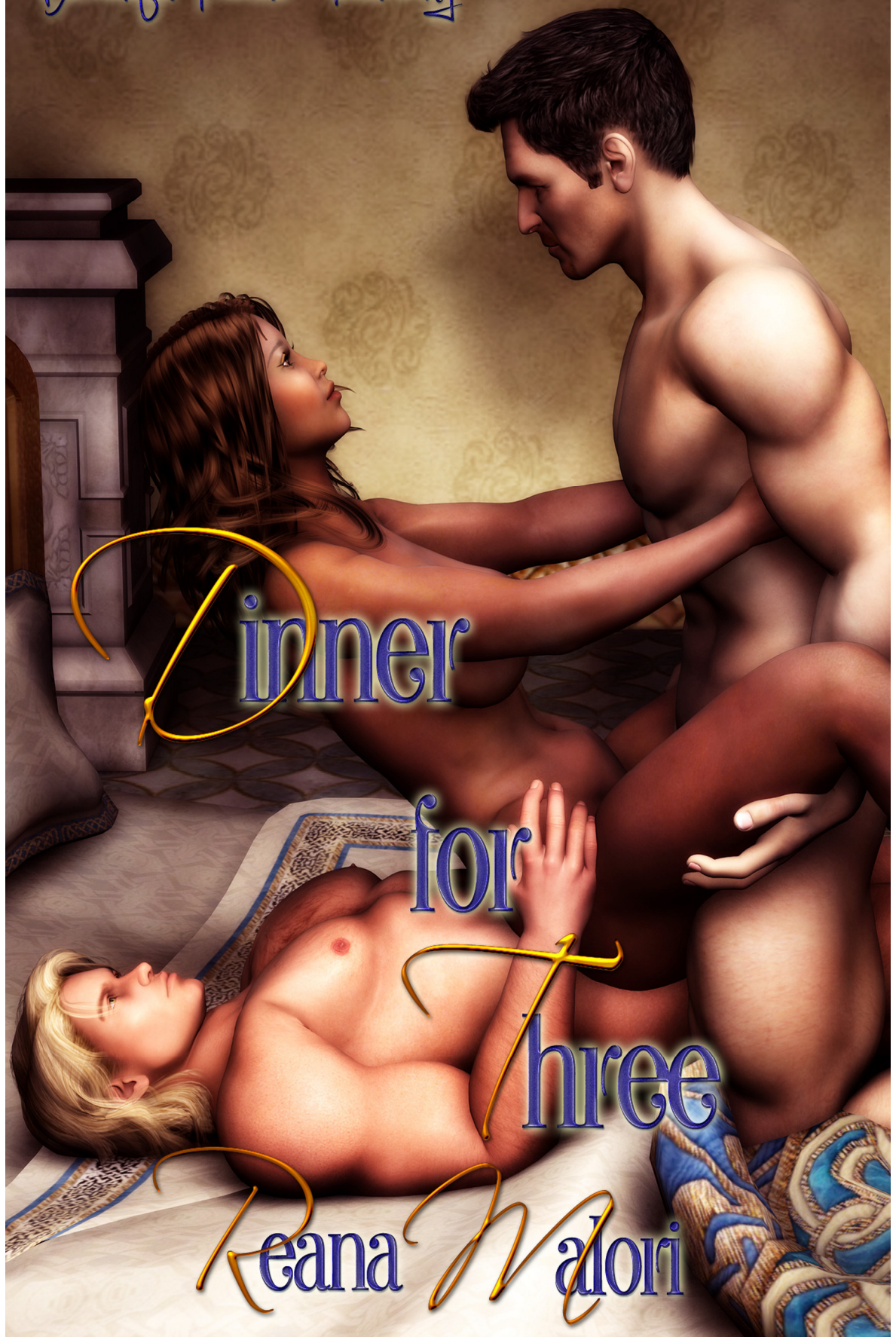


Beautiful Trouble Publishing



Dinner

for

three

Reana Valori



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Reana Malori

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To my sister MG.....hope you have a nice glass of wine  
in your hand, because this one's all for you.—Reana

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# Chapter One

Change was never good. If there was one thing Celina knew, it was that she did not accept certain types of change very well. The ironic thing was that she should be used to change at this stage in her life. Change was the one thing she knew well. During her lifetime—all twenty-nine years—she had moved so many times that all of her belongings could be packed up and moved within one day. Yes, she hated change, but she was also an expert on the subject—when it happened on her own terms.

She knew that approach wasn't the best, but it was how things were and she embraced her outlook on life. When she'd moved to the Metro DC area six years ago, she'd really wanted to put all of that behind her and start anew. All that moving around wasn't good for the soul, and she had finally decided to grow some roots and stay put for a while. Now, thanks to a situation that was completely out of control, all of that was in jeopardy. One stroke of a pen had changed her entire life, and now she had a decision to make. Honestly, she didn't know if she had it in her to make another move to a new company and start a new life. She was tired of rebuilding her roots over and over again.



While her childhood dreams had never consisted of the perfect life with a husband, two kids, a dog and the white picket fence, the thought was starting to enter her mind. Having a husband and a child of her own one day would be nice. The problem was that she was too damn picky, and no man had ever piqued her interest long enough to make her want anything more than a fun night of sex.

Celina knew she was attractive, maybe not beautiful, but men always seemed interested in getting to know her better. Even as a curvaceous woman who wore a size twelve on a good day, she turned plenty of heads when she walked down the street. She wasn't a prude by any stretch of the word, and if a man was interested in her and the planets aligned "just so," then she might give him her number. Hell, a nice dinner at a cozy restaurant was always a welcome diversion, and she saw no reason to deny herself a fun evening on the town.

Lately it seemed that her usual response, after the fun ended and dinner was over, was to lose interest and not answer their repeated phone calls. At first she'd thought there was something wrong with her that made her unable to connect with another human being on an emotional level. There just always

seemed to be something *missing* from the men she came across. Handsome though they may be, it was never enough and she did not want to waste her time, or theirs, going through the motions.

