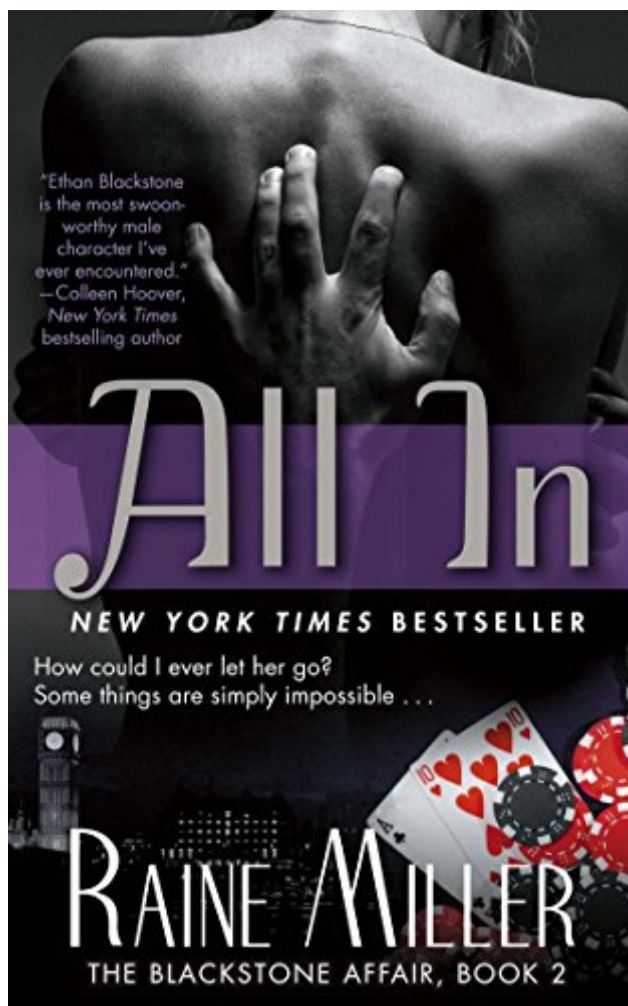


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All In: The Blackstone Affair, Book 2



Synopsis

The second part in The Blackstone Affair series! Looming danger. A love worth fighting for. A man who'll go all in. Ethan Blackstone has a problem on his hands. He's broken Brynne's trust and she's left him. He's unwilling to live without her and isn't giving up. He's dead-set on getting his beautiful American girl back. The passion between them was explosive, but the secrets they hid from each other are dark and chilling and are powerful enough to destroy their shot at a life together. With political threats now directed at Brynne, Ethan is running out of time and he'll need to gather all his strength and agility to protect her from the dangers that could take her away from him forever. Will Ethan be able to save Brynne from a past that keeps her locked in fear? Will he ever feel the warmth of her touch, the solidity of her trust again? This is a love-struck man who is willing to do whatever it takes to possess the heart of the woman he loves. He'll go to any lengths to protect her. He'll go all in. Here is the fiery story of what happens when two people surrender to a love so great it can heal the scars of the past and give way to a life of pure, rapturous ecstasy.

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Customer Reviews

I'm probably one of the few passengers on the contemporary romance ride that skipped reading this series. (Perhaps it was the \$8 price tag for an e-book of 160 pages? Sigh.) I was browsing through my local Half Price Books and spotted this series on the shelf. With all its 5 star reviews and comparisons to other great reads, I bought it. I wish I could go back in time to that moment - or perhaps wish the person that sold the trilogy to the store in the first place had burned them instead - oh yes! Yes that! BURN! Sigh. I'll probably sigh a lot in this rant review. You probably shouldn't read it, but I have to get things off my chest. Our male lead, Christian, wait OOPS! SORRY! I mean Ethan. Ethan. That's his name. Our male lead is Ethan. Phew, almost messed that one up royally.. Anyway, he's a millionaire that owns his own company, has scars that deal with a difficult past, is extremely possessive of his female, has never brought a female to his bed, must make sure his female eats, must supply his female with a driver/bodyguard, said driver/bodyguard is dating another employee, must include a necktie in their first love scene, has nightmares - um, I think you catch my drift, yeah? No wait, one more. Let's end things on opposite sides of an elevator.. Okay, now I'm done. Where exactly is the originality here? It's outrageous! She really should have added EL James as co-author. How does the author of this book sleep at night? Sigh. Our female lead is an art student that moonlights as a nude model. In the opening scene, she accepts a ride home from a stranger, takes medicine from him, and falls asleep in his car. She likes to cry at the sight of a man's chest. She knows him a day and trusts he's clean enough to shag without a condom. Oh, and when her man tells her he likes her tacos, she thinks to herself, yeah, I think I love this dude. She has a troubled past that keeps her from trusting men, but she feels safe with our male lead. I could say more, but do I really need to? There was no romance in this book at all. The characters were thrown together in a rushed fashion. It's truly an insta-love failure. I had zero connection to them. In a matter of days, they are living together pretending they've known each other since the dawn of time. Perhaps any resemblance of a plot would have helped things along, but nope. None to be found. Literally nothing happens. They meet, they shag, she buys toiletries and moves on in, and then they fight. There's mystery surrounding their pasts, but I can't bring myself to care. So here we are. Both leads are lacking, the plot is missing, surely the sex can save the day. I mean, it IS erotica, right? Sigh, no. The writing ruins any attempt at melting panties. The writing was rough. Short, simple sentences and the overuse of the exclamation point were annoying to me. At times, I felt like I was reading an 8th grader's homework. Anyway, it was the dialogue that most troubling. It was extremely awkward. I just don't know. It didn't work for me at all. I couldn't see past said awkwardness to consider the book steamy at all. I brought some examples with me. Let's take a

