



One Lucky Hero

Codi Gary

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She was looking for a little fun...

Violet Douglas wants one night where she can be normal. Where she can do something for herself and not be just her sibling's guardian. So when she spies a tall, dark and sexy stranger, she's ready to let her wild side roar. The last thing she expects is to see her one night stand one week later, when she drags her delinquent kid brother to the Alpha Dog Training Program.

He wasn't looking for a commitment...

Sgt. Dean Sparks is used to keeping women at a distance, and yet he can't resist Violet's snapping wit or smile. So when he suggests a friends-with-benefits arrangement, it seems like the perfect solution to their undeniable attraction. No emotional entanglement, just mind-blowing sex.

But with their lives becoming more and more entwined, Dean realizes that casual isn't enough for him anymore. And as Violet finds herself leaning on Dean in a way she never has, will her fears put more distance between them? Or can she let go of the past, and take a chance on happily ever after?

One Lucky Hero Details

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From Reader Review One Lucky Hero for online ebook

Genesis Sheli (Latte Nights Reviews) says

This review was originally posted on Latte Nights Reviews.

Violet has gone through so much in her life and trusting people doesn't come easy for her. Losing her mother to suicide and when one night of torment leads to chasing off her drug addicted father, all Violet wants is one night of letting loose. She meets Dean at a concert and has the best night of her life. But it all comes crashing down when she receives a phone call and has to face reality. Her brother has gotten into some trouble and instead of going to juvie, they give him an out: stay at Alpha Dog training center for a month. Turns out Violet's one night stand is the boss at Alpha Dog and she has to see him constantly.

4 Reasons to Read ONE LUCKY HERO:

1. Depth

This story has so much depth to the characters, you have to slowly peel off the layers. Starting with Violet, from such a young age she has had to grow up to take care of her siblings and it hasn't been easy. She is so strong, though. She wants to do good for her siblings so they can have a good future. Sgt. Dean Sparks also has a past that he hasn't been wanting to face. Despite all of it, he wants to return to active duty, but interactions with a certain red-head has him considering if that's what he truly wants.

2. Family & Tough Issues

Family is so important in this story and it's highlighted all the time. Violet and her siblings went through a lot, especially Vi's younger brother Casey. He has a secret of what happened to him and why he changed from being a loving and caring boy to someone who doesn't care and cringes at anyone touching him. I felt so bad for Casey. Something was tormenting him, but he never spoke of what was going on. Instead, he lashed out. My heart broke for him so many times. **The author introduced issues like suicide, drug addiction, and rape.** All of them weren't easy to read. Despite all the tough topics, Codi Gary included some funny moments that balanced the story.

3. Romance

Gosh, the romance!!! *fangirls and swoons* Violet and Dean are the perfect match. I was so beyond in love with their story. They are both so stubborn, it's not even funny. They are so cute together, though. I was definitely rooting for them through the entire story. Since Violet has a tough past that has made her not trust easily, she doesn't trust Dean and that's where I got frustrated. I totally understand where she's coming from but she kept pushing Dean away. Still, **the romance was so cute and sexy and off the charts.**

"Never feel bad about putting yourself first."

4. Friendship

While they weren't much in the story, the few times they were made the story so fun. Right from the start, I knew a certain character was going to make me laugh and he did! I hope he has his story coming out soon because I will devour it. I cannot wait to read the rest of the stories as I'm sure they will be a blast!

Overall, **this story will make you laugh, cry, and fall in love.** It was so very enjoyable, entertaining and filled with feels! This review was originally posted on Latte Nights Reviews.

Misty (Red's Romance Review's) says

Sgt. Dean Sparks likes having the freedom to roam, so the idea of a commitment would normally send him running in the other direction, but the minute Violet Douglas walks into his life, his normal aversion to relationships and feelings start to escape him. She is beyond gorgeous, somewhat of a smart ass, and knows how to push his buttons in a way that no one else can, and all she is asking for is one night, and while that maybe tempting there is a part of him that is certain she isn't really that kind of girl. The more time he spends with her the more he realizes that she deserves more than a one night entanglement, she deserves someone who can give her more of a forever kind of thing and he knows he's not that man... but as much as he tries to fight his attraction to her she remains adamant that what she needs is just a night of fun, and she believes he's the perfect man for the job!