The last time she'd tried to force a relationship when there had been no spark to begin with had ended in complete and utter disaster. Plus, the sex with what's-his-face had been so disappointing. It was like watching paint dry, and she'd known from the jump-off that his time was limited. It was a wonder they'd lasted as long as they did. He had been a very sexy man, and she had been convinced things would turn out okay if only they gave it more time. He had all the cliché adjectives—tall, dark, rich, and handsome. Things *should* have been perfect, but something about him seemed to turn her off. She couldn't put her finger on it, but she knew something was holding her back. If they had been compatible in bed, she could have held on longer, but with that missing as well...it just wasn't worth it.

Since graduating college, she could count on one hand the number of men she'd actually slept with, and that last experience had convinced her it was time to put the brakes on her love life. That was when she'd made a shift and her career had become her main

focus. Long hours at the office, never-ending travel, and taking on more assignments as the opportunities came across her desk were part and parcel of her new life. She knew the other employees at Forrester Consulting thought she was a first-class bitch, but she was okay with that perception. She'd worked her ass off to get to this point in her career, and she wasn't going to throw that away for anyone. Ambition was not listed in her "something she lacks" column.

Everything had been so well thought out, and she'd known exactly what she wanted to do and where she wanted to be. Well, that had been the case up until an hour ago. After this latest situation with the company being acquired, she was no longer sure what her path would be. Her life plan had been turned upside down and she felt at a loss, uncertain where she was headed next. When the knock on her office door sounded, she knew exactly who was coming to see her.

"Come in." She turned and walked back to her desk as the door opened.

"Hi, Celina. May I talk with you?" Her soon to be ex-boss tentatively walked into the office. Yeah, he knew she was pissed right now.

"Hey, Jim. What can I help you with?" She watched as he sat down in the chair in front of her

huge cherry wood desk. Damn, would she be able to keep her office? Would she be fired outright? She was so angry right now, she could eat nails.

“Celina, I know this was a shock, but you have to see the benefits of this sale. We’re all going to make a lot of money.” He flashed a sheepish smile because he knew the money wasn’t the issue. “Come on now, don’t give me that look. You knew I had to be mindful of the confidentiality of what we’re doing here. Only the executive staff is aware that we’re even going down this path. It will still take months for everything to change over and final details of the acquisition to become complete.”

She said nothing as he continued to talk. Her hands clasped on top of her desk, she continued to watch him as he spoke about the impending sale of the company.

“We’re a small fish in a big pond, and the market is simply too tough. You know you’re my right-hand person, but no matter how much I may have wanted to tell you, you know as well as anyone that I was restricted from doing so.”

In his late fifties, Jim was still a very handsome man, and he was well aware of it. During her time at Forrester, he had always served as her mentor and

guide. Their relationship had been invaluable to her over the years. She knew part of her angst was that she would no longer be able to work with him. He was like a favorite uncle, and she would miss him. Jim was still talking to her, so she stopped her inward thoughts and focused on what he was saying.

“You’ve been with us for almost six years now, and you’ve moved up the ladder quickly. I know you’ll be fine.”

She sighed deeply and finally gave voice to some of her concerns. “I do understand all that, Jim. I truly do. But why is this happening right now? I know the market is tough, but Forrester was doing well. We made a seventeen percent profit last fiscal year, and our employee base is more than two hundred and fifty people. We have a projected growth of an additional twenty percent next year. What will happen to all of those employees now that the company has been sold?”

Jim smiled as he addressed her concerns. “The deal stipulates that all of our employees will continue to be employed for at least one year, unless they choose to leave on their own. Come on, Celina. You know that nothing in life is guaranteed. However, I do want to give our employees a fair chance. If they

decide to stay with the company after that year is complete, then it will be up to them to decide. But it will be under the new company structure. When all is said and done, we're giving them a fair shake."

"That's good. I'm glad our employees will be taken care of. We have some really good people here, and I would hate to see them treated unfairly. It sounds like you were thinking along the same lines." Celina stood up from behind her desk and walked back to her window. The view was beautiful, and this was her favorite spot to think things over when her mind was filled with conflicting thoughts.

"What else is on your mind?"

"You know me so well." She turned to him and voiced her other concern. "What about us? The senior management team can't be guaranteed jobs for one year. The new owners will want to bring in their own people." Yeah, at the end of the day, she was worried about her own future as well.

"We're still working out the details, but that will be taken care of as well. I know this will be a huge change for us, but in the end, everything will be fine. Everything happens for a reason, Celina, so you never know what good will come out of this. Opportunity has knocked on our door, and while I know it's difficult,

we have to take this leap. Give it a chance, okay?”

“Sure, okay, Jim. I’m on board and you know I’ll do whatever has to be done to make this deal successful.” While her insides were churning with the *what ifs*, she was still determined to make this work.

Jim stood up and made his way to the door. “Hey, I need to leave for a meeting. I’ll be back soon and we can talk more about this if you want.”

“No problem, Jim. We’ll catch up later.” Although she put on a brave face as Jim walked out the door, Celina did not really feel as confident about things as he did. Oh well, there was nothing she could do about it right now. Work still had to get done, and she had several meetings today along with other deadlines looming. The acquisition would still be there tomorrow, and there was nothing she could do to change it. Today, she needed to focus on other things. Maybe she would go to that new restaurant after work tonight and have a nice dinner.

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Adrian Marshall wanted to be at home right now. Although Forrester Consulting would be a lucrative acquisition for the company, neither he nor his best friend and business partner, Jake Huffington, had any real desire to focus on the details of the

specific negotiations. Jake was on his way to the restaurant now, but had to make a detour to check on a client issue at the headquarters office of MH Associates, Inc., which was located in the heart of DC. As a result, Adrian had come to the restaurant on his own to wait for his friend and business partner to arrive.

