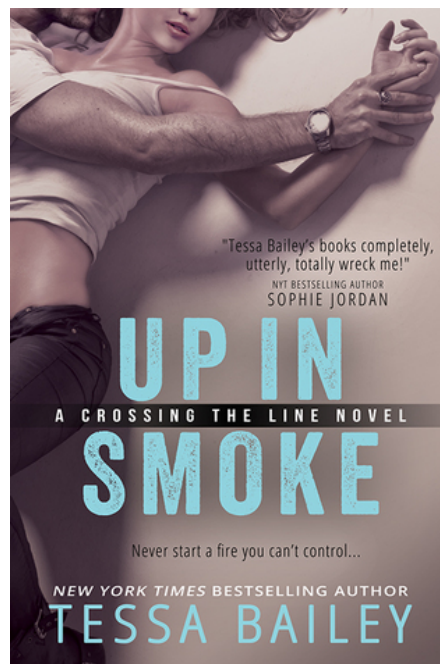




Up in Smoke

Tessa Bailey

Download now

Read Online ➔

Up in Smoke

Tessa Bailey

Up in Smoke Tessa Bailey

Never start a fire you can't control...

Connor Bannon is supposed to be dead. Dishonorably discharged from the Navy SEALs, he's spent the last two years working as a street enforcer in Brooklyn for his cousin's crime ring. Through a twist of fate, he's now in Chicago, working undercover to bust criminals. But when a cute little arsonist joins the team—all combat boots, tiny jean shorts, and hot-pink hair—Connor's notorious iron control slips.

Erin "she's getting away" O'Dea knows two things. She hates authority. And... Nope, that's it. When she's forced to operate on the "right" side of the law, her fear of being confined and controlled blazes to the surface. The last thing she expects is a control freak like Connor to soothe her when she needs it most. Worse, something behind the sexy ex-soldier's eyes ignites a dangerous inferno of desire. One that invites Erin to play with fire. And one that could get them *both* killed...

Up in Smoke Details

Date : Published June 23rd 2015 by Entangled: Select

ISBN :

Author : Tessa Bailey

Format : Kindle Edition 352 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Contemporary

 [Download Up in Smoke ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Up in Smoke ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Up in Smoke Tessa Bailey

From Reader Review Up in Smoke for online ebook

Lana ❀❀Dirty Girl Romance❀❀ says

4 Stars

You might escape everywhere else, but you can't escape this. Me. I'm where you LIVE.

I've said it before and I'll say it again; Tessa Bailey books are my ovary happy place. They're pure guilty pleasure, dirty-talking-alpha-overload, awesome entertainment goodness. I'll never get enough of her stories or her dirty talking heroes. Ever. Each book offers something unique while still delivering the signature dirty talk punch straight to the ovaries. I absolutely love it!

Ever since we first met Connor in Risking it All I've been chomping at the bit to get my hands on his story. What's better than a bad boy criminal hiding a golden heart? Rhetorical question, clearly. Although this is the second book in the series, it's also easily read as a standalone. However, I'd strongly recommend reading it in order since it will help you understand Connor and the backstory a little more.

At the end of Risking It All we saw a new police task force being formed by non-other than Derek from Protecting What's His with the savvy criminals turned good guys. So what happens when you put a dishonorably discharged SEAL turned criminal and a pyromaniac with claustrophobia in the same room together?

Enough sexual chemistry to power a high rise in Chicago is what! The sparks fly immediately between these two. Erin is a sassy and smart mouthed little powerhouse that grabs the attention of the broody Connor when she first struts into the room. She may have her share of issues and they may be a mile long, but the woman has enough sass to overshadow that and give the illusion of a much stronger person than she really is on the inside.

Things between these two start off hot and heavy from the very beginning and they only get better as more time passes. And when I say better, I mean dirtier. So much dirtier.

Pet yourself, Erin. That's what I would do. I'd stroke your pussy with my fingers through that silk. Nice and gentle. I'd give it a soft kiss and apologize for the fact that I'm about to destroy it.

And you surely won't find this girl complaining.

Beyond anything else, this book was HAWT with a capital H. Connor and Erin absolutely burned up the pages together. I couldn't get enough of them.

