



His Risk to Take

Tessa Bailey

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The greater the risk, the hotter the reward...

Homicide cop Troy Bennett had a reputation on the Chicago PD for being fearless and in control—until the night his daredevil partner is killed during a raid. From that moment on, he swears he'll never again be responsible for the loss of a loved one. To escape his demons, Troy transfers to the NYPD, bringing him up close and personal with Ruby Elliott, a beautiful, street-savvy pool hustler.

Reckless and stubbornly independent, Ruby embodies everything Troy's avoiding, but when she walks into O'Hanlon's Pub and blows his carefully laid plans to hell, Troy knows he has to have her—risks be damned. But there's a connection between Ruby's shadowed past and a case Troy's working involving a notorious Brooklyn felon, throwing her safety into jeopardy. Confronted with his biggest fear, will Troy push Ruby away to keep her safe or fight to keep her in his arms where she belongs?

His Risk to Take Details

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Author : Tessa Bailey

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From Reader Review His Risk to Take for online ebook

Crystal~BIG book addict~ says

Troy, a hot, dirty talking detective

Ruby, a sexy pool hustler

These two together are so hot. Troy and his dirty mouth, yummy! All he wants to do is keep her out of trouble and safe. All she wants to do is help him to keep him safe. Can they figure it out and still be together? You will have to find out! Loved this book. It was a short, sexy read. Great job again Tessa Bailey!!

Susanne says

Another hit by Tessa Bailey! 5 blazing stars!

"So, blue eyes. Why don't you stop staring and buy me a drink? I don't want to dehydrate before you work up the nerve."

"Ask nicely, and I'll think about it."

Say hello to Ruby and Troy! They have blazing chemistry. This book is around 150 pages. It is not some deep story. But it is **H.O.T** and **Pure Wonderful Escapism**.

Troy is a cop who just transferred from Chicago to New York. He is out with his friends when Ruby walks in. She is a professional pool hustler and gets down to business. But as always, there is more to her than meets the eye. **I loved them from their first encounter!** It is definitely lust-at-first sight, but it worked.

"I just watched you bend over a pool table in those ridiculously tight jeans. Over. And over. You think I could stop at kissing?"

A shiver moved down her spine at the change in his tone. "What else did you have in mind?"

"Do you really want to know? Think very carefully before you decide."

She swallowed with difficulty. Interesting didn't begin to cover this man. "Tell me."

Troy. One minute he is a boyfriend, the next minute he is **a dirty talking controlling sex god.** Where do I sign up? I could gush about him all day long. He is hot and alpha and he is *a Real Man.*

"You might get away with running that smart mouth to other people. But you won't get away with it here. If you continue to challenge me with every word out of your mouth, I will fuck you repeatedly until you learn to play nice."

Troy is *arrogant* and sure of himself. He is **a pure alpha male** in the very best way. He never steps over the line. He is ***the perfect hero*** . And he is a tiny bit jealous.

"I'm the guy she spent Friday night with. And I'm the guy she's going to spend tonight with. So maybe the better question is, who the fuck is you?"

Even though **this book is all about Troy**, I also loved Ruby. I want to be her. She is strong, cool and collected. She falls hard for Troy but she never loses herself. They complement each other perfectly!

This book is like a delicious chocolate cake. It sweeps away all your problems and lets you escape into a wonderful place with wonderful people. It's the perfect escape on a rainy Sunday afternoon.

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

3 you sir are no Derek Tyler stars

Spoilers

Maybe yummy lieutenant Derek Tyler ruined all the other men in this series for me. Maybe he is just too much to top!!! I don't know why, but this one just didn't do it for me. Insta-love stories are either hit or miss for me, and this one was a miss. It felt forced, and I didn't buy their relationship. No way does Troy hold a candle to the Lickable Derek! I expected one thing and got something else altogether. I feel a little let down!

Everything felt off to me. Troy our hero in this story felt like a generic knock off of Derek Tyler in every way. Every way!! The sex, and omg the dirty talk! The dirty talk which I am a huge fan of wasn't nearly as good and at times felt cheesy.