He thought about the meeting that had occurred today at Forrester Consulting, and he couldn't help but picture the woman in the room who had caught his attention. She was something else, and both he and Jake knew it to be true. Her eyes had flashed suppressed anger the entire time they had spoken, and he knew she was not happy about the acquisition. After the meeting concluded, she'd said all the right things, but her body language had showed that she wanted to be anywhere but there. Something in him had wanted to reassure her that things would not change, but he'd dared not veer away from the rehearsed greetings they gave whenever they acquired a new company. While he may have wanted to reassure her, he couldn't take the risk of saying anything. Although he would give anything to take away that look for uncertainty he had seen in her eyes, he knew it was best to leave it alone at the time. Of



course, she wouldn't know this, but he and Jake were not into breaking up the companies they acquired. They enjoyed bringing the employees on board and integrating them into the company in a positive way.

Forrester Consulting was small beans compared to their other recent acquisitions. When the firm had come to their attention as a possible purchase opportunity, they were unsure if the effort was worth it. It had come highly recommended by an old college friend who had been a client of Forrester's at one time, so they'd decided to take a look and had some basic research completed. They'd found that several other large companies had tried to purchase Forrester before now, which meant there was great potential. When it was decided that they would move forward, they'd known it was important that this business deal received personal attention in order to show MH Associates in the best possible light.

The offer from MH Associates must have come at the right time, because it hadn't taken much to convince the owner or the Board of Directors that this was a good deal. As a result, he and Jake were both stuck here in Washington, DC, staying in a hotel, when he would have preferred to be at home relaxing in his living room watching the sports channel.

Jake and Adrian shared a house in Haymarket, Virginia, outside of the city, but close enough to stay connected to their business interests. It was a beautiful home and it was perfect for the two of them, with plenty of room for family. The house was somewhat large, but they purchased it with the intent to fill it with children in the near future. Admittedly, people who didn't understand how things were, and there had been a few, had made the mistake of thinking they were lovers. Actually, they weren't lovers in any way and were the furthest thing from it. There was absolutely no attraction to each other, and on more than one occasion they'd had to shove someone's teeth down their throat when the thought had tried to pass their lips.

All things considered, they were closer than any family member or friend could be, and they were inseparable. Although polar opposites in looks, they had similar personalities. They were so far apart in temperament and background, no one had ever quite figured out why they connected so strongly. Growing up in Richmond, Virginia had not been easy for either of them, but they had survived the best way they knew how. The local YMCA had been a safe haven during their younger years, and sports were their outlet.

While not yet friends, they had crossed paths on occasion, and that had been fine. That was, until one day when a fight had broken out on the basketball court. Neither of them had been very big at the time, but when Jake noticed Adrian getting beat up by three of the bigger kids at the gym, he'd jumped in and helped. At the end of the fight, both of them had a few scrapes, bruises, and a black eye or two, but a friendship that would stand the test of time had been born.

From that day forward, wherever you found one, you found the other. Jake had been living with his grandmother at the time, since his parents had died in a car crash when he was just a baby. Adrian's parents, seeing how close the two boys had become, had quickly welcomed Jake into their home and their family. While Adrian's family had not been wealthy by any stretch of the word, his parents were loving people who tried their best to give their children a chance at a better life. Although life wasn't perfect, Adrian was proud of his humble beginnings, which made his current success that much sweeter.

Jake's grandmother had passed away some years ago, but even when that occurred, Adrian and his family had been right by Jake's side. There was no one

else Adrian trusted with his life more than Jake, and he knew Jake felt the same. When they both went away to college to the University of Maryland, they stayed in the same apartment and had never been apart since. Sometimes they got on each other's bad side, but they were best friends—no, they were brothers—and they always got over it. Their strong personalities caused more friction than anything. Neither of them liked to back down, and both liked to be in charge of things.

Eventually as time went by, they came to realize that their taste in women was the same as well. In fact, the discovery was made quite by mistake. They were both at a party during their junior year of high school when a group of girls from the dance team had shown up. Each time one of them would approach one of the girls, the other one had already been there. They soon realized they kept going after the same type of women and had a good laugh about it after a while.

However, because of this realization, they had to talk about how they would handle dates and girlfriends in the future, since neither of them wanted a woman to come between them. They tried to stay out of each other's way when it came to women and tried hard to make sure it never became an issue for them.

Yet it never seemed to work quite the way they'd planned.

One day, things came to a head after they had been out of college for a few years and were just getting MH Associates off the ground. Adrian had brought a woman back to their condo and Jake hadn't been aware. Excited about a new deal for MH Associates, Jake walked into Adrian's bedroom without knocking. In his haste, he failed to consider that if the door was closed, it was probably for a reason. Jake later told Adrian he'd been standing there for a few minutes before he was noticed. The woman, whose name he couldn't remember anymore, gasped in shock when she saw Jake standing there. Adrian, on the other hand, had another reaction and invited Jake to join in the fun instead of just standing there gawking.

Since that night, they had both come to the realization that it felt more comfortable to share in every aspect of their life, including women. Now in their mid-thirties, thoughts of finding a wife and having children were starting to show up in their conversations, especially when Adrian spoke to his mother. She was aware of their preferences and continued to harp on Adrian and Jake that she wanted

grandbabies—as in multiple—and let them know in no uncertain terms that she was getting tired of waiting for the two of them to find a woman to bring home. Jake and Adrian both knew there would only be one wife to share between the two of them, and their new home had been purchased with that thought in mind. The difficulty was finding a woman who could love them both equally and not turn away in disgust when she learned of their situation.

Their new house had a master bedroom that all three would share, since neither of them could fathom being separated from their wife. There would be times when one of them would be at home while the other was traveling, but that was to be expected. Jake, for all his stubborn ways, was the most concerned about finding the right woman. He constantly questioned whether or not something like this could work and whether they would ever find the right person to complete them. The two of them had sat down to talk about how they would each handle a polyamorous relationship for the long term. Considering that both of them were stubborn, strong-willed men, it had been a fair question.

On the other hand, Adrian had seen a polyamorous marriage work and knew how good

things could be. His aunt Beverly, his mother's sister, was in a polyamorous relationship and had been married to his uncles, Gordon and Stuart, for more than thirty-five years. He had proof it could work, but Jake was still concerned and getting more pissed off the longer it took to find a woman they both felt could be The One.

