



The Professional \ The Player

Rhonda Nelson

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Ranger Security Investigational Files Case #125: A Retirement-Home Robber?

Notes: Jeb "The Professional" Anderson is sent undercover to investigate thefts at a seniors residence. But what happens when a sexy suspect steals his heart?

Former military man Jeb Anderson accepted a job at Ranger Security to regain some control over his life. But when he goes undercover to investigate a series of thefts at a retirement home, his number one suspect completely unravels his control...and sends his libido sky-high!

As far as massage therapist Sophie O'Brien is concerned, Jeb is infuriating. Still, she'd like nothing more than to find out just what's underneath Jeb's reserved exterior—and his clothes! Because if he's half as talented as his nickname implies, letting him uncover all her secrets will be very, *very* satisfying....

The Professional \ The Player Details

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Becky says

Actually two books--The Professional is first, even though The Player actually the first book in the series (The Professional is book #13, I think?) and it was a bit disconcerting at first to step so far back in the series after jumping in to the latest one. Although I do always enjoy a two-fer....:)

Both stories were decent on their own. I have to say I liked The Professional more, and on its own may have rated it a bit higher. Overall it had a bit more substance to it than the second book, which perhaps can be attributed to it being a later book, or maybe it's just that I read it first. I enjoyed the Jeb and Sophie, loved the senior citizens at the retirement village, and thought the mystery was interesting. There were quite a few humorous scenes in the book, especially between the hero and his "grandfather" Foy and the heroine and her substitute grandmother Cora. Those two senior citizens were quite the characters! Jeb and Sophie's scenes, too, were entertaining. The biggest complaint I have with The Professional is that the heroine's personal problem was solved waaaaay to easily by the hero. Seriously, he just showed up with his big, bad ex-military buddies, put the fear of God into the baddies, and they were gone forever. Very anticlimactic.

I do have to say that though I really want to read the next book in the series (it's from the POV of "The Professional"'s twin, and we hear a lot about him in his brother's book, so my interest is hooked) I'm not sure I'm going to be standing in line to read all the books in between The Player and The Professional. There were so many similarities in just these two examples that makes me wonder how much originality I'll find in the other eleven. Both books have a studly ex-military guy who magically falls for a woman on first sight (he feels it physically both times, which was a bit disconcerting--and no, it's not just in the way you're thinking, it's a gut clenching kind of thing) even though he definitely is not interested in anything even remotely resembling a relationship at the time. Both men decide within a matter of days that this woman is it, he must have her for all eternity. Both men are still reeling from a military tragedy that they ended up leaving the service because of. In both books, the female lead's reaction to the hero is so similar that the exact same phrase was used to describe it--she feared she'd have an "immaculate orgasm" before he even touched her. Now this might have been okay once, but to read it twice in the same digital file was a bit off-putting. I might not have even noticed if I hadn't read them one after another....

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Slick's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4 Stars

Since the first book in this series back in 2006, I have been a huge fan of Rhonda Nelson's Men Out of Uniform series. Ranger Security was formed by three ex-Rangers and every man who comes to work for them is ex-military and good at what they do. They also happen to meet a woman and fall in love while on the job. These books are somewhat formulaic, but it doesn't change the fact that they are extremely enjoyable, humorous, and always sexy reads. From the start I have enjoyed this series and I look forward to each new release.

Jeb Anderson never expected his first assignment with Ranger Security to be in an assisted living center. He

certainly never expected his “grandpa” cover to try and sell him Viagra from the get-go and he never expected to find himself attracted to the prime suspect (Sophie) in the case he’s working. In addition he keeps getting weird “vibes” from his twin, Judd. He’s dealing with a loss and it freaks him the hell out that Sophie seems to be able to “read” him.

Sophie O’Brien is the beloved granddaughter of a deceased resident of Twilight Acres. She’s the resident massage therapist and runs a thriving soap and lotion business on the side. She’s devoted to the people there as they are the only family she feels she has left. When Jeb arrives she knows he’s not there to truly visit with his “grandpa”. She sets out to uncover why he’s there and soon finds herself working alongside him to solve his case.

It was so easy to fall in love with these two characters. Jeb seems so out of sorts having just gotten out of the military, missing his twin, and starting a new job. Dealing with the crazy residents of Twilight Acres just adds to his uprooted life. However the residents seem bound and determined to see him and Sophie together. Sophie is a survivor; her parents and brother have made her life miserable. With her grandmother gone their antics have increased. On top of that someone is stealing from the residents and she aims to find out who it is. These two dance around each other and it’s fun to watch, the chemistry between them sizzles so when they do finally get together it is one sexy, steam ride. I like that Jeb doesn’t push Sophie to share her past, he knows there’s something wrong but when he sees the pain it causes her he just enlists the help of his co-workers to gain the information he so badly wants. Jeb on the other hand shares pretty freely with Sophia but maybe because she’s pretty good at guessing his thoughts and sensing when something is troubling him.