There were also a couple of other secondary characters that were introduced that also caught my attention right away. The master of disguises; Austin, and the super hacker; Polly. I love the idea of criminals turned right side of the law. It just gives this extra delicious spin on things that I enjoyed very much.

As for Connor and Erin? I loved them together. My only complaint was the big case of insta-lust. These two get together right off the bat and just get more hot and heavy. I like my books to have that little burn of sexual tension before the couple go at it. But hell, these two were so hot together, I could barely even find it in me to care.

I will kill for this pussy. Kill for the right to continue ownership of it. No if you understand how serious I am...

Now fuck me like you mean it.

The story was quick paced and entertaining; I read it in practically one sitting. As was the case with every other series this woman has written, I'm completely hooked on Crossing the Line and cannot wait for more. I hear Austin's book is next, and if the teaser for it in this book is enough to go by, I can already tell it's going to be a good one. Another winner from the super fabulous Tessa Bailey and a must read!

ARC courtesy of publisher in exchange for an honest review

For more reviews visit

~Nichole~ Sizzling Pages Romance Reviews says

Sizzling Pages Romance Reviews

Nichole's Sizzling Reviews

Sizzling Pages @ Facebook

Sizzling Pages on TSU

Twitter:@Sizzlingpages

Email: sizzlingpages@gmail.com

Jeanne says

dnf @ 60%

Insta-hard on, insta-lust, insta-love. Tessa Bailey definitely delivered on the smutty good times as always, I just felt like she forgot to build-up or develop their romance before it happened. I just didn't care enough to finish it.

Wendy's Thoughts says

4 Wish List Fulfilled Stars * * * *

I am going to get to the point; Tessa Bailey knows how to put an over the top Alpha together with a complex, destroyed but feisty woman and make it work. She creates an environment where the premise is similar to the Dirty Dozen but more like The 6 Pack with Attitude. All of this motley crew are the best at what they do...and our favorite Bailey man, **Derek(Dirty Talker)Tyler from Protecting What's His**, is in charge of them. They either get with his program or they are back into prison. Period.

Each of our characters have either been on the wrong side of the law, been manipulated by it or hurt by what it has done to them. In this second installment of the series **Crossing the Line** we have Connor, our hunky hot ex Seal/enforcer. He carries the trauma of all the horrors from war plus the pressure of his mom's medical needs...which forced him to revert back into enforcing for his crime family connections. This is his way out... a way to protect his mom...and possibly break free. This man saw abuse as a child; it impacted his need to protect... to care for others and it is his driving force...as well as *ah hmmm very strong sex drive...*

Which leads me to Erin... she is a bundle of all sorts of mixed messages. She comes across as this tough, take no prisoners punk gal... but at the same time purposely does this cray cray thing to drive guys away. She has this need to play with matches and make sure she has an escape route planned out before she sits in a room.

Of course, these two knock heads right away... Connor needing to control Everything... it is his way of staying sane... and Erin, pushing all of his buttons. But in the process, revealing more of her inner mind than she ever imagined.

Right away, Connor's Cock Switch has been activated... Thoughts of Erin riding him, bending over, tied etc. are part of what he is thinking... And Erin didn't help the situation by wearing cut off shorts so tiny, the scrap of fabric hardly hides the goods when she dramatically puts her long, lanky legs up on the conference table and crosses them. It was deliberate and caused exactly the reaction she had expected...what she did not expect was her reaction to this man...

She felt something...something unusual...she actually felt. Period.

INSTA-LUST ALERT~INSTA-LUST ALERT

It is important to note...I knew this was coming, had no problem with it and was ready, willing and able to accept it.

The chemistry is off the charts for these two- Connor has seen past the charade Erin fronted - He senses there is something troubling her beyond the game of "She is cray cray, lights fires and escapes out of prisons." He sees the frightened woman and learns she cannot bear being touched or being in a room without a window or escape. We learn why and understand; as a child Erin was tortured by her stepfather after her mom's death.

There is so much which is told and the bottom line is a very smart child was twisted into what she is as a woman now. Her intelligence and will is what has held her together and it is remarkable.