As he walked out of the hotel entrance and into the restaurant attached to the building, he could admit that he was becoming a bit frustrated himself. Short-term relationships were all fine and good, but he was done trying to hide his desires.

Dinner and a stiff drink would be a nice way to end the night. Once Jake arrived, they could plan their strategy regarding their individual meetings with the senior staff tomorrow morning. He'd heard it was a top-notch team, and he was looking forward to keeping some of them on staff as long as they would be loyal to him and Jake going forward.

The bar area of the restaurant was perfect. There weren't too many people milling around, and he found a seat in the back at a secluded booth. The view was perfect, and he could relax while keeping an eye on the crowd. He was very observant and always needed to see what was in his immediate area. Jake had often

told him he should have been a cop or an investigator because of his suspicious nature.

His eyes didn't miss anything, and when she walked in the front door he spotted her right away. She was beautiful, and he couldn't take his eyes from her. Celina Jefferson, the senior staffer from MH Associates he and Jake had noticed earlier. She walked with such confidence. He could tell she knew exactly who she was and what she wanted—and wasn't going to apologize for either. Her long dark brown hair fell in waves to the middle of her back, and he ached to run his fingers through it. Perfectly rounded hips that were a focal point of her lush body were connected to thick, long legs. His mind immediately conjured pictures of those long legs wrapped around his waist as he plunged inside her accepting body. And when she turned in his direction—oh gawd—yes, she was beautiful.

Never one to back down, he gave her a full-on stare. He wanted her to know he was interested and although she didn't know it, he would give her the time of her life. Inappropriate? Yes. But he would be damned if he would back off. If given the chance, he would make sure she never forgot him or how she felt when he was inside her. Decision made, he grabbed



his drink and slid out of his seat, intent on making his way over to the woman who'd captured his undivided attention all day.

## Chapter Two

She had noticed him as soon as she'd walked in the room. How could she not? His presence commanded attention, and as soon as she caught his gaze, her body instantly reacted to him. Oh man, she was in trouble. After today, which had been the day from hell, she wasn't sure if this was the type of diversion she truly needed. Well, today hadn't actually been that bad, but it hadn't been a very good day all around and she really needed a drink. Now she had temptation staring her in the face, and she felt as if she'd been burned. Her skin seemed to warm under his gaze, and she tried her best not to focus on him as she walked toward the bar. She could feel his eyes following her as she walked over to the bar, and his hooded gaze told her more than she needed to know.

If she was risky enough to throw caution to the wind, she'd get a room and have her way with him. If only for one night, she wanted to go for something she wanted. However, in her heart, she knew that was something she wouldn't have the courage to do. Deep down she was a good girl, but if anyone was going to tempt her to do something outside of the norm, it would be the sexy ass man walking her way. Wait! Walking her way? Oh hell, what was she going to do

now? She tried not to stare as he came next to her and his mouth turned up in a wicked grin.

“Good evening, I’m Adrian Marshall.”

“Yes, I’m well aware of who you are. I’m Celina Jefferson.”

“Yes, I remember you from earlier today at the staff meeting. May I buy you a drink?”

“Thanks, but no. I’ve already ordered something.” At that moment, the bartender walked over and dropped off her Disaronno Sour. “Thanks.”

“Please, put this on my tab. I’m in the hotel at room 1111.” As the bartender nodded and walked away, she turned to look at him.

“So, how long are you and Mr. Huffington going to be here? I understand there are meetings planned all week with the senior staff.” There was nothing wrong with light conversation, so she decided to jump in with both feet. “I believe I have a meeting with both of you tomorrow morning.”

“We’ll be here as long as it takes to make sure this deal goes smoothly.”

He slid his sleek body onto the barstool next to her and brought his drink to his lips. Damn, she did not need this shit. He was off-limits, and she needed to get a grip on her libido. This was not good. Actually, it

was completely inappropriate, and she really needed to get away from him.

“I heard you tell the bartender that you’re staying at the hotel. I thought you were local.”

“We are, but since we have to start early tomorrow with the senior staff meetings, Jake and I arranged for a suite at the hotel. It’s easier than trying to fight traffic in the morning and make it into the city by eight o’clock.” He turned to her and gave her a look filled with enough lust to make her toes curl. Her body instantly reacted, and her panties became moist. He continued speaking to her, oblivious to her desire for him. “So, what’s your story? Why are you still in town this evening?”

She exhaled a sigh of relief. Maybe she had imagined that look of desire he’d thrown her way. “No story here. As you can imagine, today hasn’t been a very good day for me. I needed to relax a bit due to all the excitement of the announcement earlier, so I decided to stop by and grab a nightcap before I head home. I’m sure my new bosses won’t begrudge me a nightcap. Will they?” The look in her eyes said she really didn’t give a shit either way, and the sarcastic bite to her tone also didn’t bode very well for the man sitting across from her. She did her best to remain

cordial since he held her future in the palm of his hands, but still—friendly and nice weren't necessarily part of the menu tonight.

“What if I asked you to stay for a while and keep me company? Technically, I'm a visitor to the city and since we're now connected by work, you could be the welcoming committee.”

Celina took a sip of her drink and gave him a cautious smile. Yeah, she'd like to be his welcoming committee all right. Although he'd come over to buy her a drink, she was sure he was probably just being nice—his company had just purchased hers, after all. He was alone and so was she, so he probably figured why not strike up a conversation. Although he was sexy enough that if he wanted more, her resolve was weakening fast, and she didn't know if she would be able to tell him no if he asked.

His voice pulled her away from her internal musings and back to the situation at hand. “So, will you have dinner with me tonight?”

“Dinner may not be such a good idea. By the way, where is Mr. Huffington?” The longer she was in this man's presence, the more she wanted to jump on him and take a ride. Yep, she was in trouble.

“I'm sure he won't want you to call him that. You

should call him Jake. And don't worry, he's on the way here right now. He'll be very pleased to see that I ran into you."

"Why would I be worried? And why would he care either way if you ran into me or not?" She needed to leave, right now. "Listen, while I don't think dinner is a good idea, another drink would be fine. All things considered, we probably shouldn't become too familiar."

