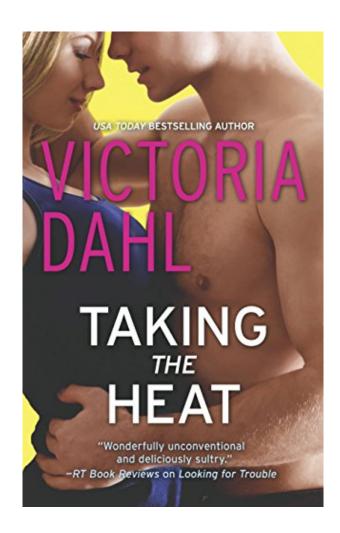
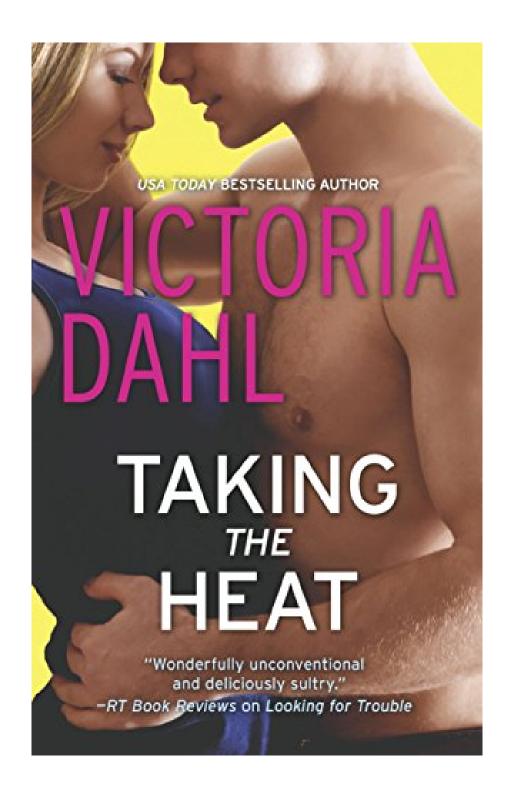
TAKING THE HEAT (JACKSON: GIRLS' NIGHT OUT) BY VICTORIA DAHL



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Passion this hot can't be faked...

All revved up for bright lights and steamy nights, writer Veronica Chandler chased her dreams to New York City. When she hit a dead end, reality sent her back home to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Saving her pride and her new gig—writing a relationship advice column!—requires some faking. No one can know the truth about her big-city flop or her nonexistent sex life. But the town's irresistibly rugged librarian is determined to figure her out...and give her hands-on lessons in every wicked thing she wants to know.

Gabe MacKenzie's heart might be in Wyoming, but secretly his future's tied up in his family's Manhattan legacy. Getting down and dirty with Veronica is supposed to give him a few memorable nights—not complicate his plans. But the thing about heat this scorching is there's just no going back...and it might be too hot for either of them to take.

• Sales Rank: #161666 in eBooks

Published on: 2015-08-01Released on: 2015-07-28Format: Kindle eBook

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Sexy, Sweet & So Much Fun

By JaimeReads

I love love Victoria Dahl. I'm a pretty new-ish fan, so over the part few months I've devoured all of her contemporary romances and have been eagerly awaiting this release! I hadn't been a romance reader before stumbling onto her. Now I am such a fangirl of the genre. And Victoria Dahl remains one of my favorite authors. For an idea of "who" I'm into, I'm also a big fan of Julie James, Cara McKenna, Kristen Ashley, and Elle Kennedy - they are definitely varied in their approach and style, and depending on my mood I think I have an author for whatever I'm into.

I really enjoyed this story- starting with the characters. I liked that although Veronica was a virgin, it wasn't a corny situation. And Gabe didn't have a meltdown or make it a huge thing. It felt really authentic. It just made sense and everything it added to the dynamic was great. Ms. Dahl does a great job of explaining where the characters are coming from, you understand what makes them tick and why. It makes sense, it makes you more invested. Gabe and his beard, so adorable. I really liked them both. And they both had realistic issues that caused conflict for them- sometimes in books the requisite conflict is so contrived or absurd. This was pretty natural and it just made sense.

I love the sexy time in this book (per usual, for a Victoria Dahl book). The scenes are descriptive and fun and HOT. There's pretty much nothing bad about a sexy growly hero, am I right? (That was completely rhetorical, I KNOW I'm right). I love that when I read this book I alternated between mumbling "get it girl" and fanning myself saying "oh my word" like an elderly southern woman (when I am in fact a 30 year old

woman from NJ).

