



Staying in Vegas

Sam Mariano

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You don't want to miss what happens in Vegas...

When I met Rafe Morelli, he didn't look like the biggest mistake I'd ever make; he seemed closer to the crime family version of Prince Charming. Charismatic, beautiful, and attentive—with an intoxicating air of power—Rafe was the stuff of my darkest fantasies.

What we had should have been a simple fling, no-strings-attached. My hot weekend with the sexy, dominant Vegas boss—a harmless memory to replay once I returned to my quiet, predictable life.

One tiny hitch in that plan: a panty-melting memory isn't all he left behind. Now the stakes have changed, and I'm faced with a potentially life-altering decision. Do I stay away and enjoy my status as the only woman in known history who has played in the Morelli flames without getting burned, or do I risk everything and step back into the fire?

BOOK 1 OF 3 IN THE VEGAS MORELLI TRILOGY.

This trilogy can be read even if you haven't read the original Morelli family series, but as it takes place AFTER that series, there will be Morelli family series spoilers. Two of the main characters from this trilogy were introduced in the original Morelli series. If you want to read the original series and experience it without spoilers, you may want to start there (with Accidental Witness). Like the original Morelli family series, this trilogy is a continuing story following the same characters, NOT three separate-couple standalones.

Staying in Vegas Details

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Author : Sam Mariano

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From Reader Review Staying in Vegas for online ebook

Three Chicks says

Review to come

Sassy Southern says

I'm not sure why every time I start a book by this author I'm utterly surprised at how she can pull every single emotion I have out of me. DEAR god, erase everything you thought you could guess what happen in a book, because just like the rest of her Morelli books, it's one absolutely wild ride.

It's definitely best to start with the previous Morelli books first, as were introduced to Rafe and Laurel. Rafe and Laurel have a maddening get together, and their chemistry tops the charts. After parting ways, both never seem to believe they will see each other again. When we're introduced to Rafe's brooding enforcer, Sin, there most perfectly twisted story takes place.

I'm so excited to read the next book, I fell in love with Sin, but Rafe is a Morelli and has his own type of charm. Laurel is quirky and loveable, which also makes this story that much more amazing. You definitely can't go wrong with any Morelli book, once you're caught in their web of family business and flawless writing by Ms. Mariano, it's tough to recover! - By Victoria

michelle Shelly says

What just happened? My heart was just ripped out, that's what! I never saw it coming.... this isn't the way I thought any of it would go. And I freaking loved it! Gosh, there's so much I want to say but won't. I'm not going to ruin it for you or give anything away. But I will say this.... if you thought you had the Morelli's figured out, well you're sadly mistaken and if you thought this series would never be as good as the Morelli Family series you are gonna freak out.

These characters are everything... absolutely everything. Our new obsession is here guys and I can't wait for everyone to experience him. Sam you have out done yourself, this is going to be phenomenal!

Rosebud says

So much for the 'what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas' slogan when Laurel Price discovers her one night stand with mafia king pin Rafe Morelli leaves her with an unexpected memento. A struggling 19 year old college student, Laurel is about to become a statistic though there are other options available. One being to let Rafe know that despite covering all the bases, he's about to be a father.

Rafe Morelli rules the Vegas underworld now that all competition has been taken care of. Who says he doesn't have a heart when he allowed his biggest threat, Vince, heir apparent, to leave and live out his life in Connecticut where he enjoys the proverbial fantasy life with his new wife. Happy memories though when Rafe recalls the no strings attached fling he had with Vince's sister-in-law before Vince took his leave.

When Laurel shows up unexpectedly out of the blue, Rafe is ok to elevate their relationship to a friends with benefits status until she drops a bombshell on him. A bombshell that has no chance of being factual. Shame she turned out to be just another female gold digger looking to make bank on him.

* * *

Spin off series which is able to be read even if you haven't read the original "Morelli Family" series.

Picked this up after seeing it come up as an alert as a BOTM read for a group. Mafia reads are a guilty secret pleasure topic for me so was compelled to grab it myself.

Overall, an enjoyable read that scenarios the proverbial "oopsie" that results after a no strings attached weekend between a naive single college female and experienced mafia man whore guy. Has moments of dark comedy (snarky) and angsty suspense in a love triangle sort of format.

While I appreciated the back and forth dance between the main characters and kinky adult content erotic scenes, this book/story just didn't work for me, A combination of lack of adequate world building and lack of attention to details were problematic. I am one who depends on knowing that core reality factoids hold true to reality. A hypothetical example might be the fact that being an experienced plane traveler, I know the steps needed to book a flight so a variation of that, while cute, throws me off. Yes, totally superficial example but I like to avoid spoiler info and the details I struggled with would include that. Bottom line, while I liked and appreciated the love triangle (yes, kept screaming for my girl to consider menage but so far she's ignoring my screaming counsel at my e-reader) there was just something off on the overall story.