"Come now, Celina, where is your hospitality? We're simply two colleagues getting to know each other over a meal." He grabbed her arm and began to steer her toward the table he'd been sitting at earlier. "My table is still open, so we should grab it now before someone else comes by."

She slid off the barstool and her skirt slid up her legs just a bit. When his eyes dropped to her thighs, his gaze took on an intensity she hadn't seen in a very long time. Her nipples hardened and her mouth went dry. Damn, maybe drinks weren't a good idea either. She was heading into dangerous territory.

His hand moved to her lower back as they walked over to the empty booth. His scent was a mixture of male with a hint of cologne that seemed to have faded throughout the day. Although his hand was

not on her bare skin, she could still feel the heat from him teasing her skin warming her from the inside out. She sat down in the booth and he took the seat across from her, never breaking his gaze for more than a second or two. Oh yeah, she could definitely get into some trouble with him.

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Jake was tired. Damn, it had been a long day, and he wanted to eat and go to sleep. He hopped out of the car that had been arranged to drive him around town and said goodnight to the driver. Entering the hotel restaurant, he sought out Adrian, knowing without a doubt he would be bone tired as well. His business at the office had taken a bit longer than expected, and they had an early day tomorrow.

Although they had meetings with the senior staff of Forrester Consulting tomorrow, the one meeting he was looking forward to the most was the one with Ms. Celina Jefferson. When she had turned to look at him during the meeting earlier today, he'd felt as if he had been sucker-punched. He'd felt it throughout his entire body and had fought to keep his erection under control. How would it look for the new owner to begin sporting a hard-on during a staff meeting? Not good, that's for damn sure.

He knew Adrian had felt it as well. They had an uncanny ability to know exactly what the other was thinking, especially when it came to women. Jake felt that Celina was the one, but was unsure of what to do about it. It would do no good to have a sexual harassment lawsuit against MH Associates if she didn't feel the same way about him and Adrian. Not that the prospect would stop either of them from making their desires known to her, but they would have to tread very carefully if they wanted her to join them, to be with them—a triad.

He noticed Adrian sitting at a booth in the corner and made his way over to him. As he got closer, he realized Adrian wasn't alone. Oh, well, some fun for the night would be good, but after this, no more. They needed to focus on seducing and capturing Celina. He was convinced more than ever that she was the one, and he was bound and determined to claim her as theirs.

As he stopped in front of the couple, imagine his surprise when he realized the person he'd just been thinking about was sitting here, having a drink at the table with his best friend. Little did she know that her fate had now been sealed by this one act alone. Oh yeah. Checkmate, baby, you're ours now.



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“So, tell me, Celina, what do you do for fun?” This question came from Jake. When he had arrived, she’d thought it would be her chance to say goodnight and leave, but they had kept her here—not against her will—but they had plied her with food and drink. And for her, a surefire way to keep her interested was to give her food and drink.

“Why do you ask?” She was cautious, but she couldn’t deny that there was something enticing about these two men.

“Just trying to get to know you better,” Jake replied.

“There’s no need for that. I just work for you now, right?” Celina couldn’t help but throw that last challenge out at them.

She saw them give each other a side glance and wondered what that was all about.

Adrian, who had been sitting quietly while Jake led the conversation, piped in at this point. “Well, you don’t work for us yet. That will come later. For now, we’re just three people having dinner at a nice restaurant, trying to spend an enjoyable evening together.”

Jake leaned forward, his gaze capturing hers.

“Celina, this may seem forward, but you are a very beautiful woman. I don’t see a ring on your finger, but that doesn’t mean you’re not taken. So, are you?”

It took her a moment to realize what Jake had said. “Why do you care if I’m taken or not?” His question caused butterflies to begin fluttering in her belly. She had to say something, anything, to get his focus off of her. “So, tell me about the two of you. You want to get to know each other better, tell me something about the two of you that I would find interesting.”

Adrian gave her a lopsided grin as he took his time answering her question. “We like to share.”

That was interesting. “Share? Like what, your toys, cars? Things like that?”

“Sure, something like that,” Adrian replied in a smooth as honey voice. Damn, his voice alone was making her hot as hell. How could this be happening to her?

Their scrutiny and innuendo was starting to get to her, and she tried not to let it show. She knew they were trying to tell her something with all the side glances and sneaky questions. Although her mind was conjuring up all sorts of things related to that one statement—*we like to share*—she knew it couldn’t be

what she was thinking. But, oh, the possibilities.

Damn, what a fantasy. If only it were true. She knew things like that only happened in the books she read, but if she could have the experience of sharing pure unadulterated lust with these two men at her beck and call, she would grab the opportunity with both hands and never let it go. Imagining both of these virile, sexy ass men pleasing her at the same time, touching her body, kissing her, making love to her, was making her body even wetter. She had to squeeze her thighs together as she tried to prevent the smell of her arousal from escaping.

“So, tell me, what are you two sharing at the moment?” Well, damn, that didn’t come out the way she wanted at all. By the look in their eyes, she knew both of them had caught on as well.

“Many things pique our interest, but we’re not sharing anything important at the moment. We’re still working on that.” Jake took a sip of his drink, peering at her over the rim. “I’m sure you know that you pique my interest at the moment.”

“At the moment? Hmm, I don’t think I like being thought of as a temporary diversion.” Shit, she’d done it again!

She glanced at Adrian just as he sat back and

lifted his arm over the back of the booth, giving her a glimpse of the width and tone of his chest. No man deserved to look that good. As she looked over at Jake, with his arresting smile, she could admit that he was just as yummy with his dark hair and emerald green eyes staring at her so intently. Life just wasn't fair, and she had no idea what she'd done to deserve two sexy as sin men sitting here with her, sizing her up as if she were a porterhouse steak sitting on a plate in front of a starving man.

Could she really take advantage of what they seemed to be offering? She wasn't really going to let this opportunity pass by, was she? This was dangerous territory she was entering, and once she walked through that door, her life would change forever. Before she stepped over that threshold, she'd better make damn sure she was willing to accept the consequences of her actions. Her thoughts regarding these two were making her question everything she had known up to this point. All her life she had been told that a successful relationship consisted of two people, and three always made a crowd. But something felt so right about being here with these two, even if the method by which they had come together was unorthodox.