Moral of the story: The book made me laugh, it was sweet, it was super sexy, and it's just a lot of fun to read. Definitely one of my favorites by this author. Ms. Dahl always writes such different characters, sometimes the heroines are super confident or more sexually forward or more reserved- I'd say of ALL of her characters, I related most to Veronica so maybe that's also an added reason to why I liked it so much.

Also as an aside, Victoria Dahl is hilarious and delightful on twitter! She engages with fans and she also speaks her mind on current events and things happening in the world (but not in an obnoxious or preachy way- she just shares her thoughts). She also did a great job of promoting this book with cunnilingus Gabe. I mean, I was already going to read it, but that promotion didn't hurt (and was totally accurate!).

I love telling my friends to read her books and have gifted her books to them (bless the practicality of the Kindle, I send books to friends all the time!)- I always describe her/her books with some version of: "Her books are hella sexy. She doesn't use a formula- her heroes/heroines are always different and unique. And she just seems like the type of girl we'd be friends with. Like, she'd be awesome to get drunk and chill with." That usually gets them.

Can't wait for her next book/series as this was the last one in the Jackson Girls' Night Out series. Wherever you go, Ms. Dahl, I'll follow!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Taking the Heat - Victoria Dahl

By Heather B. - Reviewer at Smut Matters

I was going to make this entire post nothing but heart emojis, but I figured I'd go a little deeper than that.

Oh, man. This book was so good. I said in my last post how tired I am of the virgin heroine, then picked this one up, knowing Victoria Dahl has never done a virgin heroine and I'd be safe. Then I met Veronica Chandler.

Veronica Chandler followed her post-college dreams to New York City, hated it, and now she's back home in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. She writes the Dear Veronica advice column for the local paper, usually giving advice on relationships and sex, occasionally weightier matters if they come up. When we first meet her, she's absolutely terrified someone is going to find out her secret, namely that she makes a living giving advice on sex and relationships, but has had very few relationships, and zero sex.

Gabe MacKenzie is new to Jackson Hole. He's the new librarian, transplanted from the public library system in Cincinnati, and can't wait to spend the next year doing exactly what he wants. He has family responsibilities waiting for him back in NYC, so his contract with the library is only that long. Then he meets Veronica.

One thing I loved about this book (and I'm going to stop using that phrase because I would just use it over and over) is that when Veronica and Gabe first meet, sparks do not fly. They both think "Yum", but there's no sizzling skin or sudden flaring of heat. They're not unattracted to the other, but they're introduced using their common experience in New York as an ice breaker, and neither of them is interested in dating what they consider to be a New Yorker and all the stereotypes that go along with that. Gabe's initial incorrect impression of Veronica is helped along by the fact that Veronica is already dressed for her evening, and is trying to hide the fact her exhausted, bloodshot eyes behind huge sunglasses in the middle of the library.

She's tired and nervous because, despite an almost crippling case of stage fright, she's agreed to do a live reading of her advice column. It's set up for Thursday night in a bar - she'll read questions audience members have written down and answer them there. She downs a few drinks to loosen herself up and goes out there on that stage and owns it. She's fantastic. Her advice is great without being preachy, it's irreverent while being totally true, and everyone loves her. Obviously, her boss and the bar want to make this a weekly event.

And Gabe. Oh, sweet, delicious, bearded Gabe. As a woman very happily married to a non-lumberjack, non-hipster bearded dude, I can tell you without hesitation that there are not enough of them in romance novels. Gabe was so perfect for Veronica. Not perfect. Just perfect for her. He could not have cared less that she was a virgin. It didn't scare him off, nor did it make him swell up in manly pride. Everyone should have a Gabe for their first time. He was so kind to her, funny, direct, and so, so sexy.

And the sex. Good lord, the sex. Victoria Dahl writes some of the hottest sex in contemporary romance. First of all, Veronica was a virgin because Veronica was a virgin. There was no past trauma anyone had to overcome, there was no deep-seated hatred of herself. It happened the same way it happened for millions of other people. She didn't have a ton of friends in high school, mainly because her more popular step-brother was such a jerk to her, and when she got to college, it became a "THING". Since she'd waited so long, she wanted it to be right and special. Then college ended and she hadn't found that guy yet. Then she went to New York by herself, and being somewhat shy had a difficult time meeting someone. Then she moved back to Jackson Hole, and here she is. It's just a thing about her, not THE thing about her.