My other thought was that there was inconsistency in the whole mafia slant to this story. When a mafia character(s) come across as politically correct socially moral individuals vs violent blood thirsty cut throat individuals or when these same character(s) are a mix of the two, it's hard for me to really get on board with things.

While I appreciated the story and Laurel's struggle to find her HEA with the right guy, potential readers should realize that this is the first of three installments in the series. It should therefore be obvious that, while this doesn't end in a cliffhanger, there is a significant open ended story line that isn't resolved at the conclusion of this book.

I'm neutral on recommending this book as there are fans of stories of this sort. That look for naive (not quite to the TSTL category) single females who take a walk on the wild side and mafia lifestyle for whatever reason and don't want to leave.

Ax says

This book is everything I wanted and so much more. I didn't know what I was getting into before I started reading it. I mean I thought I had things figured out, but nope. I wasn't prepared. I fell in love with some of the characters in this book. I loved their chemistry, and every interaction they had with each other, all the way until the end. And seriously, when I got to the end I was dying for more. I feel like Sam Mariano is one of the best dark romance authors out there. The way she can craft a love story is amazing. She makes you want to live inside her books and never leave.

Jessica-🐾Chatterbooks Book Blog🐾 says

I'm so sad that there's only one more Morelli book left for me to read right now. This is the first installment in the Vegas Morelli's series, and I really enjoyed it! ?

Mette says

Sam, Sam, Sam..... I can't help myself, but I love your twisted brain. Once again you had me wrapped up in a story full of surprises and more than once you had Rafe and me thinking:

What. The. Fuck. Is. Going. On?

Vegas Morellis is Sam Marianos new series, and it's a spinoff from her Morelli series. It can be read without reading The Morelli series first, but I strongly suggest you dive into that series first.

Staying in Vegas is not for the pure-hearted, die-hard romantics. It has so many twists and turns that at some points I ended up questioning my sanity. And I had no idea what was up and what was down. But with Sam Mariano as my captain, I know she will steer the ship safely through the storm and give me all the deliciously wicked love I can take.

“Kidnapping is essentially one of the stages of courtship in this family,” he says, like I’m overreacting. “Nothing to get all upset about.”

Rafe Morelli and Laurel Price had a short love affair some time ago, and circumstances drive Laurel to see him again. But Rafe is nothing like she remembers and she leaves him as quickly as she can. What she doesn't count on, though, is Rafe's enforcer Sin, who has entirely other plans with the young woman.

You want sweet tempers and brotherly love? Join a church, not the Morelli family.

This first book in the new series is a study into the minds of Laurel and Rafe, with the mysterious Christian “Sin” Sinclair on the side. It draws an excellent picture of Rafe and Laurel's characters and it gives me the feeling that I'm in for another brilliant, epic tale from Sam Mariano.

The sexual tension is burning hot and I feel like I sit on the edge of the seat throughout most of the book. With Sam Mariano's understanding of delayed gratification and slow-burning sexual tension for both her heroine and her readers, this is the sweetest torture.

Thanks to Sam Mariano for this amazing advanced copy.

ReadMeAStory says

Laugh out loud moments rarely happen for me when I read anymore.

With this book? I laughed until I was wiping tears from my eyes.

[The following images will make sense later]

More Morellis - plus a new obsession - as if we needed...

WE DID.

YOU DO. Do yourself a favor: just preorder book 2.

...WHEN DO WE GET THAT ONE AGAIN???

Melanie (mells_view) says

Rafe Morelli may have wrecked my day, but I'm not going to let him wreck my life.

This wasn't exactly what I was expecting. SIV was a little more tame than the series it spun off from. Laurel is a young girl who had a holiday hook-up with Rafe Morelli and ended up with way more than a good time. When she runs to his home in Vegas to tell him what's going on, he basically tells her he's not interested in her lies. Well here comes his best friend and enforced Sin, who also treats poor Laurel like she's a disease. He comes in and basically takes over her life in just a few short days.... now it's just a big cluster between Laurel, Rafe, and Sin. It's a bit of a triangle, but I'm not sure I'm rooting for ANYONE at this point. I mean I am... but.

SIV is good. It's A LOT of inner monologue. So if you can't get down with that it may not be for you, but if you like dark adjacent with a messed up angsty love triangle... then this is a good one to check out. This story continues into another book which is already out.

Jessica *The Lovely Books* says

"Only the ruthless make it here. You want sweet tempers and brotherly love? Join a church, not the Morelli family."

This is a Morelli book, meaning you've got to go into it with an open-mind—I can't stress that enough. Their stories are not only unconventional but fucked up. I say that in the best way possible considering I loved Mateo and Mia's story like it was crack...and I was the junkie that needed my next fix. Which reminds me, read Mia and Mateo's story first. One thing I went batshit crazy for in the series was none other than Rafe, the hero of Staying in Vegas. Where Mateo was ruthless in a calculating way—Rafe is more charismatic, with an easy smile that could charm the pants off a nun.

"I came here because I met a handsome prince at an enchanted castle, but it turns out he was just a frog in a nice suit."