Speaking of that, what would happen tomorrow when they had to go back to work and interact with each other? Could they hide what happened between the three of them? If it actually happened? Damn, so many questions. One night with these two would change everything for her, and then looking for another job would be the last thing on her list to worry about.

“What if we wanted more than just drinks and dinner with you?”

Shock didn’t even begin to describe what she felt at Adrian’s words. Was he serious? If she were honest, based on the thoughts floating around in her head, she knew that if asked, she would go back to their hotel suite in a fucking heartbeat. Her attraction to Jake and Adrian could no longer be denied, and it would only take one word from either of them—both of them—and they could have her. That knowledge scared her more than anything else, because she had never wanted to give herself to a man as badly as she wanted the two men sitting across the table.

“No, I don’t think so.” She knew she wasn’t a one-night stand kind of woman, no matter how much she truly wanted to. “Actually, I think I’ve had enough for one night. It’s time for me to leave.”

Jake grabbed her hand lightly as she turned to grab her purse. “Wait, Celina. How about we just finish our drinks? We won’t ask for anything more. We can spend a few more minutes simply enjoying a night out after a hard day of work.”

Although she still wasn’t sure if this was a good idea, she gave in. It was only one drink, after all, and how often did she have the opportunity to sit with two attractive men and have all of their attention focused solely on her? As she looked around, she noticed the bar had become even more crowded as people were getting off of work and heading out for drinks. Somewhere in the background, she heard a guitar playing and realized they had live entertainment for the evening. A nice Spanish guitar rhythm soothed her fragile nerves and calmed her as she sat across from the only two men who tempted her and made her senses come alive.

She focused her attention on Adrian as he began speaking. “Celina, you are a very attractive woman. I won’t lie and tell you that we don’t want you to come back to our suite tonight, because we do. Even after tonight, we’ll want to see you again, and that does not include only seeing you at the office. We don’t want this to be the last time we enjoy a night with you.”

“Adrian, do you realize what you’re saying? Plus, are you telling me you can speak for Jake on this?” His sensuous smile made her pussy clench, and as he tilted his head in acknowledgment of what she said, that one movement told her all she wanted to know.

“Okay, I think this has all become too much for me. You’re sitting across from me and as calmly as you please, you’re telling me that you and Jake both want to be with me tonight. You hardly know me.”

Adrian continued to speak while Jake held on to her hand, his thumb lightly stroking her wrist. “Sure, we’ve only met today, but why wouldn’t we both want you? You’re a beautiful woman who exudes confidence. We’ve sat here for the past two hours getting to know the woman you are, and we like what we see and hear. I know if you gave us a chance we could be great together.”

“Thank you for the compliment. Although, I’m a little surprised you’re spending your time with me tonight when you could have your pick of any woman in here. I don’t really look like your type. Either of you.”

She saw the frown come over Jake’s face at her statement, and his lips thinned out. “And what exactly do you think our type is? You’re beautiful to us, and

we love being around a beautiful woman. Can you fault us for that?”

“Well, no, I can’t. Again, I just wonder why me?”

Jake continued, Adrian sitting back for the moment while his friend took the lead. “Let me ask you a question. Are you having a nice time with us?”

“Yes, I am.”

“Then that’s all we need to worry about. We’re enjoying our time with you tonight, and if you were willing, we could have an even better time together.”

“What exactly are you saying?”

“I think you know. We’re all adults, and Adrian and I know what we want. I’m not going to lie and say we don’t want to take you upstairs to our suite and spend the night making you scream. But the choice is yours. You have to want us as much as we want you.”

Celina’s pussy instantly started to pulse due to the visual picture conjured by his words. Why shouldn’t she jump right in and have a little fun? Well, besides that whole “not being a fan of one-night stands” thing, which at the moment kept rearing its ugly head every other minute. If only she could shut that little voice up for one night.

“Jake, no matter how tempting that might be, I’m not a woman who sleeps with men after only



knowing them for two hours. Actually, it's quite late and I should head home. After all, I do have that early morning meeting I need to prepare for."

"Ah yes, your life of work." Jake let her hand go after a look over at Adrian. "We'd like to take you to dinner tomorrow evening, get to know you a little better. That will give you more time to get to know us, and we can try to convince you we're worth taking a chance on." Adrian dropped some bills on the table to cover the cost of their drinks, and they all got up and exited the bar. Part of her was disappointed that they had backed off so quickly. What happened to seduction and not giving up? Maybe they felt it simply wasn't worth it, and all their talk about her beauty and wanting her was just that...talk.

## Chapter Three

Jake walked on one side and Adrian on the other as they left the restaurant and bar. Once they exited onto the sidewalk, Adrian turned to her and looked deeply into her eyes, trying to convey something more than what he was expressing with words.

“We want more time with you tonight.”

“Why?”

“There’s something about you that pulls us in. We can feel it, and we want more. I don’t know what it is, but I know that neither Jake nor I want tonight to be our last time in your presence.” He closed the gap between their bodies, and she could feel his heat and smell his cologne. It was a heady fragrance that caused her body to have an instant reaction. Celina knew her resolve was weakening. She had never wanted anyone more than she wanted Adrian right now.

Looking over his shoulder, she glanced at Jake and modified her statement—she had never wanted anyone more than she wanted Jake and Adrian right now. Taking a chance, she decided to have a little fun. If nothing came from this adventure, then she would move on with her life with her bomb-ass memories to carry her through.

As they stepped outside into the night air and

began making their way to where her car was parked, she looked at them both, wondering what it would be like to experience all the joy of being loved by both of these men, even if for one night only. Planting her feet on the sidewalk, she placed a hand on each of them, halting their progression as well.

“Adrian, Jake. I think I would enjoy spending this evening with you. I have to leave early tomorrow morning to make it into the office. But tonight, I’d like to spend in your arms.”