Ruby also fell flat for me. She was your typical misunderstood rebel girl, with the heart of gold under it all. Whatever! Her angsty sass just wasn't doing it for me. Maybe the first book set the bar too high and I just need to

Because even Troy as a cop and the crime plot to the story felt force like it was suppose to be bad ass and dangerous especially with the save at the end, but it just felt like this to me

Now don't get me wrong the book wasn't bad. It was a okay read an all. I wasn't bored or anything . It just wasn't as good as the first one. I think it would have helped if it had been a little longer, and if we had a little more story line and character development. Oh well I am on to the next one and I hope it is better than this one!

<http://jessicasoverthetopbookobsessio...>

♥Trish♥ says

Tessa Bailey has to be one of my favorite authors. She has this talent of pairing uber hot alpha males with equally strong females flawlessly. They don't seem to "fight" each other. they just work and work well together.

Ruby is a pool hustler, Troy a detective. Unfortunately, he is after one of Ruby's old acquaintances. He begs Ruby to trust him and to keep herself safe. You know us damn strong females can't do that....

This truly is a great love story with some serious alpha male action.
Don't miss it :)

I really hope Ms. Bailey does a book about Lenny's son.... read and I think you will agree. He could be one interesting character!!

Lisa says

He knew what they saw when they looked at him. Quiet, friendly guy. Passionate about his job. It's the same thing women saw, too. In the beginning.

Well.....what do we have here???

A sexy and controlling dirty talker???? Hello there.....

But Prince Charming disappeared as soon as they made it to the bedroom.

Troy Bennett:

And, his conquest.....Ruby Elliot:

"Next time you bend over a table, I'm going to wrap all that hair around my fist and pull your head back. I want to watch your eyes glaze over when I fuck you into oblivion."

Oh Troy...after reading the steamy scenes and putting up with that filthy mouth of yours, a little cooling off was in order.

Yes, sir!!

I loved Tessa Bailey's debut Novel, *Protecting What's His*, so it really was a no brainer that I would be reading *His Risk to Take*. This short novella was hot, steamy, and very enjoyable.

"You might get away with running that smart mouth to other people. But you won't get away with it here. If you continue to challenge me with every word out of your mouth, I will fuck you repeatedly until you learn to play nice."

Troy Bennett is a police detective who has transferred to New York City after the tragic death of his partner. His partner was the cop that was killed in the police raid that took place in book one (*Protecting What's His*). He is still dealing with the death of his partner and believes that the death was his fault. After all, there must have been something he could have done to save him. Shortly after his arrival to NYC, he meets a street-smart pool hustler named Ruby. Immediately sparks fly between the pair and what follows is the commencement of a quick lust induced relationship. What Troy soon discovers is that Ruby is connected somehow to one of the cases he is working on.

"So, blue eyes. Why don't you stop staring and buy me a drink? I don't want to dehydrate before you work up the nerve"

Ruby is this sassy spit-fire who has made a living at hustling but is now on the path to make something more of her life. She is used to living her life on her terms and has never really had anyone take care of her. Ruby has been taught to never trust cops and when she discovers that the intense man eying her up at the bar is one, she is on high alert. But, damn, her body does not have the trust issues her mind does and definitely wants all Troy has to offer.

"It's going to take me hours of fucking that tight little body of yours to satisfy it. I hope you know what you're in for."

**

She felt....conquered.

What we have here is a case of obvious insta-lust and things most definitely progress at a rapid rate. *His Risk to Take* is a novella so you can not go in expecting anything too profound. Troy is a possessive alpha male who needs control in the bedroom. Ruby is willing to relinquish control to this sexy beast....but, only in the bedroom. These two definitely heat up the sheets and the chemistry is off the charts.

Overall, *His Risk to Take* is a quick and entertaining story. I would have loved for it to be a little longer; however, I usually feel that way about novellas. This book is a hot little number and it has left me definitely wanting more. I am looking forward to the next book in the series.

"It's simple. You're for me, Ruby."

"I'm for you," she breathed.

Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says

First, let's meet **Troy Bennet!**

Troy is a NYC Detective with controlling and possessive tendencies and a filthy, dirty-talkin' mouth.

*But Prince Charming disappeared as soon as they made it to the bedroom.
He'd tried once or twice in the past to be the guy who whispered sweet nothings into a girl's ear when she came, but he'd never been able to keep up the facade. He'd rather be explaining in very explicit terms how and where he planned to take her next.*

After reading and absolutely loving *Protecting What's His*, when I saw that Tessa Bailey plans to release a novella a few short months after, I was all over it!

