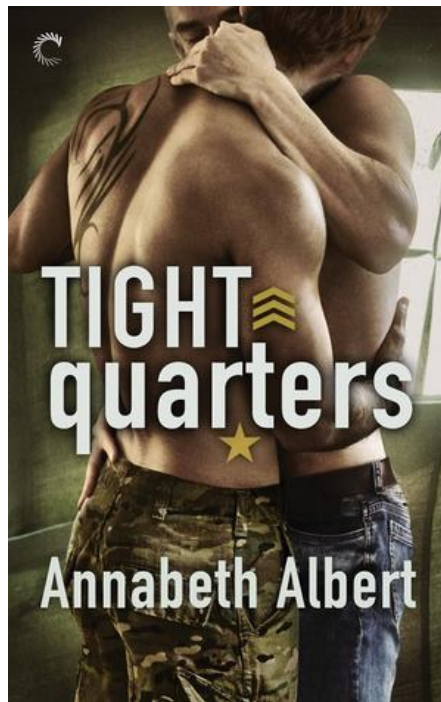




Tight Quarters

Annabeth Albert

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Petty Officer Bacon, a navy SEAL and ace sharpshooter, has been on the front lines of more than his fair share of dangerous ops. Yet when a minor injury relegates him to the beta team, he's tasked with what may be his riskiest assignment yet: the silver fox journalist he's babysitting is the hottest, most charismatic man he's ever encountered.

Award-winning journalist Spencer Bryant may have been named one of Pride magazine's most eligible bachelors of the year, but he's not looking to change his relationship status. He's a consummate professional who won't risk his ethics or impeccable reputation by getting involved with a source. Even a sexy-as-hell military man. But while Spencer can resist his physical attraction to Bacon, he has less control over his emotions—especially when the mission goes sideways and the two men are trapped alone.

Getting out of the jungle alive turns out to be easy compared to facing the truth about their feelings for one another back in the real world. And whether or not they can build a future is a different story altogether.

Tight Quarters Details

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Advanced Review Galley copy of Tight Quarters (Out of Uniform #6) provided by Carina Press via NetGalley in exchange of an honest review.

This review has been cross-posted at Gay Book Reviews.

J *deep in the heart of Texas* says

3.75 Stars!

I liked this one. I just didn't love it. For some reason it just didn't hold my attention.

But I liked both MCs, which doesn't always happen with my friend Annabeth.

The cover was hot.

I don't know, I don't have any other real complaints. It just didn't wow me.

I am curious about Rooster, hope his book is next.

ARC kindly provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Elsa Bravante says

Extraño porque no soy fan de los libros de militares, pero sí lo soy de esta serie de Annabeth Albert. Es más, he leído otros libros de la misma autora y no me han gustado tanto como algunos de Out of Uniform.

3.5

Sin embargo, aunque me ha gustado y me he entretenido, no es uno de mis favoritos. En la historia de amor entre el SEAL y el periodista, con diferencia de edad incluida, me ha faltado desarrollar más simpatía hacia Spencer, el periodista que va como agregado a una misión. Quizás por su profesión, quizás por su carácter, pero me ha parecido en ciertos tramos algo soberbio, prepotente y egoísta. No he terminado de ver completamente su conexión con Del, que se complementen, más allá de la cama. Su relación incluso ha habido momentos en que me ha parecido fría... He de decir que mi percepción puede verse muy afectada por mi visión del trabajo de los periodistas en muchas ocasiones, no he conseguido llegar a simpatizar con Spencer.

Pero, hay algo que siempre digo, los protagonistas no tienen que ser lo que yo quiero, tienen que gustarse el uno al otro como pareja, y si a Del le gusta... xD

Entretenido, con sus momentos románticos y sexy, y ya sé que decir esto en un libro sobre militares cae en lo absurdo, pero yo quitaría algo del aspecto militar.

Una buena adición a la serie.

Sanaa ? Sanaa's Book Blog ? says

4 stars.

Tight Quarters is the sixth book in the *Out of Uniform* series and they all feature a different couple but can

be read as a standalone.

I've read and enjoyed all of them and I don't know how Annabeth does it but she keeps the books interesting for me to keep coming back.

Full review to come closer to release date.

An arc was provided in exchange for an honest review.

Cadiva says

Sorry Ben and Maddox but I'm afraid top spot in my favourite Out of Uniform couple's contest has just been taken over by Bacon and Spencer.

Wes and Dustin had tried but you guys had beat them off until now because this story is perfection.

It has every thing in it that has become a hallmark of this military series; accuracy, honesty, two MCs who are each brilliantly drawn and brought to life, and a romance which digs deep into what makes us human - the power of love.

As a former journalist whose spent time on military training exercises, I have to commend Annabeth for the real sense of time and place.