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Adrian led the way as they changed course and brought Celina to their suite. His body was calling out to hers, and it took everything within him to resist pulling her up against his body and taking her up against the wall. His cock was pulsing with need as they exited the elevator, and although he tried not to let her see his desire, there was no denying the intense feelings coursing through his body. Her curvaceous ass begged him to rub it with his large hands. Her perfectly sized breasts made his mouth water with the need to suckle her. Feeling her legs wrapped around him as he brought her pleasure was the only thought in his mind at the moment.

Jake was bursting at the seams. He needed her

now, dammit, and Adrian was walking too slowly. He was about to take matters into his own hands when they finally arrived at the door to the suite and Adrian opened the door, allowing them entry. As he brought up the rear, Jake put the “do not disturb” sign on the door and engaged the lock, ensuring they would not be disturbed tonight.

He watched Celina walk into the living area and nervously move from one foot to the other. For a woman with as much confidence as she had, it was interesting to see her this way. He would bet every dollar in his bank account that she had never engaged in a ménage relationship before. However, after tonight, he would be damn sure that no one else would get the chance to bring her the joy he and Adrian would. Tonight, they would claim their third. The moment was here, and he could no longer resist. He had to touch her, caress her, kiss her lips.

“Celina. Come over here,” Jake whispered hoarsely.

She turned to him and, without a moment’s hesitation, dropped her purse on the couch and walked into his arms. Her stomach fluttered with anticipation as his tongue pushed into her mouth. Their lips came together roughly, the passion

increasing at an exponential rate as they poured all their pent-up desires into that kiss. Jake reached for her, driving his fingers through her thick hair as he ravaged her mouth. She moaned, arching into his kiss as her desire for the man in her arms increased.

She thought it couldn't get any better until she felt Adrian's hands on her. His hands slid along her body and stroked her waist, back, and hips. Slowly, his hands moved to the front of her blouse as he began to unbutton it and release her breasts from her bra. Her hands briefly left Jake as she allowed Adrian to completely remove her garments. Within seconds, he had her completely bare and his hands went back to her breasts, holding the full globes in his hands while he worked his fingers over her nipples.

Celina grasped Jake's shoulders while they both caressed her and made her body come alive. Excitement filled her every pore, causing her pussy to weep with need for the men holding her within their arms. One large hand slid over her belly and moved to the side closure of her skirt. As one man took her clothes from her body in slow movements, the other continued to caress her.

After a few minutes of awareness, she no longer knew who's hand was touching her where. Where one

began and the other one ended, she had no idea. Nor did she care. The only thing that mattered was the feel of their bodies sliding up against hers. Oh yes, four hands were definitely better than two, and she could definitely get used to this.

Cool air floated across her body, and she realized that her skirt had fallen to her feet and she stood in front of Jake and Adrian in only her thong underwear and heels. While they were still fully dressed, it didn't matter to her. She knew they were as aroused as she, and the moment of truth had come and gone. Tonight, she would be with both of them, and there would be no looking back. Jake broke the kiss and dipped his head to lave her breasts, his teeth clasp around her nipples and his moist tongue teasing and tempting her to simply let go and feel.

Adrian took that opportunity to capture her mouth in a kiss, showing her his passion in that one act alone. Oh gawd, she didn't know how much more she would be able to take. The sensation, the desire, was almost overwhelming. There was only so much pleasure a person could take before they simply exploded.

She felt a hand delve under the band of her underwear and reach toward her dripping pussy. Her

nether lips were parted as two fingers began making figure-eights on her clit, sliding and twirling through her slippery folds. Combined with Jake's wet mouth on her nipples, she knew her orgasm would be upon her at any moment.

"Yes," she whispered, as the pleasure continued to build in her body. Goose bumps rose along her skin as she allowed herself to be pleased.

"Baby, you fit perfectly in my arms," Adrian whispered hotly in her ear. "All I can think about is getting inside of you...I want you to scream out your passion for us. I want you to let go for us and give us all you've got."

"Tonight is all about you, baby." Jake lifted his head from her breast and growled the words in her other ear. "Together. We'll take you together, until all you can see, feel, and taste is us. You want both of us, don't you?"

"Yes, I want you both. I need you both," she replied, her voice a whisper that seemed torn from her body and carried on the wind. She couldn't believe she had just admitted her desire, her need for two men to make love to her at the same time.

Suddenly, she felt her body lifted in strong arms and cradled next to a strong, chiseled chest. She had

already learned their different scents and knew it was Adrian carrying her to one of the rooms in the suite. Adrian laid her in the middle of the king-sized hotel bed and took up residence on one side as Jake came up along the other. Jake kissed one breast and slowly pulled her nipple into his hot mouth as Adrian kissed her mouth, his tongue dueling with hers for supremacy.

She realized that although she could tell the difference between the two, they were both equally skilled at making her body sing. Their bodies were similar as well, with both of them having lean builds, with just enough muscle tone let her know they were all man. Jake, for all his boyish charm and good humor, was more upfront and aggressive in his lovemaking. Adrian, although the quieter one of the two, was more willing to let things fall where they may. They complemented each other in so many ways, and she finally knew what she had been missing all these years. She now knew why the men prior to this had never been enough. She had been waiting for these two men to enter her life.

As she reached for them, her hands met hot, bare skin. Sometime in between all of kissing and ecstasy she had been experiencing, they had removed their



clothing. She glanced from one to the other and her mouth watered in anticipation. Beautiful. That was the only word that came to mind as she looked at their sculpted stomachs and defined chests. As her glance moved downward, her breath hitched in her throat as she gazed upon their pulsating cocks, which were both at half staff and quickly rising. Damn! She doubted whether she could take both of them at once, but she was determined to give it the old college try.

She turned toward Adrian and pressed her chest into his, while lifting her ass to Jake. Her offering could not be mistaken. No more delays. They needed to claim her now. Foreplay be damned.

“Now! I need you both now.”

Pulling Adrian’s mouth to hers, she felt Jake’s rigid cock nestled in the crevice of her ass. Although she expected one or both of them to fuck her, she was secretly pleased when neither occurred. Adrian broke away from their kiss and moved down her body toward her weeping sex, removing her underwear in the process. Once her body was completely bare, he lifted one of her legs over his shoulder, and his hot breath wafted over her hot sex. A low and throaty moan escaped as she awaited the first touch of his mouth.