And when she and Gabe finally have sex, it so, so good. It's so good because it's so real. Veronica may be a virgin, but that doesn't mean she's never done anything. At one point, she tells Gabe that he doesn't have to worry about her hymen because she owns a vibrator and knows how to use it. She knows some things she likes, but she doesn't just turn into this amazing porn-star sex goddess the minute her clothes come off. She asks Gabe questions and he answers her. He gives her direction and tips, which she tries. He tells her exactly what he likes. She's willing to do all of it, she just wants to know that she's doing it right and that he enjoys it. And, yes, she has an orgasm her first time out, which most women don't, but it was believable because of the aforementioned vibrators. And even though she's had orgasms before, and she knows what to expect, she still gets all up in her own head about it and has to stop and reset herself. Which women do sometimes. Our orgasms are much more tied to our emotions and our brains than men's are. Usually.

This was definitely Veronica's story. In the beginning she let very few people see who she really was. She refers to her clothes and makeup as a costume more than once. It was so great to see her take everything she learned about herself from her relationship with Gabe and use it come out of her shell. She helps a bullied teenager, stands up to her father, and branches out to try new things. I loved it. Gabe changed some, too, but he didn't have as far to go. He took a hard look at his family obligations and made some tough decisions about how much he was willing to sacrifice for those obligations, and how he wanted to live his life.

Veronica and Gabe were one of my all-time favorite couples. They just had so much fun together. In the bedroom and out of it. I can't remember a contemporary couple who spent so much time just being together and laughing together. So many authors skip that part, going straight from meet-cute to first sex to BIG MISUNDERSTANDING to groveling. Very few of the couples have genuinely fun dates and a lot of lovely buildup to the rest of it. I just loved this book. It was exactly what I needed exactly when I needed it. I'm so happy I bought it instead of borrowing it from the library (sorry, Gabe), because I'm going to read this one over and over. I haven't read everything by Victoria Dahl yet, but I'm slowly making my way through her backlist. Slowly because I'm going to be so sad when I've read them all and have to wait for new ones. And I'm not going to demand new ones from her, but I'll probably stalk her on social media waiting for news of them.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Humorous, witty, sexual banter, and general top notch dialogue By Whiskey in the Jar

Veronica couldn't wait to escape her small town after years of being bullied in high school but the big city of New York, wasn't all she dreamed it would be. After a couple years she admits defeat and comes back home, to an apartment and job her dad has all arranged for her. Lately, she has felt like she's been taking the saying "fake it until you make it" too far and has lost sight of who she really is. When the hot new librarian in town, Gabe, brings her a desperately needed drink, she starts to think he may be able to fill her other desperate needs, too.

Taking the Heat is third in the Jackson: Girls' Night Out series and if you have read the other previous books you will remember Veronica; she is befriended by the other heroines of the books and makes fleeting appearances. The hallmark of this series so far has been strong and self-assured women but as Veronica is around ten years younger (27yrs old) than the other women, she hasn't quite had the life experience to gain her confidence and her story deals more with finding her footing in life. Veronica lost her mother when she was younger to cancer and her father was the epitome of gruff, "buck up ", and don't let them know your weaknesses. When her father remarried, her step-brother took out his displeasure on her and verbally and emotionally bullied her at home and school. These instances left scars and has ever since had Veronica doubting her own worth. It takes meeting Gabe and his forthrightness in telling her he likes her wackiness, for her to be able to spread her wings.

Gabe, as I mentioned, is the new librarian in town, he is self-assured, laid-back, and dangerously intrigued by Veronica as he gets to know her better. He also has his own set of family problems, his dad expects him to move back to New York City and run the family business. Gabe feels completely stifled in the city and loves the great outdoors of Jackson, Wyoming where he can indulge in his favorite past time of rock climbing but he feels he owes it to his father, so after this year of freedom in Jackson, he plans on moving back to New York. Gabe and Veronica both have their family issues, which are one of the aspects of Dahl's writing that I love so much, our characters don't exist in a vacuum, and they have layers and depths. The story shows and explains the building bricks of our characters, which creates a richer experience.

Veronica and Gabe have the humorous, witty, sexual banter, and general top notch dialogue that you would expect from a Dahl novel but I did feel they were missing the deeper emotional connection I felt from the previous couples. It's no secret that Dahl's books tend to feature more than the average intimate scene and they way she writes them, I'm definitely not going to complain but in this book, I felt like the focus was too much on this aspect. This could be because I didn't feel the couple's emotional connection so it started to feel like empty/filler sex scenes. Veronica admits to Gabe she is a virgin and instead of the growing sexual attraction mixed with emotional building up, the focus was a lot on her virginity and losing it instead of their actual joining because of a growing closeness.