Laurel and Rafe met in the Morelli Family series—it's the whole reason it's better to have read those books first that way you aren't spoiled. They had an amazing weekend together but Laurel is back (in Vegas, no less) with a life-changing decision she must make that Rafe wants no part of. That's where we are introduced

to Sin—Rafe’s enforcer. He’s broody, sexy as hell, and he ends up becoming a character that I’ve grown to love; he’s one that I want to know more about. Obviously, he’s a key player in the game.

“You like men who play by their own rules; nothing wrong with that. You’ve certainly come to the right place, kitten.”

The way the story ended has me itching for the next book! Laurel is feisty yet submissive. It’s no wonder she’s the object of affection for not one, but two men. How in the world did she get herself into this mess? Her life could be so simple. But Laurel just had to mess with a Morelli. I look forward to seeing how everything turns out. Bring on the angst and fucked up plot lines!

*Thank you to the author for providing a copy for an honest and unbiased review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Anna says

This is my first Sam Mariano book. And I am upset I have not read her sooner. I need to read the Morelli Family Series like yesterday!! I did not expect to have loved this book as much as I did. I was hooked from the beginning and was taken on such a crazy ride. Now I just want more!! I absolutely can not wait for the next book in this series and will definitely be reading her other series before the next book comes out. DEFINITELY a must read!!

Jennifer Pierson says

This was the first time that I've read anything by Sam Mariano, and boy, I had no clue what I signed up for with Staying in Vegas! I found her writing style to be absolutely captivating, even though it had a darker undertone, and I'm hooked by her talent! It's a crazy triangle between Laurel, Rafe, and Sin, which I'm still not sure who I want her to end up with. See Laurel hooks up with Rafe for a weekend, and a couple months later she goes to visit him with some news. He doesn't take the news well, and kicks her out of his house, which is where Sin steps in. And that's all that I'm going to give away. Laurel is a very big hearted young woman who deserved none of the situation she has become involved in, and I have her back 100%! I wanted to junk punch both Rafe & Sin at different points in the book, so again, not sure which one she should choose. She has hot chemistry with both, so yeah, there are some sexy time shenanigans that lit it up, but it's the angst factor that has me all kinds of jacked up, so the f-bombs were dropping like crazy. And that ending that has me hanging off the side of a cliff? Yeah, Sam Mariano is the newest person on the the list of authors trying to KILL ME DEAD, so she's hash tagged forevermore, #EVILWHORE! The next book cannot come out quickly enough, and I HIGHLY HIGHLY HIGHLY RECOMMEND TO ALL!

Laura- BookBistroBlog says

Staying in Vegas (Vegas Morellis, #1)
By: Sam Mariano
4.5 Twix Stars

When Sam Mariano said she had a new series coming out that you could read without reading the Morelli

Family Series, (I mean why haven't you read this series anyway?) I said oh heck yeah!!!

This is a new series that takes place after the conclusion of The Morelli Family Series.

Easter break from college was the perfect time to experience Rafe. A no commitment weekend of the biggest distraction known to man-kind! Laurel is an innocent young college student who knows nothing about the Morelli men. But after celebrating her sister marrying Vince (Morelli), she quickly learned these men are to die for!!!

Fast forward and we are in Vegas. Rafe is feeling a tad bit overwhelmed with how his day is going. It's one thing after another and not in a good way. One final ring of the doorbell and imagine the shock on his face when he sees who is there to visit.

Sin is the new player in this series and I need to know more about him and his background. Something is there, I just know it! Hot, Handsome and talented with his tongue and fingers ? He is Rafe's enforcer...which can only mean one thing...dangerous!

This first book sets us up for one heck of a ride! Can Not Wait to see where we go in Sinning in Vegas (Vegas Morellis #2).

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Wendy Livingstone says

This is the first time I have read any of this authors work, and OMG, why have I not read anything from this talented author before? This is the first book in a trilogy, and my word, what an introduction it is! Laurel is feisty and submissive, and bring into the mix charismatic Rafe, and dangerous, mysterious Sin, and what a tale we have. This author has written a phenomenal story, which is filled with emotion, humour, angst, and is a dark sexy read. I was totally addicted throughout, and I cannot wait to read the next book in this series, and 1-click previous work by my new favourite author!

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced copy of this book!

Bookgasms Book Blog says

When a Sam Mariano book drops on your kindle you know your in for angst, hot sexy times, mafia goodness and a storyline that will consume you and just won't quit. I am obsessed with this book and so addicted to Rafe, Laurel and Sin. I never wanted it to end.

Staying in Vegas is a Morelli family spin off and while it is a standalone I recommend that you read that series first. We met Rafe and Laurel there and see their reconnection here in Vegas. But there is a new player in the game and his name is Sin (Rafe's enforcer.) I thought this story was so compelling and addicting. You never really know what's going on but see these two men who Laurel is drawn to.

All in all this was fantastic and I can't wait for more in this series!! I am addicted and obsessed! Bravo! 4 stars! ~Ratula