Between work, taking care of her siblings, and going to school Violet Douglas's plate is pretty full, she doesn't have time for romantic relationships and her social life is almost non-existent... but she wouldn't have it any other way! She doesn't have the time or space needed in her life for another person, but that doesn't stop her from occasionally dreaming of forever. The minute she took over caring for her siblings her forever was placed on hold indefinitely, so now she just has to settle for an occasional hook-up here and there to tide her over until it's time to finally find her forever. When she agrees to attend a concert with her best friend she is looking forward to finally letting loose, and having the freedom to just be herself for one night and if she finds a male companion for the night then so be it! She was ready for anything, but nothing could have prepared her for meeting the slightly irritating, but OH SO SEXY Sargent Dean Sparks!

After finishing the first book in this series I was left dying to get my hands on the next and have the opportunity to get up close and personal with another one of Ms. Gary's Heroes... and I have to say meeting Sargent Sparks DEFINITELY made up for the wait!! The minute this brooding, sexy soldier walked onto the pages I was hypnotized by his charisma, smooth one liners, and fierce protective nature, and he managed to keep me under his spell long after the last page was swiped!! There is just something so sexy, and admirable about a take charge alpha that has his woman's best interests at heart and will stop at nothing to make her happy, and see to it that she gets everything she deserves and Mr. Sparks was nothing short of amazing when it came to caring for Violet. Even though she was adamant that she could do things on her own, he found a way to help her out, and be her saving grace without making her feel like less of a woman, and that is one thing I loved about him the most!

I have to say that there isn't a single thing about this story that I didn't absolutely love, it shined a light the importance of being an independent woman, embracing your inner strength and knowing that even though you are capable of standing on your own two feet, sometimes it's okay to let someone else take lead once in a while too!! Ms. Gary has totally outdone herself with this one... it is one of the best reads I have had the pleasure of devouring this year, and I HIGHLY recommend you make a point to read this book...it is inspiring, heartwarming, and truly spellbinding!!

ARC requested through Edelweiss, and kindly provided by Avon Publishing in exchange for a honest and unbiased review.

Red Cheeks Reads says

'She had never understood the romance novels that had a hero and a heroine fighting one minute and

making out the next, but right now, she totally got it.'

Codi Gary is an author that is constantly surprising and delighting me. Her books are always full of depth, growth and wonderful stories and One Lucky Hero is no different. This book was exactly what I wanted on a lazy and rainy Sunday and left me warm and happy in the end. One Lucky Hero is the second standalone (and first full length book) in the Alpha Dog series and I loved it even more than the first.

"I don't want anything serious, you know that, but with Violet . . . I mean, the girl has got drama up to her eyeballs and trust issues that would make most psychiatrists want to put her in a lab and study her. But I just can't get her out of my head."

When Violet and Dean hook up one night after meeting at a concert their chemistry is undeniable but neither are in a place for a relationship and know that nothing more can come of it despite the pull they seem to have over one another. But when Violet's brother ends up in the troubled youth program run by Dean they can no longer avoid each other but instead try to be friends. These two have so much sexual tension and it is clear they both yearn for each other but their current life situation make relationships nearly impossible.

"I'm not living Dean. I had no idea what it felt like to be alive until you."

I absolutely adored Dean. Protective and alpha tot he core he wants to distant himself from Violet since he wants to be deployed again and yet he just cannot stay away. He has never been drawn to a woman the way he is drawn to her. Violet is raising her brother and sister and has no time for anyone else in her life. She constantly pushes Dean away and yet when he is near she can't help but give in. Everything about the premise of this made me think I would be frustrated by these two and yet it was written in such a way that I never felt like that. Codi Gary always delievers a clean and fresh story. If you haven't read her books yet I highly urge you to give them a shot, I have never been disappointed!

4.5 Smooches

~miranda

Debbie I Heart YA Books says

I've been reading some awesome Military Romance novels this month. And One Lucky Hero is another swoon-worthy romance to get your hands on. Violet and Dean are going to tug at your heart—there's even a pit bull terrier mix named Dilbert that's going to pull at your heartstrings. For Violet and Dean, a one-night-stand turns into a friends-with-benefits relationship, but ends in a steal-your-heart love story.

Violet has met her match in the stubborn department when it comes to this gorgeous soldier boy, Sargent Dean Sparks. Violet and Dean are both having a hook-up drought. While Violet has been the legal guardian of her siblings—her younger sister Daisy and brother Casey—for the last few years, raising these kids has put huge red Stop sign on her love life. So, she decides to take a night out for herself with her best friend Tracy, to let her hair down and have a meaningless hook-up, but a hot one. Dean's also had no luck in his own love life—well, not mind-blowing sex, that is. Dean doesn't do love.