Connor and Erin are part of the team which throws them together. The book has a valid plot which I will not go into. What I will tell you is it works as most Bailey plots do and keeps you engaged. There are other characters to learn about and you will become interested in their stories...enough to look forward to the upcoming installments.

What I would be remiss in not sharing is the quirks of Connor. Over all I really liked him- BUT he Really, Really was over the top... just a warning...He has a wonderful heart and is totally smitten with Erin- he will do whatever is necessary to put her at ease or look out for her...
The two of them have sexually chemistry which is off the charts...

And yes, in case you were wondering....Connor is a huge dirty talker...and Erin is inventive, too. The scenes of them getting off but not even touching caused my kindle to short out...The dialogue coming from Connor... just saying... please before I die... can I hear it in person directed to me. The actual scenes of them together...are for any one's bookmark.

The only thing to remember is Connor is Alpha to the 10th degree and just accept it as part of the package.

I guess I didn't keep it as short as planned...but you all know I am a talker....

This is a successful series for Bailey; it works to her strengths and we benefit. She has given us a female hacker, Polly and a con/disguise artist extraordinaire, Austin. We already know his book is next and I cannot wait. I do advise reading the first installments of this series to enjoy all the layers of these characters.

Riskier Business

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Risking it All

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

~~~ **Before Reading** ~~~

**Hmmmm, my hidden wish list:**

**Strong, masculine, (no metro sexual, please), extreme dirty-talker who sees who he wants and then goes about getting it. Oh, and has the goods...knows how to use them, too.**

He may have some, er...issues, like a confused past, but is now cleaning up his act...

Let's have him meet or better yet...work with an equally intense and charged woman... one who is driven in her career, willing to do whatever to become the best and have her packaged in a body with a sexy mind that won't quit.

**And please, pretty please,**

**Bring in the original DT...the Main Man, Derek-Dirty-Talker-with-Capitals-Tyler from the book which was my first DT...**

**Protecting What's His...**

Tessa Bailey, you must have found my hidden list.

I don't care how or when or even why...

All I know is I am ready to read my Guilty Pleasure, any book by you.

A gifted copy was provided by author/publisher for an honest review.

**For more Reviews, Free E-books and Giveaways**

---

## Sabrina says

### 3.5 Stars

Connor Bannon and Erin O'Dea are given the option of prison, or joining a special undercover team in Chicago to use their skills for good. Connor is a former SEAL which is where he gets his skill set. Erin, however, gets hers in a more illegal way and is a known escape artist, oh and an arsonist. Meeting on their first day on the team they both are instantly drawn together and the chemistry sparks.

The blurb for this story instantly caught my attention and I just had to read it. I didn't even wait until I had read the first in the series - don't judge me. I was a little disappointed by the actual story though. I think I went into it expecting something really different so when I didn't get that it just wasn't as good as I thought it would be.

I still really liked this story and will definitely go back to read the first one, and the third when it comes out. Erin was a really unique character and I loved her with Conner. They were the perfect couple and they both had their issues but when they were together they could fight their demons and it was great to see.

I wanted a little more background on the characters, though, and kept wishing that we would learn more. As part of the team they were supposed to be investigating a crime along with the rest of their teammates, but that was kind of pushed into the background. The book started off focusing on Connor and Erin and the investigation but by the middle of the book it was mostly just about Erin.

The chemistry between Connor and Erin was super HAWT and I loved how patient Connor was with Erin and let her take control when she needed, even when it drove him crazy. The smexy parts and the mystery had me hooked within the first chapter and I devoured this book in a day. I loved the little bits we got of the other characters and I already can't wait to read Austin's story.

---

## Elle the ClosetRomanceReader aka Leftie aka Shoebelle says

*\*Complimentary ARC received from author/publisher via blog tour\**

### 4.5 ★

If ever I had doubts in the past that Tessa can write smoking dirty-talkin alpha, they're all gone now! Seriously! \*giggles\*

Sweet momma, Up in Smoke INDEED! Literally and figuratively...

Erin is quite a unique h with her past and condition that developed because of her past. Connor has his own baggage to bring in to this unique relationship. But oh boy, did he know how to handle Erin or what! And in the most scrumptious way that an alpha H can!

