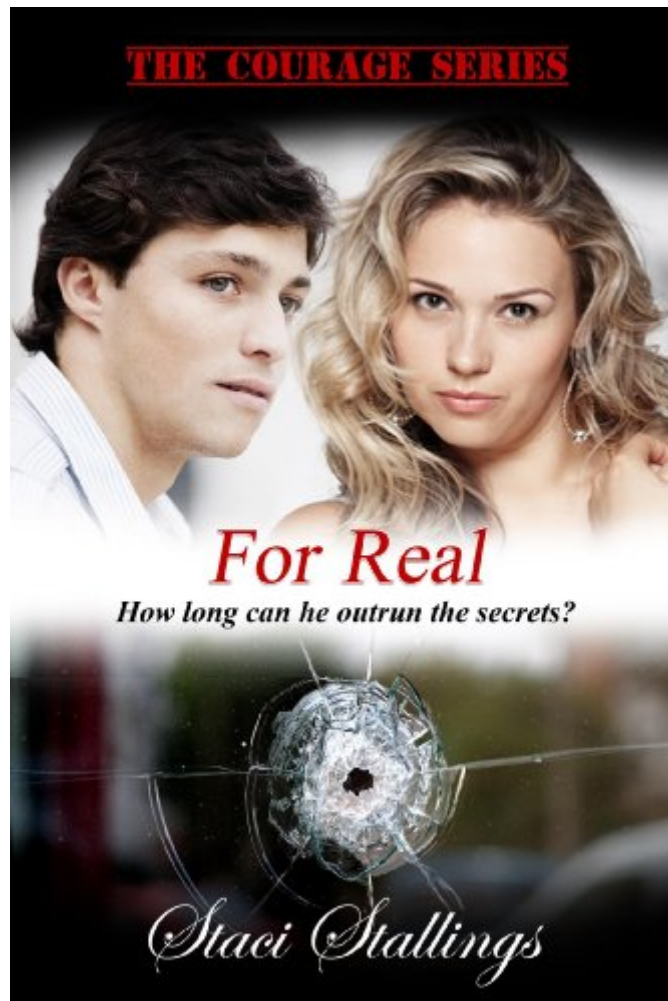


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For Real: A Contemporary Christian Romance Novel (The Courage Series, Book 3)



Synopsis

Blaine Donovan has a secret, but so far his plan to keep the rest of the world in the dark about who he really is and what's really going on in his life has worked. If he can just finish school before the demons catch up with him, he knows he can make life make sense once again. However, when he runs into Melody Todd, a semi-friend he had thought was long-gone, life takes a turn Blaine wasn't at all expecting. Still hurting from watching her best friend marry someone else, Melody Todd has given up on dating, guys, and herself. In fact, when Blaine shows back up in her life, she does what she always does with the eligible guys who look her way "she sets him up with someone else. But Blaine soon proves to be much different than he at first seems. Too many things are not adding up the way they are supposed to, and the more Melody digs, the more she sees that the Blaine she knows is not the real Blaine at all... "For Real will show you how you can lay those things that are preventing you from loving Jesus at the foot of the Cross. It will inspire you and give you hope." " Reviewer, Myrna Brorman FOR REAL is a remarkable Contemporary Christian Romance Novel. It delves into and behind the masks we all wear, coaxing "real" from the internal and external secrets we all tend to hold about ourselves. Confronting such issues as body image, money, prestige, and power, the lessons this Christian fiction book presents are relevant for women and men alike. Many Christian romance novels seek to present God's truth in an engaging, inspiring love story. FOR REAL does this so deeply and faithfully that it will surely become a centerpiece in your collection of inspirational books.*~* Excerpt *~* A step down outside and Blaine turned to her. At that moment there was no denying the soul-wrenching misery in his eyes. "Thanks, Mel." Her heart broke for him, for them. They were words she'd wanted him to say, but not like this, not with him walking down her sidewalk away from her. "You're welcome." For one second he paused, and then he turned and strode away with Dylan a half step ahead of him. Halfway down the sidewalk, he replaced his sunglasses, and she felt the distance growing between them. At the car when he looked back up at her, it was the old Blaine, cool, calculating, and in control. As much as she didn't want it to, what she felt most was acceptance of how utterly impossible it was for them to ever be together. Even if he got his life on solid ground again, it was a sure bet he would find some svelte honey in slinky clothes and heels up to her neck. Melody closed the door and wished reality didn't have to hurt so much.

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Customer Reviews

For Real is the third and final novel in the Courage Series. Staci Stallings finishes the series with a wonderful, thought provoking story that I could not put down till finished. With most novels, when I reach "The End," I usually move on to the next book. However, with For Real, as with other Stallings' novels, I will take a day or two (or more) to just digest it and just weigh the characters thoughts, feelings, emotions and revolutions with my own life. Melody and Blaine are characters first introduced in White Knight, the second novel in Staci's Courage Series. I found myself pulling for them while reading White Knight. I was thrilled she continued their story, along with Jeff and Lisa's from Protect and Serve and AJ and Eve's from White Knight in the third and final book. Staci creates characters and situations so true to life which I find rare in most romance novels. Melody and Blaine each find themselves struggling to deal with every day life. Melody struggles with the feelings of loneliness when her best friend AJ gets married. She struggles with her weight, finding the right college and career path, and with the desire to marry and have a family. Blaine struggles with the demands of college, working and with protecting a younger brother from an addictive mother and ex-stepfather. Both find themselves facing real hardships no matter which way they turn with no escape. As the weight of this stress starts to get them down, they are challenged to give God their

burdens. Staci weaves such great truths in the lives of these characters that every reader can walk away with understandings for their own lives. The image that Staci created when explaining how God loves us no matter what ugly surroundings we live in brought tears to my eyes.

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