look at what I mean."I looked at his bare chest for the first time and nearly wept." Um."I rode the wave as Ethan rode me." Sigh. No comment.Oh! Oh! Here's my favorite one!"Spread against the wall, my purple cowboy boots dangling to the sides like the legs of a frog for dissection." Ahem. What?! My brain immediately flashed, uhh, did she really write that?! A frog. A frog dissection. While describing a sex scene. Words escape me.Okay enough of that. I'll spare you the quotes where she cries because she's so overwhelmed by an orgasm or when our lead starts with the "you're mine" "you're mine" "mine mine mine mine" after knowing her 2.5 minutes.You know when you have a paper-cut or similar injury, and you proceed to poke at it and revel in the tiny amount of pain you get from doing that? No? Okay, it's just me then. I admit I can be strange. ANYWAY, this explains why after disliking the first book, I immediately start in on the second. Because PAIN! Apparently.. Plus the first book just ends. Literally. The doors on the elevator close and you're left thinking, the book is over? What was the plot? Sigh. There was literally no need to split books 1 and 2.So I go ahead and read book 2. It was only slightly better, as in something actually happens. Their traumatic pasts are revealed. There's a bit of action at the art gala which leads to a bit of a mystery. And the book is in Ethan's POV, which I very much prefer over Brynne. But I'm officially ending the pain with book 2. No more.I almost forgot to include a quote from book 2! Shame on me. Here you go.."How did you learn to cock so well? I sputtered, "I mean cook!" I'm sorry. Are you 34 or 14? Awkward much?While I can't recommend this book, I know so many friends that gave this read 4 and 5 stars. And you know what? Some people like coffee and some people like tea.. You may think my opinion is crazy. And from the text in this review, you have credible evidence! But please let me have my opinion with as little hate as possible. One love and all that..I rate it 2 stars simply because I got so worked up disliking it, that I ran a few extra miles. And I love running. And I dislike one starring.Rating Legend:5 star-loved it4 star-liked it3 star-it was okay2 star-didn't like it1 star-hated it

I had a bit more trouble staying in the moment with this one. I still really like Ethan and Brynne, my issue is that Ethan is REALLY FREAKING intense when it comes to Brynne. Every man that is within a 100 meter range of her is like some mortal enemy that is out to steal her, and he has absolutely no trust that she really does love him and won't stray. The excitement in this book was pretty good, I like what is being set up and I really liked the ending. I usually like getting at least a portion of a story from the guys POV, but I'm not sure I liked this. Ethan is supposed to be this highly trained, uber intelligent security guy; but he can't get his head out of his trousers for 2 seconds to really get into the game of protecting her.

I have to say that I'm bothered that Ethan doesn't understand that he can trust his demons to Brynne because she did the same thing for him! She told him her deepest darkest secrets. Why would it be any different for him? Why does he doubt her and the solidity of their relationship? What girl can't use a gay best friend?!? I mean seriously! Loved Benny and Gabby. Could have learned a little more about their relationships. I loved how Ethan makes Brynne use a safe word. What a perfect idea! And how fitting!?! It still broke my heart when she used it. For both of them. Excited to continue on.

Just some background from Naked: Brynne Bennett is a beautiful American grad student at the University of London studying art conservation. She's also a model, which brings her into Ethan Blackstone's sights. Ethan saw a nude portrait of her and felt the need to possess it and her. Brynne has a traumatic past, one that she tries to alternately run away from and cope with. The question is, which will she be more successful with? Ethan Blackstone. I am no Anglophile, but I need an Ethan Blackstone. Like now. LOL! Ethan is the British high-profile security expert who felt and gave in to his attraction to the American beauty. He is very much an alpha male with a very strong dominant nature. The next question is, will his dominant nature be a trigger for Brynne's painful memories or will he provide the strength she needs? This is from Ethan's POV. When you break someone's trust and they respond accordingly, do you really think you can get them back? Do you think you deserve to? While Ethan knew he didn't deserve to win Brynne back, he was determined to get his American girl. His confession to her the last time he spoke to her, honestly, was like a stab in the heart to me considering what he did. However, there is something to be said about pairing honesty with persistence. In Ethan's case, it definitely worked. Ethan has his own traumatic past. His reactions to it don't surprise me. What did surprise me was how well he functioned after living through a horrifying nightmare. It shows the inner strength of a person. This one also ends in a little bit of a cliffhanger, but not as heart-wrenching as the first. And now on to Eyes Wide Open!

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