I might not have been roaming round an island atoll with Navy SEALs but I've been out in the field waiting for something to happen with an adrenaline rush which is something else.

Both Bacon's experiences as a sniper and Spencer's commitment to his journalistic integrity were very real and expertly portrayed. The UST between them was palpable, it bounced off the page in their every conversation.

I loved how they talked too, it was more than just physical, this was the safe harbour in a storm, the warm fire on a snowy night, each man needed to both give support and take help from the other.

As ever, the setting and the secondary characters help bring everything to life. We get to catch up with Wizard and Isaiah, get a passing glimpse of Maddox, and see Wes and Dustin living their HEA in Washington DC.

Perhaps the thing which stuck with me the most in the whole book though - and I admit it's personal because of my former career - are the words Spencer's former editor and mentor Oscar leaves behind in his memoirs.

I won't reveal them, they bring a particular poignancy to the narrative at the point where they arrive which I don't want to spoil, but it served to reinforce for me the decision I made to leave the career after nearly 20 years was the right one.

Everything about this book just comes together at the right time and with the right words to make it a truly special read.

#ARC kindly received from the publishers NetGalley in return for an honest and unbiased review.

~☆~Dαni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

Stay. Your laughter fills every hole in my soul. Stay in my bed, in my life, in my heart. Stay.

A Navy SEAL with deadly precision.

A journalist who lives for the story.

When desires collide, no one escapes unscathed.

From the first moment, Bacon lays eyes on Spencer, he knows he's in trouble. As an embedded journalist, Spencer becomes Bacon's charge. Bacon wants to be in the thick of the action, but he's stuck babysitting. It's not Spencer's fault, but Bacon can't help but be resentful. One thing Bacon has to grudgingly admit, however, is that Spencer is in amazing shape. For an old guy.

Spencer is 15 years Bacon's senior. Bacon hasn't hit 30; Spencer passed 40. But age really is just a number, and the age gap is entirely irrelevant here.

The problem is that Spencer wants to write a book about how the military fails its veterans, a book the Navy, which released Spencer after a mission went seriously wrong, will be none too happy about.

Spencer has to choose: Bacon or the story?

Both of these men are multi-faceted, complex characters. Bacon, who's pan, is a sniper whose job is to kill the enemy, but he's not a heartless guy. He's giving, loyal, and cares about his comrades, even the ones who throw out homophobic remarks like candy.

Spencer was once married and has a friendly relationship with his ex-husband. He travels constantly and lives to get the big scoop. Spencer has no time for love, yet he finds himself falling for Bacon.

Slower now, more sensual ... until all Spencer knew was this man, this song, this rhythm that they built together.

Tight Quarters, brimming with passion, romance, and action, had me on the edge of the metaphorical seat.

The first part, when Spencer is in the field with Bacon, is fast-paced and riveting, but the story mellows once Spencer returns home and starts corresponding with Bacon.

And mellow most definitely does not translate to boring. Spencer and Bacon enjoy hanging out and making out. While on deployment, Bacon misses Spencer's cooking, his bed, and his fancy shower. But more than anything, he misses Spencer.

When Bacon returns from a rough mission that causes him serious anxiety for the first time in years, Spencer

is there to hold and soothe him. And when Spencer's mind overflows with ideas, Bacon's the first person he wants to call.

I loved how STRONG their relationship was; they had incredible chemistry, but they also talked and shared and laughed. I believed in them because they were real.

Out of all the things (and there are many), these are worthy of a medal:

- the SEX (because it's delicious and dirty and plentiful; the guys are very expressive in bed, where anything goes)
- Bacon's name (Bacon hated his father and hates his name, but Spencer makes it something tender between just the two of them. Spencer calls Bacon (view spoiler), and when Bacon's mother asks him why, he replies, *Because that's who he is to me. I like having something special to call him. He's special to me.*)
- Spencer's friend and mentor, Oscar, whose final words broke my heart (and made Spencer realize that he made the wrong choice)
- the ending (because it's perfect and afuckingdorable, and made my heart unclench; plus, we get to visit Wes and Dustin and their fluffy cat)

No story is more important than ours. The one we're creating. Our story.

Ky says

Another great addition to this amazing series about military men! I have to admit, it was a relief to read this book and absolutely love it, because I wasn't impressed by the previous one. *"Tight Quarters"* takes us back to what we are used to from this series; it's realistic, well developed and has believable, perfectly flawed characters.

Bacon - no, I'm not going to tell you his name - and Spencer met while Spencer was embedded with Bacon's team and doing research for a book he wanted to write. Their connection wasn't instant, but it was something pretty close to it. They remained professional until there was no conflict of interest, even though they were both interested, and then began a somewhat complicated relationship.