It's insta-lust/attraction, but ask me if I care. Heck no! Ask me if I bought every single moment of it. Heck yah! Not a lot of authors can sell that idea to me, but as you can see, Tessa can.

The story itself, while not entirely unique provided enough cachet to make it work. It's like Suicide Squad done Tessa way, or as she even described it, thru one of her characters, like a modern day Mod Squad.

And the way I felt about this book, maybe I'm reading too much into it making all kinds of presumptions, but I really like the way that Tessa almost calls herself out with her story line even before I get the chance to do so which makes it come across as self-deprecating and cheeky, and totally working for me; remarks like "the criminal version of Meet the Parents", and the pop culture history reference like the mention of Topanga, too awesome! And yes there is intensity without laying the angst too thickly.

So did this totally worked for me? Heck yah!

While I've read Derek and Ginger's story, I've yet to read the others in this series so I have a lot of catching up, as in pronto!

---

**?lleskelle - teamSøren? ?I like big b00ks? says**

???? 2 STARS ????

**#SheldonReadsRomance**

What the hell just happened here?  
My mind is confused, my body is confused...

I like Tessa Bailey's dirty talkers. Who wouldn't right?  
She writes the best sweet talkers I've ever had the pleasure to read so I was really counting on her ability to create the cheekiest and bold heroines that get the alpha man crazy. This combo usually means the banter will be both playful and sexy, upping the sexual tension ever so high with the promise of fuckhot sex scenes, Tessa Bailey's style.

Using blackmail as leverage, Captain Derek Tyler recruits a skilled felon team of 6 to help his police department.

**I really want to highlight the fact that the character's development as of the beginning of the book really hooked me.**

**I loved Erin's character.** Appearing tough with a lot of mouth to her and a crazy act to confuse people and hide her weaknesses. She appeared to be a really complex character with interesting depth.

Connor as well, was an interesting character. Reformed Seals, also fighting his own demons, he has no idea at first why he should make of Erin except that he's obviously attracted to her.

Let's not forget about Mr Bannon rather impressive... assets.

I thought I was in for a 5 stars entertaining and sexy romance. The opening scene where **Connor Bannon** and **Erin O'Dea** met got me all fired up about this crazy heroine and this all too serious former military man. Instant chemistry and attraction really forebode to some really good time.

Unfortunately this quickly escalated to be **one of the most OTT case of insta-love I've ever read.** The heroine obviously hiding her pain and damages under a not ordinary amount of sass, held onto Connor something fierce, triggering his alpha male instinct to protect and serve his woman. Yes. As simple as that. And yes this instantly.

Why the hero felt the urge to protect and help a probably certified woman he literally just met? I have no idea.

I know, I know, erotica romance here, the alpha male protects what's his...

The "playful" banter only got entertaining for a while before getting old and repetitive...

The sub-plot was completely lost on me as this story held some consequent amount of sex... So, hum yeah, guilty here, I truly enjoyed the crazy sex everywhere but I was hoping for something... more?

I can't even say that I enjoyed the dirty talk, it felt really monotonous and thrown in just for the heck of it. It was just... off.

Now, if you are looking for something simple and sexy and really fast paced, you might have your next read right here. Only just don't expect anything that makes sense because good sex and OTT caveman act is pretty much what you'll get here.

**I just personally wished this story held more substance than just the happenstance of great sex.**

*More reviews and book talk at :*

## ~ Stéphanie ~ Tied up in Romance ~ says

FULL REVIEW NOW POSTED

Tessa Bailey is very gifted when it comes to create the perfect dirty talker. I haven't read all her books but I can already tell I'm in love with her hot alpha dirty talker male. They are my weakness and this author knows how to please me.

Up in smoke is a stand alone book but if you want to know more about Connor, I suggest you read Risking it all. You will know where he is coming from and you will have a better grasp on the different interactions.

Connor, ex-SEAL, ex-criminal has been transferred in Chicago to join a particular group of ex-criminals just like him under Derek's watch (you remember the guy from Protecting what's his? Yep the very same ;) ) All have different skills that can help in a particular investigation case. As soon as he sets his eyes on Erin, sexual tension is OFF the chart. Erin is a smart, sassy, fierce but mostly she is shielding herself against everyone.