Their eventual issues with their perspective families come to ahead and while we don't get direct happily ever afters, you'll feel good about where the characters look to be headed. Gabe and Veronica's relationship issues get wrapped up somewhat easily and again, you'll be left feeling good about where they seem to be headed even if there isn't a nice finished bow on top. Dahl writes some of the best contemporary romance out there right now, I just think compared to the other stories in the series, this one fell a bit short on the emotional connection aspect. However, if you want a heroine learning to accept herself and shine and a bearded good guy librarian who when together make true on their dirty talk, look no further. In fact, go back and read the previous books in the series, Fanning the Flames; Looking For Trouble; and Flirting With Disaster. This series is chalk full of issues that will hit you right in the feels, amazing heroines, and their steamy escapades with their hot heroes.

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

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TAKING THE HEAT (JACKSON: GIRLS' NIGHT OUT) BY VICTORIA DAHL PDF

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Review

Winner of the American Library Association's 2016 Reading List honor, awarded to the year's best books in genre fiction

One of Book Page's Top Ten Romances of the Year!

About the Author

Victoria Dahl lives with her family in a small town high in the mountains. Her first novel debuted in 2007, and she's gone on to write seventeen books and novellas in historical, contemporary, and paranormal romance. Victoria's contemporary romance, Talk Me Down, was nominated for both a RWA Rita Award and the National Readers' Choice Award. Since then, her books have been nominated for two more Rita Awards, and she hit the USA Today Bestseller list with the anthology Midnight Kiss.

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Out of all the mistakes Veronica Chandler had made in her life, this was definitely the worst. Worse than moving to New York City after college, worse than dating that guy who'd dumped her via text after a hand job, worse than crawling back home to Wyoming with her tail between her legs and even worse than becoming a complete fraud of an advice columnist.

What the hell had she been thinking? She should have said no to her boss. She should have told him to take his horrible idea back to whatever hellish place he'd found it. But she'd been too afraid to say no.

Veronica lived every single day afraid that her boss was going to realize the truth about her. Each email she received from him seemed to pulse with menace, and when he'd called and asked her to stop by his office two weeks earlier, she'd known that had been the end of her charade.

But instead of firing her, he'd presented her with an opportunity. In her state of shock and relief, she'd stammered out a yes instead of screaming "Hell, no." Maybe she'd been in denial since then. Maybe she hadn't wanted to think about it. But there was no denying the truth anymore. She was supposed to put on a live performance tonight, and now she was racing to the Jackson Town Library as if the stacks of books inside could save her.

She rushed through the glass doors, head already swiveling to scan the main room of the library. Lauren

Foster was a great friend, so when she hadn't answered this morning's panicked texts, Veronica had known she must be working. If she could just find Lauren, surely she would say it was okay for Veronica to back out of this mess and hide from the world in her apartment for a week or two.

She walked past the circulation desk and looked into the children's area, but Lauren wasn't hidden between the stacks of kids' books. What if she wasn't really working today? What if she was on a hike deep in the woods and wouldn't be home until late?

"No," Veronica said. No, that wasn't possible. Veronica needed her too much.

She adjusted the sunglasses hiding her bloodshot eyes and took a deep breath. She had to stay calm. She couldn't let anyone see her panic. Veronica Chandler was a goddamn bastion of good sense and cool remove. She'd handled New York City. She handled other people's problems every day. She could handle this.

After smoothing a hand over her newly cut hair, she walked to the circulation desk and did not trip over her own high heels. "Is Lauren Foster in today?" she asked the older woman she recognized from one of her previous visits to the library.

"I think she's over in Periodicals with the new librarian. Wish I could join them."

Veronica wasn't sure what the woman's waggling eyebrows were trying to convey, but she smiled with relief. "Thank you so much."

The smile fell away as soon as she turned and headed for the opposite side of the library. Logically, she knew her friend couldn't save her from this awful mistake, but Veronica's body still strained toward her as if Lauren were a life preserver.

Tucked into the far corner of the building, the periodicals section was arranged around a cozy grouping of armchairs and couches, and in the middle of it all stood Lauren and a stranger. Not a new librarian, though. This stranger had a beard and dark hair and a plaid tie and a hot lean body that immediately dried Veronica's mouth to ash.

The royal blue heel of Veronica's leather half boot caught on the weave of the industrial carpet and jerked her to a halt. She lurched forward, catching herself on a shelf of autobiographies before she could hit the floor.

