

Talina Perkins

BOOKIN' IT REVIEWS



Under darkness...
LIES PASSION.

This book was reviewed for

[Night Owl Reviews](#)

Sex, Lies and Mistletoe

by [Tawny Weber](#)

Series: Undercover Operatives Book One

Release Date: December 2011

Publisher: [Harlequin](#)

Line: Blaze

Source: Author

Age Group: Adult

Category: Contemporary Romantic Suspense

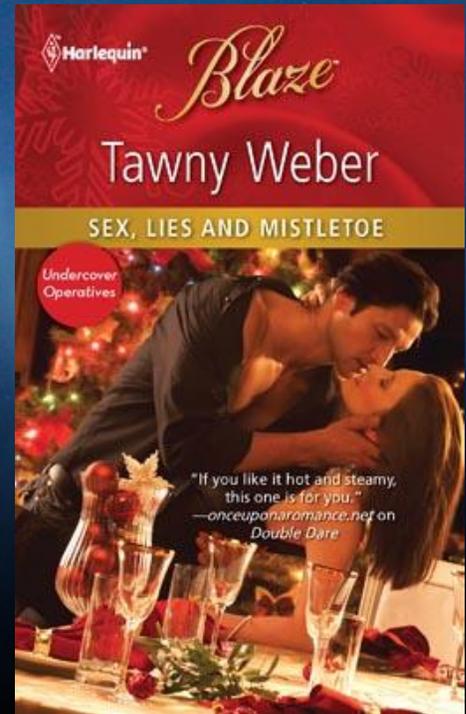
Pages: 224 pages in Print format

Available Formats:

[Kindle](#) | [Nook](#) | [eHarlequin Paperback](#) | [eHarlequin eBook](#)

My Rating : 4.5 Stars ~ A Top Pick From Night Owl Reviews

[Read my Rating Scale here](#)



Back Of The Book:

He sees her when she's sleeping...

Undercover DEA agent Caleb Black is home for the holidays—possibly to bust his own father. But maybe Caleb's con-man dad isn't the one running drugs through the small town of Black Oak. Maybe it's the green-eyed goddess who runs the New Age shop and has Caleb under her sultry spell.

Pandora Easton saved the family store with two words: sex sells. And her delectable aphrodisiacs really work, as she's proven with notorious bad boy Caleb again and again and again. Little does she guess that, in the end, her most potent potion will be the truth...

First Line:

"I'VE MADE THE ARRANGEMENTS. Everything is in place."

As the assurance echoed through his speakerphone, Tobias Black leaned back in his Barcalounger, shifted an unlit cigar between his teeth and grinned.

"That was fast. I didn't think you'd pull it off."

A lie, of course.

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Teaser:

"I like how you follow directions," she said against his lips, her laugh only a little bit nervous.

"Let's see how you do," he returned, leaning back so he could see the bounty he'd released. "Take it off."

"I beg your—"

"Off," he demanded. To emphasize his command, he took those amazing hands off her and stepped backward. Pandora wanted to whimper. She wasn't sure if it was over the loss of his magic fingers, the denial of his body. Or if it was pure embarrassment of having him this focused on her body. It wasn't bad, but it wasn't centerfold quality, either.

Plot:

A perfect holiday story to enjoy by the fire or poolside, it's that versatile. Sex, Lies and Mistletoe delivered a sensually romantic story that warmed my heart with just the right amount of suspense to keep me guessing along the way. I love that the backbone of this book is based on the strength of family and I must add I love a story that has a message! Problems or not, misunderstandings or buried shame--it's of no consequence. In the end, blood is blood and when Caleb's father needs help proving he is innocent of running drugs con-man dad works his connections to make sure it's his DEA agent son that rides into town to help. Mixed emotions tango with self doubt painting Pandora and Caleb's story which brings to light a truth so many experience in their own lives in one form or other. The truth of validation and acceptance plays a huge part in Sex, Lies and Mistletoe that added even more spice and intrigue that effectively captured my attention until the very satisfying ending.

Ms. Weber knows how to heighten the senses and build the passion with her characters and Pandora and Caleb suffered through many a moments where nothing more than a heated gaze could be had. Their banter was often lighthearted and humorous and had me laughing out loud on many occasion! The author balanced this out with a good portion of tense moments when the heroine struggled to understand her lack of self confidence and her attraction to Caleb when all she wanted to do was run and hide.

The author smoothly intertwined the lives of Pandora and Caleb with the past of both their families, giving it a richer story that allowed me to get a strong feeling for what to expect in the coming two installments of Ms. Weber's Undercover Operatives. The ending was just as good as the opening and left me ready for the next book in the series!

Setting:

Pandora and Caleb's story takes place in Black Oak, a small town in the foothills of Santa Cruz Mountains where gossip and delicious aphrodisiac treats are the favorite pastime.

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Writing:

Sex, Lies and Mistletoe is my first book from Tawny Weber but is far from the last. I was immediately drawn into her book by her ability to write in a man's perspective. When I can hear the character actually speaking in a roughened voice or smell the cigarette smoke as it taints the pages I read, I know I will love the author. Ms. Weber did just that! Her imagination and ability to create unique characters also intrigued me, making me want to pick up the next book to find out what she has awaiting her readers.

Characters:

The heroine, Pandora Easton, was so easy to like, but don't let her kind heart and gentle smile fool you. When riled, she can dish out just as good as any hardened DEA agent that has stared death in the face a time or two in the past. After returning to her home town to heal from a relationship gone terribly wrong, Pandora takes over the family business, Moonspun Dreams. I enjoyed reading and following along as Pandora slowly and surely regained her self-confidence, as she re-discovered her inner strength and to learn how not to rely on her mother's psychic abilities when it came to decision making. Though nervous around Caleb, I really enjoyed how she saw her flaws in herself and was determined to overcome them by never letting her fear control her. Now, she might have seen her flaws, but understanding them and why she has them is another story and one that gets unwrapped as her journey continues. The hero, DEA agent Caleb Black, was a complete tough as nails bad boy gone good without losing the bad boy quality. Just what I like in a hero! His sexual prowess never faltered but when it came to Pandora he turned into a man willing to do anything to protect the first and only woman to hold his heart in her hands. And odd pair with a combustible attraction!

Last Thoughts:

Tawny Weber's Undercover Operatives is on my MUST-READ list for 2012! With the heart melting attraction Pandora and Caleb shared, I am betting the second book will knock my socks off!

Thank you for stopping in and reading my review for Tawny Weber's Sex, Lies and Valentines! Please stop by [Bookin' It Reviews](#) to catch more reviews, book giveaways, [freebie downloads](#), tips on writing and so much more!

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