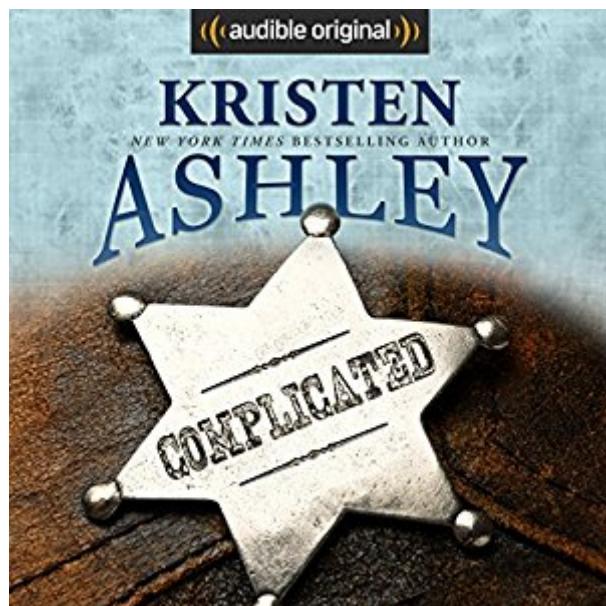


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# Complicated



## Synopsis

Exclusively written for Audible, available only in audio. From the New York Times best-selling author of the Rock Chick series comes a story of love, murder, and second chances.... When small-town Nebraska sheriff Hixon Drake meets Greta Dare, the connection couldn't be stronger, but the timing couldn't be worse. Dealing with the fallout of a divorce he never wanted and setting up a new home for his kids, Hix becomes that guy, that one he never wanted to be, and puts a stop to things before they can even start. Protecting his kids and himself is his only priority. Greta, on the other hand, has found the place for her and the brother she adores that's perfect for them - a sleepy little town in Nebraska. She's learned from life that there are no hopes and dreams. The only thing to look forward to is peace. And that's what she works hard to build for herself and her brother. Right up until Hix walks into her life. Hix can't fight the pull and stay away from Greta for long. And Greta's finding it hard not to hope for something more with all the promise that is Hix. But when the first murder that's happened in over five decades rocks his small, sleepy county, Hix has got to learn to trust again, convince Greta to take a shot with him, and at the same time catch a killer. In other words, things are definitely...Complicated.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

First on the narration, this was a mixed bag. The voices chosen I think were great, and it was good to have both male and female readers for the relevant points of view - it was just in how they did the narration that was problematic. I agree with some of the other reviews, when the man was reading his parts, he really should not have put on a woman's voice for the female parts - it sounded terrible. He also went into the cheesy side of narration, and used odd inflexions when it didn't fit the content.

The woman's voice was a good shot, but there was something odd with the way she inflected her voice at the end of sentences when describing things - as opposed to doing a better job when reading the speaking parts. Again, she also should not have tried to read the male parts like a man. Just sounds weird. For the book, it is a B grade Kristen Ashley. She can produce excellence in her works, and it's always sad and disappointing when it's a B grade piece. I think B grade, just because it didn't have the depth of her much better works in character development (you really learn about her characters and how they get to that point in their lives), and detail that helps make more emotional sense of the storylines. I found the added "mystery" that Ashley often likes to throw in wasn't really necessary in anyway - she could just stick with the relationship part and it wouldn't have suffered. As always, I do like her exploration of emotions and capacity to make her readers feel alongside the characters. I also like the way she uses conflict that can happen in real life in relationships and uses this as a platform to explore conflict between her characters (though amped up for storytelling). I found the behaviour of the ex wife of the male lead over blown (but Ashley often does that) - but what I found real, and I think could have been better explored in terms of impact on the male's future behaviour in relationships), was the core of why of their relationship ended up falling apart. I think what his ex felt, many women have felt, and can come to an extreme head when not expresses and communicated.