"Oh, God," she breathed, bent over and staring at the carpet. At least she hadn't landed flat on her face or jammed her skull into the corner of a shelf. She glanced up, face already hot with color, but miraculously, they'd turned away from her. Lauren was gesturing toward a rack of magazines as she spoke, and the man was nodding. Veronica stood straight so quickly that the blood drained from her brain and left her dizzy.

She was not going to meet this gorgeous man like the spastic mess of a woman she was. In fact... Veronica set her mouth in a straight line. She wasn't going to meet this man at all. If there was anything that could make her current situation worse, it was introducing a hot guy into the equation. She actually winced at the thought.

Nope. She was going to be cool, ignore the way his wavy black hair flopped onto his forehead when he laughed at Lauren and pretend his trimmed beard didn't make Veronica want to pet his face.

Hoping to stay half-hidden in the stacks, she waited for Lauren to turn in her direction. When that didn't

happen, she waved a hand, hoping she was at least in Lauren's peripheral vision. If she could just get her friend's attention and lure her away from this bearded wonder...

But of course, he was the one who turned toward Veronica. As his gaze rose toward her, she slapped her waving hand to her head and pretended she was only smoothing down her hair as she stepped forward. She kept her eyes off him and locked on Lauren, and her friend finally noticed her. "Oh, my God!" Lauren cried out in the hushed tone she used only at work. "Your hair looks amazing!"

"Do you think so?" Veronica asked, touching the blunt edges at the back.

"I love it. Did you lighten it?"

Veronica nodded. She was naturally blonde, but she'd had her stylist lighten the front to a shade closer to platinum. She'd been worried it had been another big mistake, spending the last of her savings on such a frivolous expense. "I did it for tonight," she said.

"Good idea. You're going to blow them away."

Veronica shook her head and tried to ignore the fact that Hot Guy was watching her with a friendly smile. "Do you have a minute, Lauren?" she asked. "If you're too busy, I can come back later."

"Sure, I have a minute. This is Gabe, by the way. Gabe MacKenzie, the latest addition to our little library. Gabe, this is Veronica Chandler."

He really was a librarian. Wow.

He reached out a hand, so Veronica had no choice but to take it. His hand was warm and strong and rough at the edges, as if he built the shelves he later stocked with books. "Nice to meet you," he said, his voice pleasantly rough along the edges, too.

Veronica didn't want to know any of that about him. She didn't want to know how he felt or sounded. He was way too tempting. She pulled her hand away as quickly as she could. "You're the new librarian?" she asked, not able to keep the shock from her voice.

"I am," he answered as if he was used to people being surprised by this librarian's hot young maleness.

"Veronica is a bit of a local celebrity," Lauren offered.

"No, I'm not," she said as quickly as she could.

Lauren snorted. "In fact, Gabe, you're standing right by some of her work." She gestured toward the local newspapers spread out on a table. "She's Dear Veronica."

His white teeth flashed in a smile. "I'm afraid I'm not familiar."

Veronica crossed her arms and shook her head, but Lauren kept talking. "She writes the local advice column. A smart take from a big-city girl, that kind of a thing."

"Cool," he said, looking at the papers now instead of Veronica. That was an improvement, at least. She

shifted impatiently, jerking her head toward the door of the conference room to try to get Lauren to move along, but Lauren seemed to be on a mission.

"He's from New York," Lauren said. "You two probably have a lot in common. Veronica's a local but she lived in Manhattan for years."

Oh, God. Not a New York guy. No. No, no, no. She shook her head as if that could ward him off. When Gabe looked up, he was shaking his head, too. "I was born there, but I've been away for years. I came here from Cincinnati."

"Right," Veronica said. "Sure." She crossed her arms more tightly and waited until Lauren finally sent Gabe back toward the small office behind the circulation desk to fill out some paperwork. Then she led Veronica to the conference room.

"Good Lord, girl," Lauren said as soon as the door closed. "What the hell is wrong with you? If I was ten years younger and single... Did you see that boy?"

Veronica waved a frantic hand. "I don't have time for that right now!"

"Seriously? I think there really are too many hormones in our food these days, because you're not okay. And here I thought having firefighters right next door was distracting. Now none of us will get any work done."

Veronica shot a mournful glance toward the door as if she could see through it. "Did he just start today?"