Although I didn't find this to be as good as the first book, which I think is in part due to it being a short novella, I still really enjoyed it.

Troy is a detective, who after a tragic turn during a police raid in Chicago, is transferred to NYC.

Ruby Elliot

is a street-savvy pool hustler.

When the two meet at a bar, sparks fly and Troy is determined to get her beneath him.

Ruby was the sassy, smart-talking heroine that I have come to associate with Miss Bailey's writing. She doesn't take any shit from anyone, and gives Troy a run for his money.

When the bartender turned to make change, she spoke to Troy without looking directly at him. "So, blue eyes. Why don't you stop staring and buy me a drink? I don't want to dehydrate before you work up the nerve"

I loved Troy and his dirty-talking ways.

"You might get away with running that smart mouth to other people. But you won't get away with it here. If you continue to challenge me with every word out of your mouth, I will fuck you repeatedly until you learn to play nice."

This was a case of insta-lust, and given the fact that it's a novella, things progress pretty fast.

When the two of them finally get together...

"I've been ready for you since Saturday morning. It's going to take me hours of fucking that tight little body of yours to satisfy it. I hope you know what you're in for"
She looked up at him, bold and determined. "I'm here, aren't I?"
He growled, equally exhilarated and annoyed by the way she insisted on pushing him back. "I'm going to put you on your knees, Ruby. You're going to hate how much you love it."

Though I liked Troy, since I do love me a yummy possessive hero, I did find him to be a little bit over the top at times. It was nothing that bothered me too much, since I enjoyed the rest of the story. All in all, this was a hot and quick little read with a realistic HEA.

We also get to meet the hero of the next book, Troy's friend and coworker, Daniel, the hostage negotiator and chronic womanizer. (Yes, please!)

** ARC provided by Entangled via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review **

Lisa Jayne says

3 DIRTY TALKIN' STARS

Wow this short, sexy story has hot written all over it, another Brazen book yet again has ticked my easy Romance buttons, here are my thoughts ...

What's it all about?

Police officer Troy Bennett has just relocated to New York from Chicago, hoping for a fresh start this man of law leaves a past of difficulties behind him and is looking to settle into a drama free lifestyle and doing what he does best; solving crime. Ruby is a pool hustler growing up has been no easy feat for this feisty and equally beautiful twenty something, she has been surrounded by gang life and petty crime all her life. When Troy and Ruby's lives collide they never realised the danger that their lust was driving them to, but when attraction turns to something more we find out if it was all worth it.

What did I like?

I like to call books like this 'fillers' the perfect in between book, you don't need too much brain power, just some time to sit back and enjoy an easy read. This book is outrageously hot, the hero has a dirty mouth that had me giggling and blushing in equal measure, he knows how to sweet talk and he loves to demand his own way between the sheets, ladies if you like a man in uniform you will be drooling over officer Troy Bennett. The sexual connection and chemistry is the main focus of the book and the author certainly delivers a dirty style romance that has enough sweet to give it the loved up feel that Romance lovers crave.

Why not five?

As much as I enjoyed this story it didn't blow my socks off, it delivered what I expected; an enjoyable couple of smutty hours of reading but it wasn't long enough for me to be fully invested in the story. Don't get me wrong it was enjoyable just not five star standard.

Final thoughts ...

Brazen books never fail to amuse me and happen to be my favourite in-between books to read, if you like a dirty talking hero and a heroine with backbone this may be your next favourite short but sexy novel, go grab it readers. Enjoy ... Kisses.

Ally says

Good lord, this was boring

I mean 74% in to the book and I am all

Jaysus. Instalove it fine if it's a book centered on a relationship. In those cases, we find out more about the characters and can understand (sorta) their instabusiness. But when one tries to combine instalove with a caper / drama / danger / wtfever, just ugh. Personal opinion, I know.

And lastly, the guy basically does things with a pool cue and all I can think, is who wants some nasty pool cue touched by goodness knows how many hands in the "business". I mean ewwwwww.