Connor's interest is picked by this woman who seems hostile to attention, but also attracted by him.

Erin specialty is to know how to escape. She is in a room and she knows how many steps she has until the next exit.

The pull she is feeling for Connor scares her. She is willing to share more than she never has and it's so disturbing for someone used to escape.

But things can never be easy with an aversion for touch. Erin is terrified to let it go. As for Connor, self-restrain is not something he is used to. Usually he is the one who controls, who tell what to do and how to do it. With Erin, all he knows will have to wait.

Up in smoke seduced me completely because the subject was interesting. I was wondering all along how it was possible to combine Tessa Bailey usual sexiness and of the chart sexual scenes with no touching. The tension between both our MC is so damn good!

Connor was such a sublime man. He fights against all his instincts because he knows Erin is worth it. I've loved everything from the moment they met until the end. With an underlying threat against Erin, Connor was overly protective and focused.

Up in smoke is a story full of passion. Trust is probably the most important element for both Connor and Erin.

Their hard limits will be shattered, what's important and what matters will be redefined.

***“You gave me a place to feel safe. You made me feel safe. I just wanted to pass that feeling on to***

*someone"*

I have a special mention for this book because my attention was picked with Austin. I'm sensing something VERY emotional about him. My heart already aches for the young and handsome con. Please Tessa Bailey, tell me we won't have too long to wait for his book

*~ARC provided by the author for an honest review~*

Read an excerpt

---

**Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says**

REVIEW TO COME!!

---

**Jo says**

*Because he knew with irrevocable certainty that he would give Erin whatever she needed, whenever she needed it. He'd help her battle her demons any way he could. God help them both if his own demons came out to play.*

I've been intrigued by Connor Bannon since the first book, wondering how he went from being a navy seal to working for his vicious criminal cousin. I loved how protective he was over women, and that everything he's done has been because of his need to look after his mother, and that made him very sexy to me. I'm a sucker for instant attraction, so I was ecstatic with Connor's immediate fascination and desire for Erin. And the fact that he saw beneath her crazy façade she always hides behind, just made me love him even more. I love how this author writes her heroes, all alpha with a mad streak of possessive and protective and Connor was all that.

*She was drawn to fire. Connor had enough inside him to burn down a major city. The fact that he kept such a tight leash on it only made her want to watch it crackle and race.*

Odd and different heroines are my favorite and I loved Erin O'Dea. She's a convicted criminal with a history of arson and a brilliant escape artist. She's also so terribly broken because of her step-father, unable to stand the touch of others. I loved the way she reacted to Connor, how she goaded him and how shocked she was when he wasn't put off by her crazy attitude that she weaves like a shield. I also loved that she felt safe with

him, and that she eventually took a risk on letting him get closer to her than she's ever allowed anyone before.

*"You want freedom? Fine. I can't stop you from slipping out windows or walking out doors. If I have to go insane with worry in order to keep you, I'll do it. I'll do it for how I feel when you show up again. I'm not giving up. And you insult me by thinking I can't take some frustration. Some pain. **Bring it, Erin.** I'm fucking ready."*

The romance was hot and sexy. Connor was very dominant in the bedroom which made things quite interesting at first with Erin needing to be in control and him willing to do anything to keep her. I occasionally do enjoy a bit of dominance in my books, but Connor was a bit too dominant for me, which I didn't enjoy.

I'm really liking the plot development of this series, with the police forming a new task force made up of criminals, who uses their expertise to catch other criminals. It's all very exciting and action-packed. I also loved spending time with the other characters, seeing Bowen and Sera from the first book getting their HEA. I really love Bowen.....

Tessa Bailey is a favorite author of mine and I'm so loving this sexy series. Highly recommended.

---

## Bj says

5 "The Dom & Untouched Sub" Stars! Holy smokes! My Kindle nearly self-combusted with the unprecedented levels of dirty talk! I never would have thought it possible, but Tessa Bailey found a way to make a haphephobic heroine (a heroine who has a fear of being touched) and a dominant hero, come together to form one of the most erotic couples ever. Somehow not being able to touch the heroine, and having to earn her confidence and the right to touch her, just made every single word and action just that much more sensual and electrifying!