There is an age gap, but the difference in the MCs ages doesn't feature a lot in the plot. They had bigger problems that threatened to keep them apart than that. At first, I thought Spencer overreacted about not being able to write his book and have a relationship with Bacon just to add some drama to the story, but after a conversation the two of them had it became apparent that the conflict was real and it wouldn't be possible for both things to happen. I have to admit that the *"compromise"* he came up with was extremely selfish and unreasonable, since the only one who would have to compromise would have been Bacon while Spencer would have been able to keep everything he wanted without having to give anything up.

I liked the solution they came up with in the end though, so I was back to liking Spencer again! It's amazing how the author manages to create these situations where there seems to be no perfect solution and yet in the

end her characters manage to find a way out and emerge happy and together. The amazing part is that the situation and the conflict doesn't seem silly or superficial; they are real problems and the potential to tear the MCs apart is very present. I like how the author is putting us through the grinder only to give us the perfect ending later on. She did that with *Wheels Up* and it left me surprised and satisfied in the end. In my opinion, she missed it in *Squared Away*, but she's allowed a strike. She brought it back in *Tight Quarters*, though, and I hope she grabs a hold of it and presents it to us again in the next books. Book #7 is going to be Rooster's story and I'm curious who he's going to be paired up with. He's a self-confident and laid back guy, that's for sure, so his story ought to be interesting.

That reminds me of another reason I like this series so much: the characters know each other and there is some loose connection from one story to another, but it's not an unrealistic world filled with gay couples who found their HEA during a previous story. It's what happens after a few books in most series and it's just not realistic. How possible is it that every member of a random SEAL team is gay or bi or anything else that makes them involved with another guy? I don't think the odds are good of that happening, so I like that it doesn't in these books either. Not every character we meet is a future MC, some are just there to provide a social circle and add to the realistic aspect of the plot; nothing more and nothing less than that. All the main characters are connected somehow (either relatives, friends, teammates, casual acquaintances) and some make appearances, but as the number of books rises old characters don't suffocate the plot. They complement it and are there in the periphery to support the MCs of each book.

I liked that during the mission, when Spencer was embedded, there were no heroics and there was no disobedience of orders. They stuck to what they were told to do and it was pretty amazing to read a story so believable instead of the usual plot where the MC always becomes the hero and there are never any consequences. So, congratulations to the author for sticking to a realistic approach and bringing us a story so close to what I imagine the real thing would be like. It's just one more reason why I love this series so much. Annabeth Albert's research and dedication to stick as close to reality as possible is refreshing and makes me always come back to this series.

You want to know what made me like this story even more? It made me want to read *Wheels Up*, one of my top 2 favorite books in the *Out of Uniform* series, all over again! (I advise you to skip the rest of the paragraph if you haven't read "*Wheels Up*" yet.) Lowe and Dustin are still going strong and living happily in DC, working together in private security, as they had planned. There are mentions of events that happened in their book and it brought back all the reasons I fell in love with those two characters in the first place, and I know that's technically about another book, but their mention made me like this one even more than I would have otherwise.

So, in case it hasn't been clear: **5 stars** for another great addition to this series. I hope there are many more books to come!

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

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

Annabeth Albert keeps the magic going with *Tight Quarters*, the latest in her *Out of Uniform* series!

I adore Annabeth Albert and everything that she does, so it's really no surprise that I enjoyed the sixth book in her consistently stellar series.

What this author does SO right for me is **get the perfect mix of desire, angst, heat, and longing** with her queer military men, and this book was no different. I LOVED the pansexual Bacon and his painful backstory and his chemistry with the older, distinguished former dancer-turned-journalist, Spenser.

I loved that the angst never felt manufactured, but it was there never-the-less. These guys don't get a simple HEA- they have to fight for it. I was rooting for these men, especially in the second half of the story when I really became emotionally invested.

Also... I mean, I couldn't get an emo-muscled Bacon out of my head. Eyeliner and tight jeans... *dreamy sigh*.

While Tight Quarters isn't my favorite of this amazing series, I would still read it every day and twice on Sundays. Annabeth Albert never lets me down.

Copy provided in exchange for an honest review

Judith says

3.5

I haven't read any of the previous books in this series but that didn't spoil my enjoyment here so this can be read as a standalone. The characters from previous books (I'm guessing) fit perfectly into the story.

Spencer Bryant is a successful journalist and is lucky enough to get himself embedded with a Naval Seal Team. He is the ultimate professional and the last thing he's expecting is any kind of involvement with anyone but he hadn't bargained on temptation to be put in his way in the form of a hot as hell ace sharpshooter...

Bacon is used to being on the front line, something he lives for but a minor injury finds him having to take a step back and he's definitely not happy about having to look out for a journalist...

