



When the Devil Drives

L.J. Hayward

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Work-life balance for a spy may be an oxymoron, but Jack Reardon likes a good challenge. And he's almost bested this one. He's settled into his Meta-State promotion as a field leader and into his new team with a second he can trust. Shop in order, he can take a day or two off when Ethan blows into town, their bargain finally starting to paying off.

Assassin Ethan Blade has few pleasures in his life—a decent cup of tea, a job well done, racing his fleet of supercars, and Jack. With plans to combine the last two into one thrilling weekend, Ethan's attempt at having a normal, happy life may deliver everything he's ever desired—or backfire spectacularly.

Jack and Ethan made a bargain, but the deal is thrown into jeopardy when the expectations and identities of the dealmakers shift—stoking the fires of doubt and jealousy. Not to mention a contract killer out for revenge and an illness that threatens to reveal closely guarded secrets. Rewards are on the table for both men, maybe bigger than they even realize, if only they can renegotiate—and survive.

When the Devil Drives Details

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From Reader Review When the Devil Drives for online ebook

?Misericordia? ~ The Serendipity Aegis ~ ?????? ✨*♥? says

The only thingy going for it is that it's a fairy M/M tale. And it's really short.

Q:

Jack hid a grin in Ethan's belly. (c) Ahem, considering that the 2 of them are supposed to be an assassin and a military boy, color me alarmed.

Shile says

4.25 Roy stars

It will be 5 stars the day i get the KISS.

-Fast Cars

-Pink Lambo

-Hot Sex

-Caring Ethan, Sick mumbling Jack... We LOVE THEM.

I am still a goner. Blaming it all on Simone.??

Onto the next????????????????

Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

I have to hand it to L.J. Hayward, she really knows how to keep the intrigue going between these two.

I enjoyed the first part of this novella the most. I wouldn't consider myself a gearhead or anything but I do enjoy cars and an Aston Martin?

YES, PLEASE!!!!!!

The most painful cinematic moment in my life to date was the car chase scene in *Casino Royale*.

WHY GOD, WHY?!?!?!?!?!!!!!!! #crushed

Anyhoo, I also think it's cute that Ethan is so besotted with his cars. When he gets animated about them... it's adorable especially since he's normally so stoic. **Also, quick side note, the action sequence was LOADS of fun! Nothing like a good car chase as long as the Aston Martin doesn't get taco'd.**

Ethan has entered a race on the Gold Coast under an alter ego, Roy Carter. Roy is charming and outgoing and HAS FRIENDS!

You heard me. A shocking development for all involved, and by "all involved", I mean myself and Jack.

He asks Jack to tag along under the auspices of spending some quality sexy times together which morphs into some interesting relationship development. For an arrangement that's supposedly in the 'super casual' category both of them sure do struggle with the specter of the green-eyed monster.

There were some somewhat comical moments, the party scene being my favorite. No spoiling but I snickered a little.

The second half I was less enamored with due mostly to them not spending much time together. But the ending is somewhat cliffish thereby ensuring that I will dive into the next one to get ready for book two.

Word of caution to those who've not started this series, since Ethan and Jack have agreed to a casual relationship neither are expected to remain celibate when they're apart, so not precisely cheating but I know many have a hard limit when it comes to sex outside of the main relationship. None of it is on page, though, just referenced.

What I keep struggling with and coming back to is the suspense plotline. I guess I had it in my head that there would be a sort of overarching case that needed solving which would ultimately require Jack and Ethan to work together, but so far that hasn't come to fruition. I find that a bit disappointing because they make a formidable team but also because I feel like I'm left with loose ends. I don't know if there's going to be closure at some point or if I'm going to be left with a ball of strings.

Nevertheless, I would recommend this series to readers who enjoy protagonists who have questionable morals or those who enjoy romantic suspense.

A review copy was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Adam says

Me right now:

It's official: it's more than just sex for Jack and Ethan. *Feelings* are involved now. *gasp*

If they'd both get their heads out of their asses, they'd be so happy.

I just want Ethan and Jack to get their happy ever after.

And to kick ass together.

And to kiss. Please.

Book #2 can't come soon enough!

Fabi says

I can't get enough of Jack & Ethan. But I'm not sure I like all these little novellas in between books. Novellas are usually too short and unsatisfying for me. I'm enjoying these because they continue the unorthodox romance between our two heroes and we get to know them a little better each time, however, I'm always happier when I'm reading a full length novel.

Simone says

*****4.5 adrenaline-filled stars*****

Two of my weaknesses in one single book. Fast cars and one of my favorite couples. What more could a heart desire?

Yeah well, about them being a couple... It's still more of a relationship *thing* (Jack's words, not mine). With their arrangement still firmly in place, Ethan finds himself wanting more, wanting some kind of normalcy and a trip to the Gold Coast with Jack while doing some car racing sounds like something to indulge in two of his most favorite things in the world. Umm, if there wouldn't get something unexpected in the way. Feelings. Out of the blue and unwelcome feelings. Like jealousy. On both ends. Seeing the other interact with other people elicits some serious doubts. Doubts in Ethan about their chance of turning their bargain into something more. Doubts in Jack about how many freaking layers there are to this man. But it also leads to some new revelations about said relationship and Jack realizes that his emotional attachment to this guy might already go deeper than he thought.

Between the threads of doubt and confusion there was still that intangible magnetism, drawing Jack to Ethan. An allure of not just physical attraction, but a need to know the truth, to find the man beneath the assassin... The man whose unabashed smile could make Jack think dangerous thoughts.

Feelings are not the only distraction, though, when some trigger happy assassin on the loose won't let them be and tries to ruin their well-deserved vacation. Forever.