Ok, let's address the BIG ELEPHANT in the room and get this out of the way. Just as a courtesy disclaimer, IF with any of my words I offend you, you feel it personally or simply disagree with me, then I'm sorry, FYOU, but it's MY opinion and I stand by it. There. Now, about this AUDIOBOOK, I've read a lot of reviews that start with statements similar to these:  
"OMG I hate audiobooks"  
'audiobooks are not for me'  
'Ugh I can't deal with narrators'  
'I make my own voices in my head'  
'OMG that is NOT the voice for so and so'  
"AUDIOBOOKS ARE AWFUL"  
And in the serene wise words of a good friend of mine, (keeping it hood, of course):  
"B\*\*\*H, PLEASE!"  
It's only an audiobook. Get over it.  
Back in the day, I was the first person to stand against audiobooks. Audiobooks were awful to me when I was a kid because I wanted to be all badass, strain my eyes until late hours of the night and pretend I had 20/20 vision when I always knew I was DOOMED to wear glasses thanks to the inherited bad eyesight I got from BOTH my parents. So when my already messed up sight increased way too much 4 years ago due to stress, I simply gave up on attempting to read and found beauty in an audiobook I came across when it was on sale for \$1.99. Yep. AN AUDIOBOOK ON SALE FOR \$1.99. I couldn't let that opportunity go since I had been eying said book

and just saw the opportunity to finally <sup>read</sup> this book without breaking my bank.I NEVER LOOKED BACK.And over the years since becoming an Audible member, I have encountered BAD narrations. I'm not going to lie or sugarcoat the truth: some audiobooks are dreadfully painful to listen to. Narration is so bad it makes you want to cry. But I have also encountered FANTASTIC books where both narrators hit it out of the park.<sup>Complicated</sup> by Kristen Ashley falls in the FANTASTIC category. This is KA going back to basics in her contemporary plot scheming, alpha hero, hardworking / badass female lead character with a lot of sass and determination. In short, if you are a diehard KA fan who KNOWS her line of work and loves it, this is DEF for you. You will spend over 18 hours listening to a very enthralling and compelling story that honestly warms your heart.I find just ONE reason why not to give it a full 5 star review (story-wise), and it's because of the murder-mystery part of the story. I felt like it needed a bit more intrigue, a bit more <sup>investment</sup>. Unlike other mysteries KA has written, this one fell flat in the overall plot. Obviously, this is a love story and the love story was the main focus, but she's always had this gift of mixing both and making them work so flawlessly you WANT to learn what happened to who and how are they going to resolve this. Her staple books usually have this route, yet in this story, I felt that after a certain point the mystery was forgotten and by the time it's solved, the WAY how everything worked in the end just didn't do anything for me. Like, REALLY? That's the why, when where and how? Seriously? Huh.Another thing I didn't like too much was the way how Hick's previous marriage ends, the why's, Hope's explanation, the way how they talk, the easiness of everything. It seemed too simple, and yet too dramatic. I don't know. It just didn't click in my head, and I've read some superb love stories from her before. I wasn't too convinced on this, BUT, I do feel this is a classic KA love story with it's very specific objective: a great HEA.Now, the NARRATION part deserves 10 stars if possible. Since this is an Audible exclusive (until November, I think?) I wanted half of this review to be on the narration, which if you ask me, is absolutely SUPERB. It's hard enough to engage with one narrator, hoping this one does a kickass job and makes you want to actually PAY ATTENTION to the story, let alone TWO. A dual narration is extra hard to like, believe me. In some instances you love the female narrator but HATE the male or vice versa. Or you hate both. Usually you are going to end up liking at least one. Lance Greenfield and Erin Mallon SURPASSED all my expectations on this audiobook and came very close to what I thought were the voices of each character. If you are not familiar or really used to audiobook listens, this is a good way to start. Both narrators are easy to follow, sound great to ear, have excellent intonation, punctuation and

emphasis. Male narrator does subtle female voices and female narrator makes convincing male voices. The overall of this combo of narrators is above average, it's FANTASTIC. You don't do audiobooks? Good for you!, but take the plunge and dive into this one, which is WORTH the \$14.99 membership payment on Audible (which in case you didn't know, you CAN re use over and over again cause audiobooks are returnable " so long as you are a member " AND, if you don't want to pay month to month, you can always do a every other month which is also \$14.99 but charged only 6 times a year).

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