All I can say is I hope I get to spend my golden years in a place like Twilight Acres, man those people know how to party and I love their no holds barred attitude. It was fun to watch them constantly work to throw Jeb and Sophia together and even funnier that Jeb didn’t realize they were doing it. Such a great group of characters who I so want to be when I get to that age!

The Professional is a great addition to Rhonda Nelson’s Men Out of Uniform series. The characters are zany and fun, the story engaging, and the sex is steamy as hell. While there are numerous books in the series, it can be read as a stand-alone book. An added bonus to buying this book, you get the first book in the series, The Player, as well. You can’t beat a two for one deal!

Review copy provided for an honest review.

Rebecca says

This is the first book I’ve read by Ms. Nelson, but it definitely won’t be the last. I usually steer clear of the Blaze line, but the stories in both The Professional and The Player were well developed with interesting characters. I preferred The Professional to The Player, mainly because I loved that the heroine in The Professional was so very capable. In The Professional, Jeb is undercover at a retirement village to look into the theft of several residents’ jewelry. At first Sophie is a suspect, but she’s soon cleared and is conducting an investigation of her own. By working with Jeb, the two manage to uncover the true villain (which came a bit out of the blue). The only quibble I have with the book is Sophie’s family. They’re described as sociopaths, truly horrible. I’m not sure that characterization of her family was at ALL necessary to the story. It didn’t really add anything to it - mostly it was a distraction. Sophie could certainly be estranged from her family without their being monsters.

The Player is the first book in the series about Ranger Security, and it both sets up the series and describes a fun romance. Jamie is part of an elite Ranger squad (aren't they all elite in this genre, lol?) that lost a close friend. He and two other friends just got out of the army and started their new security business when a former officer calls in a favor and asks Jamie to help his granddaughter. Naturally the granddaughter is very beautiful and hijinks ensue. This was a fun read, although I didn't have quite as much invested in Jamie and Audrey's romance as I did in the earlier book.

Definitely recommend both books and I'll be reading more of Ms. Nelson's books in the future.

Evelyn says

Haven't read a Harlequin Blaze in quite awhile & this one was pretty good. A little light on the mystery but good interesting characters and story. Definitely sexy.

Crazy for Books (Stephanie) says

NetGalley free read

Eh! It was a lite story with a lite plot. I guess it would work for some. Just not enough meat on the story. Not interesting at all to me. I didn't hate it, but I didn't like it either. Not even enough there to say what wasn't great about it other then ai I didn't like the guy basically saying he couldn't understand why he was attracted to her because she was so average. Yikes!

Wendy says

"The Professional" is part of the "Men Out Of Uniform" series by Rhonda Nelson.

After recently leaving active duty due to an ill-fated mission, Jeb the former special ops soldier in the U.S. military now works for Ranger Security. His first assignment is at a retirement community, Twilight Acres, where precious valuables are being stolen from the elderly that reside there.

His number one suspect is Sophie, the resident massage therapist. She is devoted to the residents there and feels they are the loving family she has never had.

The seniors are bound and determined to see Jeb and Sophie together and it's fun to watch the chemistry they have, turn to passion, as they try to solve this mystery.

I plan to carry on with this series and was relieved to discover that the books do not have to be read in order.

Nicole Smith says

A little different this one, a crime going on at a nursing home. The residents at the nursing home are a hoot. Jeb and Sophia have a lot of sparks flying when they're around each other. They band together to solve the robberies. This is a two for one book. The second book which I haven't read yet is the very first book in the Men Out of Uniform series. This is where it all began. I would have been hooked right from the beginning.

Loved Jamie.

Shirley Frances says

Just so you know this is two stories in one book and both were good.

First it starts of with Jeb and Sophie and the case of the stolen jewelry in The Professional. Now this one was very entertaining. Jeb is a retired Ranger who has some demons to deal with and Sophie is a nice girl with a painful past that enjoys taking care of her retired clientèle.

When these two meet it's instant lust - very palpable and very HOT. Try as she might Sophie can't help to be drawn to Jeb and Jeb just goes with it, since he has never had that reaction to anyone. I'm not a fan of the insta-love scenario, but this is a short story and it fit and let me tell you that once you experience these two together, it won't make a bit of difference. It also helped that it was a very funny read. These senior citizens were hilarious and very enjoyable. All in all, a hot, funny read with enough sizzling romance to makes you want more.

Then we meet Jamie and Audrey in The Player. To say that Jamie was a player is an understatement. He had a well known third-date rule and his reputation for seducing the ladies preceded him so much that his ex-Colonel called in a favor for precisely this reason. His mission: to seduce his granddaughter Audrey and separate her from her current boyfriend.