Gahhhh, I just can't get enough of these two!!!! This novella consists of two short stories in which I got my adrenaline-fix through the racing element and a car chase that left me feeling breathless and they also prove once more my soft spot for Ethan with his dangerous and mysterious aura and his vulnerable core. This time we get a few more glimpses into their past which only adds to me wanting to get the full story. And

goddammit Ms. Hayward, you are a tease! Keeping me waiting - no, *longing* - for that bloody kiss is a sure bet to make me crave for any other book in this series, but I'm confident, when it happens it will blow my socks off.

Once again my only complaint is that it was too short (yeah, I'm greedy like that) and that the ending this time was a bit abrupt. I was frantically wiping at my Kindle just to realize that that was *it*. It's not a real cliffhanger, just... sort of? A rather open ending that made me crave for more. The end of October can't come soon enough for the next novella to be released. Another highly recommended read for fans of this series!

****ARC generously provided to me by the author in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!****

Ariana says

These novellas between books one and two are just getting better and better.

I adore how they are all about Ethan and Jack and how their arrangement is slowly starting to change into something ,more'. Not that either would ever discuss it!

Jack has his revelation, but can he talk about it? His past track record suggests ,no'. As for Ethan ... taking Jack to a place very personal to him speaks volumes. Not even talking about him looking after Jack when he is ill. That was unbearably swoon-worthy and yet, it goes so wrong.

I can't help being glued to the pages when it comes to these two. Both are such complex and deeply vulnerable characters, and they're really badass tough guys at the same time. They need each other, but the road to admitting it is stony and very uphill.

Loved finding out more about Jack's past, chuckled about the smouldering jealousy on both sides and was totally torn to pieces by all the feels!

Absolutely amazing writing!
And yet again I have the feeling that I've read a full-sized book!

LJ Hayward you rock!

Christelle says

Yep, still soooooooo good. The enjoyment is not fading, nope, not one bit.

I can't get enough of these guys and their bumpy road towards their HEA (because they both don't want to admit it aloud, but it's their destination, I'm just not afraid to say it aloud !!) and their not so smooth driving (but where would be the fun if it were !?!).

For sure, they are on fever...at least, Jack is ?...as I virtually am, because, damned, it's hot !!

See what I've done here, hehehe.....

*PS : **Thank you so much**, Naughty Nutcracker, for this amazing gift. I'm twirling !! ?*

Wendy says

I am so happy I found this series (thanks again Elsbeth) ... Who knew fast cars could be so sexy ;) It just keeps getting **better and better**.

Seems like these two are getting closer and closer...so much so that we even get to witness some **delicious jealousy**

We also get to see our favorite assassin in "**care mode**" ... when a sick and delirious Jack makes a come back. Things get a bit confusing and "feelings" might be hurt a bit...

The sexytimes were are **HOT** as ever...and it is clear to see that what they have together goes way beyond just sex...

Now if we can just get that **KISS** !!!!!

This novella was a bit longer and I can't wait to read the next one which is almost 200 pages !!!

I highly recommend this series !!!

This review has been posted on Wendy's Wycked Words

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Ky says

So, apparently L.J. knows how to keep her fans happy!

This short takes us through two more events in Jack and Ethan's lives and develops their relationship just a bit more. Those two go at a snail's pace but it's so good to see them take cautious steps and becoming more attached to each other even though they spend most of their time apart. I like seeing both their walls crumbling little by little and feelings starting to show.

I don't really care if the next we see of them is a full length or another short story, as long as we see them again really really soon.

Oh, also, there is plenty of delicious jealousy in this one.... By both of them!

**An ARC of this book was kindly provided to me by the author in exchange for an honest review. **

Shin Mon Thway says

Only L.J. Hayward can make reading about driving a super car sounds so dirty and erotic. ?? Loved it. ? But Jack, get your head out of your arse and get a grip man. I'm getting miffed by how fickle you are. ? One minute you swear never to let go Ethan and the next you think it's for the best if it's over. Stop being a wuss and chase that assassin's arse, LITERALLY! ? Anyhow, enjoyable, fun and super thrilling. Can't freaking wait for the next installment! ?

4.25 Jack and Ethan kissed under the tree la~la~la~la stars

?????????

haletostilinski says

4.5 stars!

So happy to get more Jack and Ethan and for the most part, this didn't disappoint. The second story was just lacking a little compared to the first short story, because Jack was sick the whole time and we weren't sure until the end that Ethan was even there and that any of it was actually happening. I would have been super disappointed if he hadn't been.

But we did get a little more insight into Jack's character and I did love that Ethan took care of Jack through his illness. Ending was abrupt though - something this author seems to do, frustratingly!

I loved the first short story more, I loved seeing Jack and Ethan deepen their relationship even more and get close to something - as Jack things to himself, a relationship *thing*. I had fun with the jealousy on both sides and the sexytimes ;)

It also did a good job of showing how there is still so much more for Jack and Ethan to learn about each other. Can't wait for me, especially the second full novel because I sooo want more (and that first kiss! Please!)

Chris says

Super enjoyable... I'm loving the vibe between Ethan & Jack although the way Ethan disappears at times is seriously frustrating ! Hopefully his story and emotions will unfold

Alex says

PERFECT!!

I am a sucker for these novellas... These 2 MCs are just awesome.

We have some jealousy here and the end is not a cliffhanger but damn! I WANT MORE!!!

? Marco ? says

While I've enjoyed this compilation of 2 short stories just as much as the previous books, it also felt like Jack and Ethan's relationship is becoming stagnant. Let's hope for some more relationship development in the next book.