In a fashion somewhat similar to the Mod Squad, a group of former ex-cons is put together to bust a corrupt politician. In exchange for participation in the group, each is given something he or she desperately needs (money, excused jail time, etc.) Each one of the former cons is chosen for his or her own unique talents. Chief among this crew of unlikely undercover enforcers, is Connor Bannon (a dishonorably discharged former Navy Seal with a violent temper), and Erin O'Dea, a convicted arsonist who also happens to be a highly accomplished escape artist.

Connor's and Erin's unlikely attraction is first brought to light at their first meeting on the job when they are both the only two participants to show up early. When Erin's typical hot and cold routine fails to make Connor immediately run in the other direction, Erin is faced with an interesting quandary: a man who both thrills her and who just may be the only man to be able to handle her unusual idiosyncrasies. Connor is likewise intrigued. Though he knows he should run in the other direction from an unnecessary complication that could easily terminate his second chance, he just can't help but feel compelled to protect and heal Erin.

But just how is Connor going to be able to prevent Erin from running away the minute things get too hot. Moreover, how will he be able to restrain his natural dominant proclivities, to ensure he doesn't scare her away. As if that weren't bad enough, the source of Erin's particular aversions still remains at large and determined as ever to finally take out his revenge on her once and for all. Will Connor's and Erin's combined unusual talents be enough to keep Erin safe in the end?

I absolutely loved Up in Smoke! I found it to be highly creative and erotically effective notwithstanding its unconventional approach. This was my first read by Tessa Bailey, but now I'm clamoring for more. My first stop will no doubt to go back to Book 1 in the Crossing the Line Series to read the love story of Bowen (a crime family member) and Seraphina (the undercover cop). Can't wait!

Source: Review copy provided in exchange for an honest review.

---

### Soonya says

I love Tessa Bailey, truly I can do no wrong with her books. I loved every single book she wrote, except her "Broke and Beautiful" series, but I just think that series didn't speak to me because heroes there are nothing like her usual alpha males. But she is auto-buy to me and one of my favorite authors.

I know that in her books I won't have stupid OW/OM drama, no sex with others, not feeling like hero loved someone before and h is is second choice.

Never that, but always a great love story that I can read again and again.

I loved Connor, he was amazing alpha man who never gives up on his woman and does everything in his power to love, understand, support and be always there for her.

He was possessive(hot hot) but what I liked about it that she needed freedom and he gave her that.(as long as she came back to him and later on told him what she did).

Erin was kick ass h! She was sassy, funny, strong and vulnerable( and that was what made me like her so much). Sometimes it was hard to read at what her stepfather has done to her(nothing sexual) but it made me admire her more. I loved how she tried to sooth Connor and made all those steps to be with him. She wanted to give him part of herself. (view spoiler)

They were perfect for each other and I just can't say how much I loved this book.

Bowen is still my favorite heroes in books, but Connor comes really close to share the spot with him :)

I liked the whole team and can't wait for the third book(January...the wait begins). Also moments with Bowen and Sera were cute and I loved that we had glimpse on them.

The book was HOT! Love Tessa's dirty talking heroes, no one writes dirty talk like she does in my opinion! Safety gang:(view spoiler)

---

### Claire Robinson says

3 - **"Proceed with caution."** Stars

I finished this book a couple of weeks ago, and before writing my review I have made myself step back and take a little time to think about what I want to say.

Firstly I want to reiterate that normally I am a huge fan of Tessa's books, no one quite matches her when it comes to strong, dominant, dirty-talking, alpha males... But in a way that is also the main problem that I had with *Up in Smoke*, because although Connor is all those things, there isn't really anything that made him stand out from any of Tessa's other strong, dominant, dirty-talking, alpha males.

The issues that Erin is dealing with are what should have given the book it's originality, and at the beginning of the her and Connor's story, I had high hopes of Tessa offering up an extremely emotive and thought provoking, but still sexy read, especially as this trope essentially took away one of the main strengths her male characters have in their efforts to 'woo' the women they are after. (view spoiler) And in that vein it started well, but unfortunately it all fell to the wayside pretty quickly as soon as insta-everything took over and Erin decided she was horny...