For the most part, both Violet and Dean are broken. Violet's life changed the day her mother died and her father walked out on her and her siblings. Dean's life changed when he was transferred back to the States and ordered to attend group therapy. Only that was six months ago, and the nightmares are still with him. Instead of shipping him back to war, he's been assigned as director of a new military outreach program. The

program offers troubled kids a different solution than juvie; they are sent to the Alpha Dog Training Program. And this is how Dean's one-night-stand, Violet, came face-to-face with him again, and a casual night of mind-blowing sex becomes complicated. Violet and Dean knew they felt something different that night for each other, but figured they wouldn't have to admit their feelings—until fate intervenes for these two stubborn hearts.

One Lucky Hero is a swoon-your-heart romance that gets your heart pumping for the brooding, gorgeous war hero and the sassy mouthed guardian, that are too stubborn to see their one-night-stand is a forever love. I highly recommend Violet and Dean getting lucky in love as a must read.

Miranda Elaine says

4.5 Smooches review coming at Red Cheeks Reads

Crystal says

One Lucky Hero, the first full length book in author Codi Gary's new Men In Uniform series, was a fun, flirty, and sexy book filled with characters that I can't wait to see more of. In this one, we meet Dean and Violet, two characters that are more similar than they think. At first glance, it may seem as if they are on completely different paths with Violet as the sole guardian of her siblings and Dean on medical leave but itching to return. Although both proclaim they are not ready for commitment, both need the unwavering love and support from a partner. They need that special person that will stand with them and fight for them. To get to that point, however, is a long road filled with obstacles. I loved One Lucky Hero for many reasons, two of which were Dean and Violet. I loved their personalities and their determination to do right by others. Both are incredibly strong characters that, after some convincing, are willing to show their vulnerable side to each other. Another element of this book that I thoroughly enjoyed was the passage of time. Rather than a one-night stand that is over in one or two chapters, Codi took the time to set up the scene. From how the characters move from that first bolt of lust to the sexually charged aggravation to finally the all-consuming sexual desire that fueled their need. Codi continued that slow build throughout the book as Dean and Violet's relationship grew. Even though One Lucky Hero is a fast paced novel, Codi certainly took the right amount of time to make it feel like we're with them every step of the way. If you are a fan of fun, flirty romances with just a right amount of spice, then definitely pick up this book. And even better, it's the beginning of a series that I know I'll continue to fall in love with.

I received an ARC copy in exchange for a honest review.

Ami says

2.5 stars

Maybe I was having wrong expectation and not in the right mood when reading this. The truth is, the drama llama brought this story down for me, making it not enjoyable. All the characters seem to have A LOT baggage! Including Violet's family members as secondary characters. It was too much :(

While I appreciated the Alpha Dog program and I liked some of the scenes where Casey and Dean worked with the dogs, but the rest of this book was a struggle for me to read. In fact I ended up skimming until the end because I just didn't find the joy I wanted.

In addition, I am not really a big fan of heroines in adult romance whose age are closer to early 20's (Violet was only 24 years old) ... probably because I'm closer to 40's myself and prefer to read older heroines these days. Except if I know early on that the book is in YA/NA genre.

Also see this review and this review because they have the same opinion as me.

Not sure if I want to continue this series since I wasn't exactly loving the prequel novella as well *shrugs*

Ann Lorz says

This is the first book in the Men in Uniform series. There is a novella that comes before this called I Need a Hero that I loved and reviewed. You really don't need to read it first but...why not? I think you'll really enjoy it so give it a try. Plus it kind of sets up what the series is all about.

I really love Dean, from the second he growled at his friend Tyler I was hooked. I find it funny that he says he wants one thing, but really wants another. You can't help but enjoying his character. The man is down to earth and never backs down from a fight.

Now Violet in the beginning of the book I really liked. But her actions to what was going on in her life got on my nerves a little bit. I get that she has so many responsibilities on her shoulders, but instead of jumping on Dean, she should be kicking her brother and sisters asses.

Both of the them are ungrateful and rude.

Of course without their actions a big part of the story wouldn't be there so I get it. I just wouldn't let anyone treat me that way, even someone I love.

But like I said, it all makes for a good story.

One Lucky Hero is a must read. Great story, fantastic characters. and a punch of humor that will leave you wanting more.

Reviewed for Romancing the Readers Blog:
<http://romancingthereaders.blogspot.c...>

Romancing the Readers Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/RomancingThe...>

ARC received for a honest review

Crystal says

An amazing book filled with tough issues that are handled impeccably!

Stacee says

This seemed like a perfect book for my sorbet. I was expecting a bit of angst, but it was definitely more than I expected.