The first swipe was heaven and hell all in one. She wanted to get closer, but he held her firmly as he devoured her, drinking her juices as her body began to gush from his ministrations. The grunting noises he made let her know he was pleased with her taste and the experience of loving her body.

Jake, on the other hand, tilted her head towards him and captured her mouth while he used a free hand to knead one of her breasts. Jake broke the kiss briefly to whisper in her ear, "You're ours, Celina. I don't think we'll ever get enough. We need you."

With a flick of his tongue, Adrian tipped the scales, and Celina fell off the precipice. Her orgasm rushed through her body, her back arcing as she tried to press her pussy closer to his mouth, begging for the feeling to continue. Her hips canted, as if pleading with him to keep on giving her pleasure.

"Fuck, Celina, I need to be inside of you," Jake groaned. Adrian rose from between her legs and kissed his way up her body, stopping briefly to linger on her stomach and to kiss each of her breasts. With a quick motion, her body was flipped over so that she was facing Jake and Adrian was now cradling her back. Her top leg was lifted, and Jake gave her one more chance to walk away.

“I meant what I said. You were meant for us, Celina. We won’t be able to let you go.” He gave her a few seconds to respond or protest his words. When she didn’t protest—actually, she pressed closer to him—he began to enter her slick channel, his thick cock stretching the walls of her pussy and causing her to moan in ecstasy. Inch by inch, he claimed her body until he was balls deep inside her, pressed within her to the hilt.

It felt so good. She could almost weep from the sensation. He glided in and out a few times before stopping, one eyebrow raised rakishly.

“Oh, baby, it’s not over yet,” he said with a chuckle in his voice. She tilted her head to the side as Adrian adjusted his body behind her, and she felt him press his sex deeper between her buttocks. He spread her cheeks wide as he began the slow process of entering her from behind. Once he was fully inside, she squeezed her walls to test how it felt, and she almost came right then and there. She felt a fullness unlike anything she had experienced before.

Oh Lord, then they both started to move in a rhythm that seemed well rehearsed. One entered her while the other withdrew. One kissed her neck while the other sucked her bottom lip. A hand roamed over

her breast while the other kneaded her ass. The both of them together seemed insatiable. She was floating on a cloud of sensation and lust, and she never wanted it to stop.

She felt Adrian's muscles bunch as he turned onto his back. He braced her body on top of his and Jake moved in time with him, lifting over them. Neither of them disconnected from her body or missed a beat as they continued to drive their cocks into her wet passages. Her loud pleas for them to never stop...for more...for them never to leave...could probably be heard throughout the hotel, but she didn't care. Nothing else mattered at this moment but the three of them together. Damn, she never wanted to give this up, or them.

Their movements became more erratic and the pace grew faster as they continued whispering to her. They told her with their lips how beautiful she was. The sweat from their bodies relayed their desire for her love. Their kisses on her body showed her just how much they never wanted to let her go. She felt a scream release from her as her body exploded from the inside out. In an instant, she knew—tonight would never be enough. Jake stiffened above her, while Adrian gripped her hips from below and his body

tightened as if on a coil. With her name on their lips, both of them released inside her at the same time.

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“You’re so beautiful to us, Celina,” Jake whispered in her ear as they lay in bed after a night of marathon lovemaking. His arms tightened around her waist as he pulled her back to his front.

“I know we met under unusual circumstances, but we know you are what we need. If you’ll give us a chance, we can make this work,” Adrian added as he pressed a light kiss to her lips.

Celina listened to their words. Then she listened to her heart. There was no doubt their lives would be questioned if they were together. Plus, the fact that the acquisition was ongoing and she had only met them yesterday was sure to raise some eyebrows. However, what she knew, beyond a reasonable doubt, was that this felt right. She felt at home cushioned between the two men who had opened themselves and their lives to her and welcomed her with open arms. If she was willing to trust in them, she knew life would never be dull.

Adrian lifted her chin and forced her to look into his eyes. “Baby, you’re too quiet. Talk to us. Stay and get to know us. Let us prove to you how amazing we

could be together.”

Celina grabbed at Adrian with one hand, while reaching the other back for Jake. Pulling them closer, she made a choice. Her running was over. The change she sought was here, with these two men in her arms.

“Jake, Adrian. I never thought I would have felt complete with two men in my life. I’m yours and I’m not going anywhere, at least not without the two of you by my side.”

She heard them both exhale as if they had been waiting for her answer. Jake kissed her neck as one of his hands roamed over her hip. Adrian captured her mouth with his as he lifted her leg and wrapped it around his waist. She gave herself up to the sensation of loving her two men fully and without reservation.

**\*\*RM\*\***

# Reana Malori

Reana Malori is a pseudonym for a chick with dreams of world domination. However, if that's not possible, I'm willing to settle for being one of the best interracial romance erotica writers on the market (along with some of my favorite authors who already know who they are). While I'm new to the art of writing, I've been reading romance novels since the age of fourteen and know what appeals to me as reader. I want to provide that same experience for people who read my work.

I'm a former Marine and served for eight years (So, yes, that means I'm a deadly force to be reckoned with!), having been stationed at Parris Island, SC; Camp Delmar, CA; Cherry Point, NC; and Arlington, VA. Strong military men will always be a favorite topic of mine, so expect future stories revolving around them. I'm a fan of Highlanders, Alpha males, and strong women who love with everything they have.

I currently live in Northern Virginia and my day job is quite serious, so I won't bore you with the details. I hope to write books that will help folks escape for bit and relax. I'm sure there will be plenty more stories, and I think you'll like what you get from me. Please send me an email at [reanamalori@yahoo.com](mailto:reanamalori@yahoo.com). I'd love to hear from you!

Web site: [www.reanamalori.webs.com](http://www.reanamalori.webs.com)

Blog: [www.reanamalori.blogspot.com](http://www.reanamalori.blogspot.com)

Yahoo Group: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/reana\\_malori](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/reana_malori)