**"I'll make you beg for my goddamn hands on you..."**

**"You're welcome to try."**

I know this is a work of fiction, and I am not expecting everything to be medically or mentally correct, but I feel that glossing over a pretty serious condition rather than exploring it didn't do the book on the whole any favors, I was looking forward to it being a deeper and more emotional story for this couple, and in the beginning it was, but it was quickly lost in amongst Connor's almost unreasonable over-protectiveness, and Erin's quick recovery around him, after struggling for years previously.

This isn't a bad book, and it isn't a bad story, the writing is of Tessa's usual high quality, and I know I will be in the minority with my feelings about *Up in Smoke*, and I am alright with that, I have high expectations of this author, and rightly so, she is one of my 'go-to' authors when I am looking for a fictional guy to get my knicker elastic in a twist. For me this book is a bit of a wasted opportunity in the fact it could have been so much more, and stood out on its own if the usual route to sexual fulfillment had not been so swiftly taken on this occasion.

**They'd come a long way in such a short space of time.**

*Disguised in Danger* is the next book due in January 2016, and I look forward to seeing where Tessa takes Austin and Polly and this series in general next.

ARC generously provided by Entangled, in exchange for the above honest review.

---

**Michelle says**

[image error]

---

**Arianna♦\*SteamyReadsBlog\*♦ says**

**4 Stars!!**

This one was my favorite book in the series so far. And one of the reasons is Connor, the male character. My Gawd, he was something else.. We met Connor in the previous book in the series when he was on the wrong side of the law working as a street enforcer. He's also an ex-Seal who was dishonorably discharged two years ago. Now he's in Chicago working undercover with other criminals helping the 'good guys' busting criminals.

When he meets Erin he's drawn to her like a moth to a flame. The sexual chemistry between them is off the charts and Connor is more intrigued than ever with this cute little 'thing' with combat boots and tiny jeans shorts.

Erin is a little damaged. Her past is not exactly full of rainbows and unicorns. She's a pyromaniac who suffers from severe claustrophobia and she absolutely hates authority. She never expected to be so drawn to Connor, to crave his presence so soon, to feel so safe in his arms.

***“She was drawn to fire. Connor had enough inside him to burn down a major city. The fact that he kept such a tight leash on it only made her want to watch it crackle and race.”***

But Erin is more damaged than Connor thought. She has an aversion for touch and if he wants to be with her, to keep her close, he must be very patient, learning to show some self-restraint. As time passes it looks there's something more than a simple attraction between these two and when Erin is in danger, Connor is ready to do anything for the woman who stole his heart.

***“You're the hottest goddamn thing I've ever seen, thighs spread wide open as you dry-fuck me to insanity...and I can't even touch you. I should be the one begging.”***

I really enjoyed this one! Tessa definitely knows how to write engaging characters. Both Connor and Erin are great characters. I loved Erin's personality. Her sassiness just made me smile and I adored her smart mouth. She is strong and independent, but she also has a vulnerable side. I felt sorry for what happened with her step-father and also in prison. Connor was a fantastic male character. He's a 'real' alpha male, but he's not controlling at all. Even if he wants to protect Erin from everything bad in the world he lets her be and have some independence. He's patient and considerate, sweet and attentive and he's the perfect match for Erin. I really felt it! Their connection was fantastically done and the chemistry between them was off the charts. Tessa knows how to write sexual chemistry like no other!

I loved Connor's filthy mouth. The man was sex on a stick and simply delicious. I couldn't get enough!

***“I will kill for this pussy. Kill for the right to continue ownership of it. Nod if you understand how serious I am.”***

***“Now fuck me like you mean it.”***

The sex scenes were well written and satisfying and the side characters likeable and engaging. It was nice to see them all. Can't wait to read more about these characters.

You have to know there's some insta-lust here. Sometimes this aspect bothers me, sometimes it doesn't. Depends...In this case I was ok with it since Tessa knows how to write it. Nothing felt forced and everything felt natural. Even if this series is labeled as a suspenseful series, the suspense element is pretty low. I for one I enjoyed it just the way it was – steamy with just a little suspenseful to make everything more interesting.

Overall, this was a great steamy read with an interesting storyline, well written main and side characters and great writing.

*\*\*“Up in Smoke” is the third installment in “Crossing the Line” series but it can be read as a standalone.\*\**

---