This one didn't exactly grab me but overall it was enjoyable,

-there's no denying the attraction between the two men, the pacing of their relationship was just right.

-the sex scenes are not overly descriptive but they didn't need to be here and they just worked for me. Sometimes a book can be very sexy without pages and pages of long drawn out scenes and I think the reason this worked for me was because the men had a believable chemistry.

-it took me a while to warm to Spencer but I absolutely loved Bacon and he's one of the reasons for my enjoyment here.

-a bit of drama, which I could totally see coming unfortunately.

Conclusion: I would recommend it, especially for fans of this series.

Review copy provided by the publisher via NetGalley.

Dia says

5 stars

This one ended being my favorite book in the series. I truly fell in love with these characters. This story felt SO real!

I'll admit the slow burn was hard to handle. But we get many details before deployments and during some missions. This author focuses not only on the romance but gives us a lot of action too.

We got here some pretty complex characters. Their back stories are great. The MCs are very good at their jobs.

Bacon is a sexy and confident SEAL. He loves his team and he dreams about becoming a chief. When Spencer Bryant comes along, a reporter who won himself an opportunity to write a military story, he's conflicted.

I loved their conversations and their banter. And once they gave into temptation, this story got better and better. They fit so well and it surprised me so much to discover they were exactly what the other needed. There are many extremely hot scenes but also tender and sweet ones.

The angst is bearable and what I absolutely loved here would be the uniqueness of the characters. They felt so real. Bacon's full name made me smile, but I loved the nickname Spence picked for him. It suited him!

I loved the last chapters. Such sweet and also funny scenes. Just like the characters.

I was glad to revisit some of the other couples from the previous books, but this book can be read as a stand alone. You just have to stick to the story because the slow burn might be too much at times.

ARC kindly provided by Carina Press, through NetGalley.

Jenny••Steamy Reads Blog•• says

Won't lie, I wanted this ARC simply because I loved the cover?

I'm gonna be honest, I did overall enjoy this book, but it took me awhile to get into it. There was a lot going on when I started this including book hangovers, so starting books is hard for me when my mind is elsewhere, so I'll blame it on that because honestly Spencer & Bacon are hot. And yes, Bacon is sizzling, I definitely enjoyed him most.

This is your normal m/m book with some added drama and a bit of angst. Chemistry and passion is undeniably heavy in this book?. So if I love just chemistry, hotness, and passion, oh and throw in sexy, this book would hands down be 5 stars. I just didn't get the WOW factor on the rest. Yet still, it worked with the added bonuses of above =))

.Lili. says

Tight Quarters by Annabeth Albert is an excellent addition to the Out of Uniform Series.

- Age gap
- Hurt/Comfort/Healing
- Navy SEAL falls for a reporter looking to write a story about the military
- Scorching hot chemistry
- Action but not so much of it overtakes the romance part of the story.
- Communication. No childish miscommunication here. These guys care and respect each other.
- Strong relationship development.
- The end was sweet and believable.

Books like this further cement why Annabeth Albert is a go-to for me.

5 Stars

Caz says

I've given this an A+ (duh!) for narration and an A for content at AudioGals

Annabeth Albert's *Out of Uniform* series has been a consistently enjoyable one in both print and audio, despite the odd blip. **Tight Quarters** is the sixth instalment, and I was glued to it from start to finish, zipping through it in two or three sittings. Yeah, yeah, I know – I'd listen to Greg Boudreaux read his shopping list, but fortunately, Annabeth Albert has provided him with something MUCH sexier and emotionally satisfying (although I don't know – maybe his shopping lists are sexy and emotionally satisfying?) to get stuck into, in this tale of a journalist who embeds with a team of Navy SEALs looking for a story and finds something he really hadn't bargained for.

We met Petty Officer Bacon in the previous book in the series, *Squared Away*, and at the beginning of his one, he's more than a little bit pissed off because the finger he dislocated on a training exercise has him sidelined and unable to take his regular place on Team Alpha. His annoyance is further compounded when he is directed to be the liaison officer for a reporter who is going to embed with Bacon's unit during their next mission. The team's recent shake up following the departure of its XO (executive officer) and

explosives expert (Wes and Dustin from *Wheels Up*) coupled with the rumours that the pair are now an item and began their relationship while working together despite the strict non-fraternization policy, make Bacon – a friend of both men – very hostile to the idea of a journalist poking around for a story and he resents being demoted to the role of babysitter. Even worse – the reporter is Spencer Bryant, a heavyweight, multi-award-winning journalist and author who is openly gay... and is one seriously hot silver fox. Under any other circumstances, Bacon would have so gone there – but he's got to keep Bryant at a distance and away from anything that could potentially embarrass his team or the Navy in general.

You can read the rest of this review at **AudioGals** .