I liked Violet and Dean. There both good people struggling with their situations and I truly wanted to see them get past everything. Sadly, there was so so so much drama and push and pull between them that I struggled to stay interested. And the constant domestic violence and mention of molestation didn't help.

Overall, I liked the story, but some of it was a bit much for me. I may look into other books in the series, depending on who they focus on.

****Huge thanks to Avon Impulse and Edelweiss for providing the arc in exchange for an honest review****

Monique says

Violet Douglas finally has one night to relax; she goes out to a club with her friend Tracy. Violet is guardian of her 17 year-old sister Daisy and 14 year-old brother Casey, and between work and classes, she never has time for herself. At 24, Violet is beginning to feel old before her time. She has no time for relationships, so that evening, at best, she was looking for a one-night thing. Then she sees the perfect candidate: Sgt. Dean Sparks. Dean is definitely not looking for anything permanent: a soldier, he's merely waiting for his psychological evaluation to go through before going back to what he does best, but a horrific event sidelined him for a while in Sacramento. He's director of the Alpha Dog Training Program, which helps youths at risk. Violet and Dean hook up, but Casey gets himself arrested and things get even more complicated.

ONE LUCKY HERO was definitely not what I expected: I was looking forward to a sexy and sweet, laidback romance with maybe a little drama, but this book left me exhausted; Violet, Dean, Daisy and Casey all have serious issues and it was not light reading at all, and only the banter between Dean and his mates at Alpha Dog kept ONE LUCKY HERO from being entirely dark, in my opinion. The writing is absolutely impeccable, the characters extremely complex, the background stories heart-wrenching and so true to life, it's a bit scary, in a way. It is a fabulous story of a young woman who has led a very hard life, and seems to get no reprieve.

Why only three stars then? I could never get into the romance part between Dean and Violet. I could not grasp why a woman who definitely needs some fun, something light and uncomplicated, to forget her dreary life for a while, decides to hook up with a guy as surly and "taciturn" as Dean. Granted, she goes nuts over his hotness, but for a one-night-stand, I expect some flirtation, some playfulness, and there was none of that with Dean, unlike what happened with Tracy and Best, her one-nighter. Maybe I'm not superficial enough, but when you want a good time, wouldn't you choose someone who seems fun to be with? Dean definitely wasn't fun. Had Violet and Dean met when Casey at Alpha Dog, then I think the romance would have worked for me because the circumstances would have been different, and Dean's attitude would not have been an issue. They could have drooled over each other, while not wanting to make a move because neither of them was looking for something more permanent at the time.

I adore Codi Gary, she is a spectacular writer and a lovely person, and I feel I must apologise for this review,

but it is what it is: I just did not feel the romance. I could say it's because I read the book "on the wrong day", but it would not have changed my mind about hooking up with an aloof, boorish hottie. I also had a problem with the extraordinary amount of violence within the book, almost all of it merely implied, but it bothered me just the same.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Kassiah says

3 stars.

This review also appears on Pretty Sassy Cool.

I read the prequel novella in this series, *I Need a Hero*, last year, and I had forgotten how much I enjoyed it. One of the things that I liked the most about that book was that it was so fluffy! There was basically no angst, really. *One Lucky Hero* is pretty much the opposite of that--it's heartbreaking!

After Violet spends a hot night with Dean Sparks, she never expects to see him again. Imagine her surprise a week later when he's the boss at the program her brother has to attend, forcing her to see her one-time hookup basically every day for a month. Neither Violet nor Dean can forget the night they shared. Will they allow themselves to see past one night into forever?

This book had a lot of drama. It's honestly too much. Violet has dealt with a lot in her past and really can't trust. It surprised me when she hooked up with Dean, but I guess I don't know why. Dean was sweet and swoony as she got to know him, and I definitely get Violet wanting to give in to more with him. I enjoyed their chemistry and wanted them to get it together, but I would have totally understood if Dean would have given up. I totally get why Violet was the way she was, but she did frustrate me *a lot*.

With that being said, *One Lucky Hero* is a perfect story if you want more than just a fling that turns into more. I will definitely be checking out the rest of the books in this series.

Danielle says

After reading *I Need A Hero* which is the prequel/ introduction to the Men in Uniform series I knew I was going to love this series. I mean who doesn't like hot military alpha men who get knocked sideways by their heroines?! And with *One Lucky Hero* it did not disappoint. While reading the prequel is encouraged, it's not necessary.

In *One Lucky Hero* we meet Violet who just wants to be normal for a day. After losing her mother to suicide and chasing off her drug addicted father, Violet has raised her younger sister and brother. When attending an outdoor concert with her best friend she meets Dean and maybe thinks just one night wouldn't hurt but she had no idea she would be seeing him again and soon.