Audrey runs a retreat for stressed professionals and it is here that the Colonel sends Jaime. Which fits, because Jaime needs to heal some wounds from his past. Audrey has strict orders from her grandfather to treat Jaime personally and that is how these two come to be. Their interactions were very funny and their chemistry was very hot. I especially enjoyed the watercolors scene. It was too much!!!

I later found out that this book was the first in the Men Out Uniform series, but I enjoyed it so much that it didn't make a difference. All in all, this was a sizzling, good read. I am curious to read the other books in the series.

I received this book through NetGalley and I would like to thank Harlequin for the opportunity to read and review this title.

Rhonda says

the Professional by Rhonda Nelson

3 stars

The Professional had a range of emotions for me. I laughed,envied the seniors citizens nice community. felt pity Sophie O'Brien as a child. Mad at her parents. but laughter more than anything. Thier are a lot of love scenes in this book too.

Someone is stealing jewelry right out of the safe in the community. The only suspect so far is Sophie. Jeb Anderson just got out of the rangers after he lost 3 men in ambush. He got a job with Ranger Security. His first job is to go undercover in the assisted living community as the grandchild of Foy.

Jeb is from a rich family but both his twin and himself joined the rangers. His brother is still in the service. They are very close and can feel each others strong emotions good or bad. Half a world away from each other. Jeb commander tried to get him to stay in the service because he knew he would probably lose both of them soon.

Ranger Security hopes to get them both to work with them when it does happen.

Foy is selling part of his viagra pills to others. He is also a ladies man. He also has no children so people are wondering about the grandson.

Sophie is massage therapist and sells her own soaps and hand lotion. She even has her own goats she milks for them. Her grandmother lived thier for a few years. Sophie is well loved around thier. The seniors are trying to matchmake between Jeb & Sophie.

Even throw a ball with a days notice and provide a dress, hair & makeup for Sophie.

Jeb is pretty sure that Sophie is not the thief till he catches her breaking into the manager's office.

The Player

is the first book in the MEN OUT OF UNIFORM series.

Jamie Flanagan and his two other friends want out of the army with thier security clearance cleared and agree to do the Colonel Carl Garrett a favor when he calls them.

Major Brian Payne, major Jamie Flanagan and Guy McCann were all on a secret mission they lost thier friend Major Daniel Levinson and feel guilty that he did not make it back alive.

They went into business together Ranger Security.

The Colonel called Jamie favor in. He was supposed to go to a stressrelease camp in Maine and protect the Colonel granddaughter.

Jamie is known as a player he goes out three times and then breaks up. He is goodlooking. When Jamie gets to the camp he finds that his real mission is to flirt with the granddaughter so she wont accept her boyfriend proposal. But Jamie is not to get to any bases with the granddaughter at all.

Audrey is beautiful. She worked a high stress job till she had a heartattack so she started her own stress relief camp for others that were like her.

Thier is a lot of sex talk and love scenes in this book and not a lot of plot.

I was given this ebook to read in exchange of honest review from Netgalley.

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Saly says

I like this series quite a bit, men just out from the military working for Ranger security. The hero is on his first assignment and glad to be out since he lost his team. From the start we are told of his weird connection with his twin, so you know there will be another story. His task is to find out who is stealing in a retirement home. At first his suspect is the heroine, who is loved by all there and gives massages plus making her own products (soaps etc). I loved the craziness of the retirement home plus the hero's absolute bewilderment around the heroine. The heroine truly had a honest to god scary and psychotic family and I felt sorry for her on that aspect but beyond that she was spunky. A short, breezy read.

Kimberly says

Review featured on www.books-n-kisses.com

THE PROFESSIONAL

I am not sure how I feel about this story. I really enjoyed the storyline itself and I enjoyed the characters too. They really are so cute together. Then why am I not sure about it? Because it makes Jeb, who supposedly is an Army Ranger, look like an idiot. Becca is the one who thinks up everything and Jeb is just the muscle. And while I liked him as the muscle I felt like he was written wrong. I also would have enjoyed more of the twin connection. That being said I liked the story. And I think anyone who enjoys romance will enjoy it too. Pick it up and you will not be disappointed.

THE PLAYER

This is actually a reprint of the first in the series of "Men Out of Uniform" and it was good but again not great. There is just something a little off about the way this author writes these books. It isn't that it is bad writing just odd. I am glad I read the other book first because I am not sure I would have continued with the series having read this book first. But seeing as I did read the other one first it was kind of nice to backtrack and see how it all began.

Disclaimer:

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

Britta says

Someone is stealing valuables at a very pricey and very exclusive old age community. This place is the place to retire to and someone is running around exploiting the elderly and taking valuable jewelry out of locked safes...

