get drunk, and end up getting married. Problem number one is that Andie was so drunk she barely remembers Gavin, and definitely doesn't remember marrying him. So what does she do? Leave Vegas and never talk to Gavin again. Fast

forward a few years later when she goes to get a marriage license only to find out she is already married. Now, I am all for a good romance. And by that I mean, romances aren't always the best books ever written. There is usually a lot of issues with the book and the writing tends to be not so great, but I enjoy them and they make me happy. However *Shine Not Burn* lacked one fundamental romance rule...the main characters had very little involvement with each other. I was half way through the book and Andie had spent more time with his mother than him. How is that a good thing ever? I think Andie and Gavin's relationship should have been more of a focal point, since you know the book is about them. When Andie and Gavin were in the same scene all they were doing is having sex. I know the sexy bits are a big part of romance, but come on. Let the characters actually build a relationship that doesn't consist of taking their clothes off. There were some other issues I had with this book, including Andie being probably the dumbest "smart" person I've read in a while.

Oops. We all make mistakes. Some are little mistakes like burning the biscuits. Some are bigger. That fender bender in the parking lot. Some are much bigger. And life changing. That is if you remember them. Yeah sometimes you make mistakes you are not even aware of. This usually involves alcohol. Just ask any college student or Andie. Andie has a doosey of a Vegas Hangover. Andie has a plan. She has a carefully scripted design for her life. It's her way to make sure she is in control of her life, her path. It's a massive case of overcompensating. She has been following that plan until she hits the lights of Vegas for a bachelorette party one weekend. Mack is a hunky cowboy. Emphasis on HUNKY COWBOY. He is in Vegas for a bachelor party. They met at the Black Jack table and....Hello...fun times and rash decisions. (More about rash talk later) Oh...and some really steamy scenes. Really steamy. Mack and Andie don't walk away into the Vegas sunset together. There are memory lapses, time lapses and judgement lapses. What will happen when they are both in the same place at the same time again? I can't tell you all the details except those steamy scenes....yeah more of those. Naked tag in the meadow? I am just imagining the chigger bites. Ouchey. (told you there was more rash talk) Aside for the naked tag and tearing up the shower curtain, Andie is having a problem making a decision. "My mind was spinning in so many different directions I didn't know whether to laugh, cry, or eat fried calf testicles." Her friends try to give her advice. "You're going with your heart and your vagina instead of your head for a change! Good for you!" Now that is some good advice right there. She should have her own talk show. Or blog.

Andie, a lawyer whose "Lifeplan" has ruled her life since she used it to escape a bad childhood,

goes against type on a Bachelorette trip to Las Vegas with her friends. There, she gets seriously drunk and meets Åber-hot cowboy-rancher Mack. A partially blacked out night of "hot monkey-sex" ensues but when she wakes up in the morning, Mack is gone without a trace. Two years later, Andie is engaged to Åber-jerk Bradley, when she discovers that her night in Vegas did not actually STAY in Vegas. Now she has to confront Mack to get her Lifeplan back on track. So this book starts out well. The characters are great and have some good dialogue, even if some of it is a bit contrived. Mack is believable as the super-hot guy who captures Andie's attention so quickly and thoroughly. I can even kind of buy the insta-love they fall into...sort of. But the whole thing came off as something written under an intense deadline--very quick and lacking in depth and substance. I felt like there were a number of chapters and plot points missing. Also, Andie is an intelligent girl, so, despite her horrific childhood, her objections to Mack seemed kind of ridiculous, even to her. That made it difficult for me, as a reader to accept them at all. And her very background made me believe she would never had accepted being treated in a heavy-handed manner by a guy. But that's exactly what she does with Bradley. It just didn't work for me. And it bummed me out, too, because I WANTED to like it. I REALLY liked Mack, and I even liked him together with Andie but I felt like I had very little time with them together. Plus a number of issues remained unresolved--Hannah, Ian...what is Andie going to do after she chooses her guy? Is this just a set up for another book?

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