Dean isn't looking for a relationship and is waiting to get back on active duty. After spending the night with Violet he knows she is different but after giving her his number he knows he won't hear from her again. Color him surprised when he sees her again with her younger brother at the Alpha Dog training center where

he works. Dean knows he should leave her alone but the closer they become the harder he falls.

These two characters were so much alike in so many ways I just loved them. Violet and Dean definitely have the stubbornness factor going on and love helping people but when it comes down to themselves they don't want help. From the beginning I loved the attraction between these two and their relationship is mainly push/pull for the entire story.

I also enjoyed meeting Dean and Violet's friends. I can already tell I'm going to love their stories when it's their turn. Best is the one I'm looking forward to reading the most!

Gary included some tough situations and subjects in this storyline that had my heart breaking for these characters but she also included some witty and sweet moments that made me just enjoy this story to the fullest. I really enjoyed the whole Alpha Dog concept and that helped make the story even better.

As far as the ending went I felt what happened was a little expected but I did enjoy that it had an epilogue so that we got to touch base with the characters and see what happened to them in the future.

If you're looking for a new military romance with a twist to sink your teeth into I'm definitely recommending this one.

Victoria Colotta says

Codi Gary has done it again! With emotion, humor, and a little sexy on the side, the author gives us a story that you will not be able to put down.

Violet Douglas has not had an easy life and works tirelessly to put those she loves first, no matter what. Sgt. Dean Sparks is a man with a plan, but has also been struggling with what happened to him when he was overseas. These two are not looking for anything serious in their lives, but for some reason they cannot stay away from one another. With a chemistry that is undeniable, the reader will see the constant struggle between Violet and Dean. Will they be able to move past their baggage? Will they allow someone into their hearts and lives? Will Dean finally get what he wants even if he isn't sure that he wants the same things as he once fought so hard for? Time will tell.

What I love about Codi's writing is that she gives us believable characters in real-life situations. Then she adds in a splash of the sexy with a dose of humor to round out the narrative. I never walk away wishing that I got more from any of her books. With this particular story, there was an element of grit and darkness that truly enhanced the story. There is a definite serious tone to this book, but it is done in a way that you feel that the author is not exploiting any of these issues. Codi embraces the struggles and ramifications of actions on all those involved. And, honestly, the book is better for it.

I am always amazed when one of my favorites gives me a story that outdoes all of the others before. With

One Lucky Hero, Codi did just that. I cannot recommend the author or this book more. It is perfect summer reading. Hell...who am I kidding? This is perfect any season reading. So what are you waiting for? Your hero is waiting...



Follow the Highly Caffeinated Victoria Colotta: Website | Facebook | Twitter @vcolotta | Instagram | Goodreads

Follow Art, Books, & Coffee: Website | Facebook | Twitter @ArtBooksCoffee_ | Instagram



Sheyla ✍️ says

One Lucky Hero is the first book in the new series Men In Uniform. We meet some of the characters in her novella I Need a Hero (which I loved).

The main couple is Violet Douglas and Dean Sparks.

Dean is in charge of the Alpha Dog Training program. The program helps juvenile delinquents serve their sentence by learning how to take care of and train dogs that are getting a second chance in life. Dean is happy with the way the program is doing but he's also desperate to go back into action. He just needs his psych to clear him back for duty. He's not looking for romance since he doesn't think it's fair to start something just to leave soon after.

Violet's life is nothing more than a huge responsibility. When her mother committed suicide and her dad left, she became her siblings guardian. She did it out of love. She cares for them immensely but this situation has put a damper on her social life. Starting a serious relationship is not in the schedule.

When her girlfriend asked her out to attend a concert, she is ready to party for the first time in a long time. Unfortunately, Dean is not making it easy but as the night progresses things between them change. Their one-night stand turns into more when a week later, her brother is forced to attend the Alpha Dog Training, making it impossible for them to avoid each other any longer.

Codi Gary's book's are a must for me. I just know that I enjoy her stories. In One Lucky Hero, both main characters are likable. They both have reasons not to start a serious relationship and they try really hard to avoid it.

There were many sweet moments coming from Dean. I love his relationship with his lazy dog, how he helps Violet at home despite her assurances that she can do it all. He was there for all the Douglas siblings, making it impossible for me to dislike him.

Violet was an admirable character. She has done everything to keep her family together. She was super supportive of her siblings and she knew when she was in over her head too. It just took her a little bit to recognize it. It's hard to put your trust in someone new.

I wonder who's next in this series...

Cliffhanger: No

4/5 Fangs

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

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