Read the rest of this review at my book blog.

Amanda says

When one picks up a Harlequin Blaze, one knows that one isn't going to get a deep story, or very much character development. This book surprised me. I loved the setting of the retirement community, and doing undercover work to figure out thefts in the area. I liked how this is a loose continuation of the series, yet it was fresh and interesting to me. This book was pure entertainment and I enjoyed it. It is much better than the stuff that is on TV, and I would recommend this for someone looking for a sit-com with a lot of romance and a little mystery thrown in.

Angela says

The Professional

This story is a real charmer. And I mean that in the best possible way. Who knew senior citizens had so much life in them? Ms. Nelson certainly redefined my view of a retirement community. The Professional begins with a new honk from Ranger Security (Out of Uniform series). And he's a twin (already awaiting the brother's story)! Jeb is sent to find out who's ripping off the old folk's valuables as his first with Ranger Security. Jeb left his military service after a tragedy causes him to clash with a superior officer. Sophie, who is like the resident's adopted granddaughter was Jeb's number one suspect until he got a good look at her and

the jolts, not sparks, began to fly.

Each of these two have baggage to deal with but Sophie's past broke my heart and made me her champion for life, right along with Jeb. The Professional has lots of humor, romance, thievery, fun, danger and a deep truth that we don't have to be a victim always. Truly I don't know how Sophie stayed so sane and balanced in her life. Let me say here that her real grandmother who raised Sophie, had to have been one hell of a woman. In our story, the grandmother has recently passed on but is a central part of the story. If you enjoy a good book that is fun and sexy, you'll enjoy spending time with Jeb and Sophie and all the residents of Twilight Acres. 5 Stars!

The Player

This was the first of the Men Out of Uniform books. It featured Jamie and Audrey. Jamie was an ex Ranger who along with his buddies left the service after one of their own was killed in action. Their commanding officer helped them get early releases, but there was a price. Each of them would owe a favor to the officer. No matter what, when he called they'd come running, prepared to pay their debt.

This is a delicious read from start to finish. Jamie's favor is to keep watch over his CO's granddaughter, who has been hanging with the wrong man. Jamie is taken right away but because Audrey is his CO's granddaughter, it's hands off! NOT! This is a fun, fast read that's sexy and a delightful intro to these gorgeous, alpha hunks! 5 Stars!

Duchess Nicole says

This is two books in one, which I didn't realize until I'd already started.

Jeb is a former special ops soldier in the US military. He recently left active duty after a mission has disastrous results. He now works for Ranger Security, which is made up almost entirely of other former military men. Jeb's first assignment seems a little low key...he is to find out who is taking valuables from elderly people who live in a retirement community. What should have been an easy in and out job turns complicated when his number one suspect ends up being the darling surrogate granddaughter of all of the community's residents.

Sophie had a horrible upbringing. Her mom, dad, and brother were terribly abusive to her. Fortunately, she was raised by her grandmother after the age of six. When Sophie is left with all of her grandmother's inheritance, the rest of the family doesn't take it too well. She's taken out restraining orders for quite awhile and lives a fairly fearful life, though her 'family' of elderly people give her more love than she knows what to do with.

My thoughts:

I almost wish that the military aspect would have been left out. It was almost a side note to the 'real' story, and to me, it just made me lose focus. I didn't know when I started this that it was the first in a series and that is a big no no for me also. I'm a stickler for reading order. My issues with the lackadaisical attempt at making Jeb a tough soldier boy could have been forgotten had I had more of a back story from his company. As it was, I *felt* like I was thrown into the middle of the story, and I never really connected with Jeb because of that.

Sophie's story was much easier to grab onto. She's a fun loving, tenderhearted woman who loves the people

around her and is happy living her life the way it is. She's occasionally afraid of her violent and evil family, but takes major self protective steps in order to take care of herself. I admire her resilience and her ability to roll with the punches

These two were just needing a reason to bump into each other and the thefts at the retirement community finally makes them meet. It takes quite some time for them to do anything more than give some smoldering looks...over halfway through the book, and they still hadn't even touched for so much as a handshake. For me, it was a bit slow. Once they get together and realize that they have some major sparks between them, it's easy to forget how congested the rest of the story felt.

It had been a very long time since I read a Harlequin. I'm glad to say that I was presently surprised, as it seems that Harlequin Blaze has continued on in terms of sophisticated content and readability. I don't know what exactly I expected, but I now know that if I see another Blaze title that looks interesting, I'll go for it!!

I did not read the second book, which is actually the FIRST in the series. I think it's odd that it's tacked onto the end, and I may read it later if I decide to backtrack and read the rest of the series.

My thanks to Harlequin via Net Galley for the opportunity to read this title in an exchange for an honest review.