"Yes, Jean-Marie sprung him on me. I knew she'd been interviewing for Sophie's replacement, but I didn't know she'd decided to import a little testosterone from Cincinnati. He's here to drag us into the twenty-first century, I gather. Ebooks. Digital audio. Maybe even a 3D printer. Basically, he's going to be a giant pain in my ass, but regardless, I'm going to hook you two up if it kills me."

"What?" Veronica gasped. "No, you are not! I have problems. Big problems!"

Lauren immediately sobered. "What's wrong?"

Veronica grabbed her arms. "You know what's wrong!"

Lauren looked so surprised by Veronica's freak-out that Veronica felt immediately embarrassed. This was who she was on the inside. This wasn't the Veronica she let other people see. She didn't want even her friends to know how weak she really was. She managed to lower her voice but she still couldn't stop the fear from bubbling up. "That stupid show is in eight hours and I can't do it."

Lauren rolled her eyes and then carefully extracted her elbows from Veronica's grip. "Calm down. You're going to be great. We're all coming."

"No. You don't understand. I..." She stared at Lauren's face, wanting to tell her the truth. Wishing she could. But this lie was all she had anymore. It felt like all she'd ever had.

She'd spent the first twenty-one years of her life waiting for her real life to start, planning and saving for it. She'd put off making close friends and falling in love and doing crazy things and taking chances, because she'd thought she would do all that once she got to New York. And what if she got so cozy and tied down in

Wyoming that she never went? No. Too much of a risk. So she'd waited.

But then she'd finally gotten to the big city, and...none of that had been real, either. And now here she was back home, living the biggest lie of all.

So instead of saying, I'm a complete impostor, and I can't pull that off in a live show, she went with the almost-true version of it. "It takes me days to write a column and do research and get everything right and still be entertaining. I can't do all of that in front of people!"

"Then why did you arrange these shows?"

"I didn't! It wasn't my idea. My boss told me I was going to do them, and I needed the extra money, so I said yes instead of sobbing and running into the hills!"

Lauren was clearly trying to look patient, but she had to press her lips together to hide a smile. It didn't work.

"Help me," Veronica begged. "Laugh if you want to, but tell me I can back out."

"You can't back out," Lauren said immediately. "And you're going to be great. People like you. You're nice. You're funny. And it's at a martini bar. Everyone will be drunk and ready to laugh at anything."

Veronica nodded, trying to psych herself up. "Yes. All right. Count on drunkenness."

"Exactly! And didn't you say that you get to choose the questions?"

"Yes, but I only have a few minutes. Everyone will put their questions in a bowl, and I get to read them before I start."

Lauren's face brightened as if the whole problem were solved. "Perfect. Just pick some questions that are close to ones you've dealt with in the paper. Death of a parent, cheating spouse, best-friend drama. You already know those answers."

Lauren was right. Veronica did know those answers. Maybe she could handle this. "So I shouldn't back out?"

"Oh, my God," Lauren groaned. "Get out of here. I'll see you tonight."

Veronica didn't move. She couldn't actually think of a way to back out of the show, but she'd thought her more experienced, smart-as-a-whip friend would come up with a plan, and all she'd come up with was encouragement. "I have to do this?" Veronica tried one more time.

"Yep. No choice."

"Okay," Veronica whispered. "I'll be fine, right?" When Lauren's eyebrow rose in impatience, Veronica nodded. "I'll be fine," she said more firmly.

"You'll be great," Lauren insisted.

"Right. Thank you for the good advice. And thanks for trying to fix me up with the new guy. He really is hot, but I can't deal with that right now. Still...a boy librarian?"

"A supersexy boy librarian. Who just moved to town and probably needs new friends."

Veronica waved her hand. "I can't. Really." For so many reasons. "I'd better go. I've got to spend an hour picking out an outfit and then I'll reread my old columns. You're a genius."

"I know. See you tonight."

Veronica tried not to feel panic at those last words, but she was a failure at that, too. There was no escaping the fear, but at least Lauren had talked her out of an outright breakdown. All Veronica had to do was pick already familiar topics and she could fake her way through this just as she'd faked her way through everything else.

Tonight was going to be fine.

When going to take the experience or ideas forms others, book *Taking The Heat (Jackson: Girls' Night Out)* By Victoria Dahl can be a great source. It's true. You could read this Taking The Heat (Jackson: Girls' Night Out) By Victoria Dahl as the resource that can be downloaded and install below. The means to download is also easy. You could see the link web page that we provide then acquire the book making a bargain. Download and install Taking The Heat (Jackson: Girls' Night Out) By Victoria Dahl and you could deposit in your very own device.