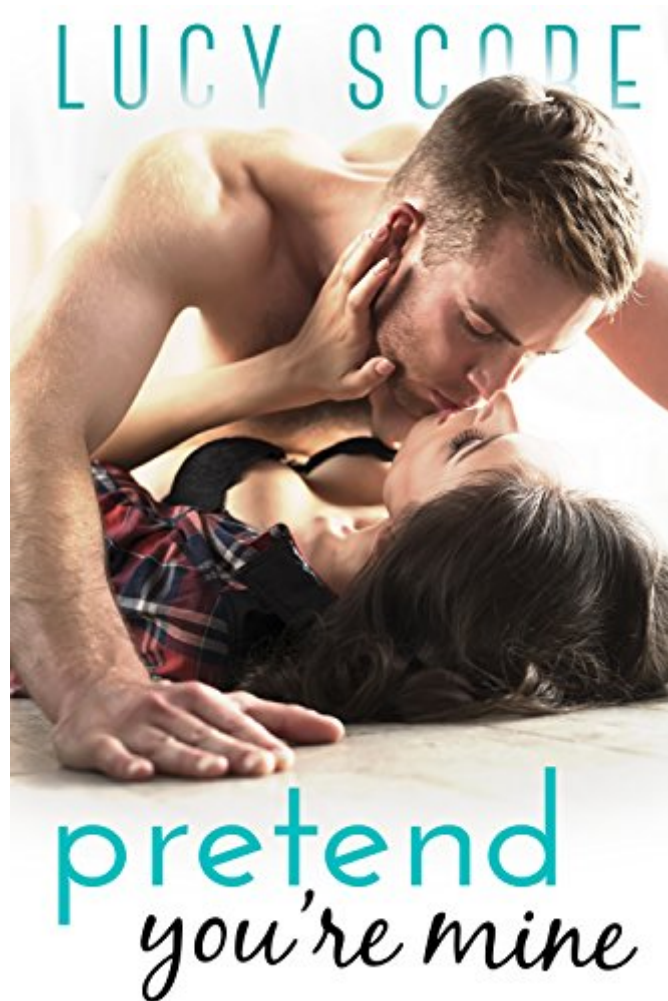


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Pretend You're Mine: A Small Town Love Story



Synopsis

I only wanted to protect you...Luke Garrison is a hometown hero, a member of the National Guard ready to deploy again. Strong, sweet, and sexy, he doesn't have a girlfriend and doesn't want one. When the wildly beautiful Harper stumbles into his life, though, he realizes that she's the perfect decoy. A fake girlfriend to keep his family off his back until he's out on another mission. So what if a single bite of her lip sends his mind to wicked places? He can control himself. Can't he? Harper was on her way to starting a new life... again. But something about Luke makes her want to settle down in this small town and make Luke's house a home. When his arms wrap around her like steel, she finally knows what it's like to feel safe. Protected. One night of sleeping in the same bed turns into something much, much more... and soon Luke can't keep his mind off Harper's wide gray eyes, or his hands off of her luscious curves. He never thought he'd feel this way about a woman again. But he knows that he can't tell her the truth about his dark past, and she can't reveal to him what she's running from. Anyway, this isn't a real relationship. It's only for a month. Only pretend. Until it isn't... For a limited time, the novel *No More Secrets*, book one of Lucy Score's new series *Blue Moon*, is included free!

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Customer Reviews

This one is so hard for me to review because I think I fell in love with this book, characters and author. I don't want to write the review because it's like me closing the door, turning my back on these people and I don't want to. Harper was intelligent, strong, resilient and hilarious. I loved her sharp tongue, her quick wit, but her compassion, honesty, sincerity was top notch. Getting the heck out of dodge when she flees a cheating boss/boyfriend, Harper ends up a lively little town, hours away from her intended destination. The initial meeting with the main characters was a great scene showcasing what a spitfire Harper was going to be in the townspeople's lives. Hometown hero Luke Garrison is taken aback at how Harper "jumps right" in to the aid of others, never caring what it might mean for her own safety. Living a bachelor life after trying to recover from a devastating past, hunky Luke is the target of his family's matchmaking and soon takes Harper as a fake girlfriend to keep his family off his back until he deploys with his National Guard Unit to Afghanistan in a month. Harper also has a tragic past and these two kindred spirits soon have a deep, yet passionate, connection Luke is finding hard to fight. Harper is a character that I won't forget. A foster child after losing her parents in a car accident at the age of 7, passed through the foster system until she ages out, physical abuse, alone in this world and always ready for a challenge, Harper was a go getter, a rescuer, a helper, a friend, a listener, and all she wanted back was for someone to be the same for her, to protect her, save her, love her.

Pretend You're Mine is a fairly well written book with a heroine I truly enjoyed. Harper Wilde is a self-aware firecracker of a woman who doesn't shy away from saying the hard thing - or doing it. She tends to take life on fully, and I admired that about her. Hero Luke Garrison, however, cannot say the same thing. He hides from everything in his life. His interactions with his family, his feelings for Harper, the damage caused by his last relationship... everything. He was not very heroic or particularly charming. The book follows Harper primarily as she turns a crappy day into a pretty good life. She shows up in Luke's hometown with no money, cell phone, gas for her car, clothes, or ID. She caught her bf/boss cheating and just runs away. No time is spent mourning the relationship which I didn't understand at first but which made more sense once I learned that Harper is a roll-with-the-punches sort of girl. After stopping at a small town bar (where she immediately attacks a guy in the parking lot who is roughing up a girl), she gets set up with Luke who will give her a place to stay (his own bed), take her to get the stuff from her apartment, and give her a full time job as an office manager (without even asking her if she is capable of doing the work). This was one of the reasons the book only received three stars. It was all just so over the top lucky/convenient that it

was hard to suspend my disbelief. Why not just give her cash for a hotel and gas? Logic issues aside, the best bits of this book are Harper's thoughts as she falls in love with Luke, his family, and the town in which she finds herself. She knows he is emotionally stunted, accepts that, and decides to go all in anyway.

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