Now normally, I would not give any rating to a dnf (it's a new leaf I am trying to turn over. See how well it is working?), but since I got so far in to the book....

Catarina says

This second book of Line of Duty tells us the story of Troy and Ruby.

Troy is a detective; Ruby is a pool hustler to pay the bills. (Yes, hustler, you've read it right!)

And after a very strange one-night-stand they can't seem to stay away from each other, when Troy finds that she is in danger, he won't stop at nothing to keep her safe.

First, Troy is a sexy-as-sin-alpha-male.

Ruby is also awesome.

The sexy steam and the sweet moments are all here, but I've got to say that althout I liked it a lot, I liked the first one better.

Nonetheless, these books are a must-read.

You can go now, people.

Jill says

Two out of two for Tessa Bailey!!

For such a short story His Risk to Take packs a punch with great characters, who have a great banter and a steamy sizzling connection.

Troy a ex Chicago cop has moved towns after the death of his partner. He runs into Ruby as she is hustling some money out of someone in a pool game. He has an instant desire for this woman, but little does he know that she is closer to a case he is working than he knows. To close for comfort.

I really enjoyed every single moment of this book. The story although short, did not feel rushed at all. In fact my only complaint about this book would be that it was too short. I would have liked more time with these two characters as their steamy connection was burning up the pages before my eyes.

Tessa Bailey is quickly becoming an author that I will be keeping my eye on, she writes just the type of hero that I like to see in my romance books with female characters that I can relate to.

Keep the awesomeness coming Ms Bailey!!

Christy says

4 hustler stars!

After my second Tessa Bailey book, I have decided she's a new go to author for me when I'm looking for an easy, sexy romance. Listening to this second book in her Line of Duty series was just as good as the first. And it was even hotter. All because of one dirty talking cop... Troy Bennett.

Troy is new to NYPD. He was transferred from Chicago after his partner was killed in duty. Ruby Elliot is not the type of girl to date a cop. She's spent most of her life hustling people in pool. Although she's trying to live more in the straight and narrow, go to college etc, she's still gotta eat and pay her bills so she does what she knows.

Troy and Ruby are opposites in so many ways, but you know what they say. Opposites attract. They both fight their feelings for one another for different reasons. As opposite as they are, they also have some very similar qualities. Both are extremely stubborn. Which makes for an interesting duo.

Now, back to the best part of the book. Troy and his filthy sexy mouth.

"I'm going to come on your panties. And the next time I see them, I'm going to rip them off with my fucking teeth. Is that clear?"

"Next time you bend over a table, I'm going to wrap all that hair around my fist and pull your head back. I want to watch your eyes glaze over when I fuck you into oblivion."

"I'm going to put you on your knees, Ruby. You're going to hate how much you love it."

His Risk to Take is a book I would highly recommend when you're in the mood for a sexy read with a dirty talking hero and a strong willed heroine. I really enjoyed it. It's short, sweet, steamy, and the narration on the audio was good.

"It's simple. You're for me, Ruby."

"I'm for you," she breathed."

Penelope ✕ that awkward girl that doesn't go here ✕ says

FOUR STARS!

So, being the idiot that I am, I totally read this novella in the wrong order. I read it's sequel first, so being introduced to these characters when I'd already met them in the sequel felt kinda strange. But, that was totally on me and my rating doesn't reflect that strangeness.

Troy Bennett and Ruby Elliott first cross paths at a bar. There's an instant connection between the two when they lock eyes which continues to sizzle as he witnesses her do what she does best: hustle money from unsuspecting male pool players who underestimate her because she's a woman. The two share a heated and somewhat satisfying night together, but soon find that their attraction isn't the only connection between the two of them. Ruby's dangerous past forces Troy to make a decision: does he stay and risk Ruby's safety or does he walk away to keep her safe?

I enjoyed this quickie read. For me, I found this book far more satisfying than its sequel. I thought it definitely portrayed Ruby as a strong heroine who I definitely connected with, and it was endearing to see her express her feelings in her own, albeit unconventional, way. Troy was definitely a great character as well. I can never say no to a dirty talking man and he was scrumptiously dirty.

"I'm gonna come on your panties. And the next time I see them, I'm going to rip them off with my fucking teeth. Is that clear?"

So, why not five stars? I think the length worked against it. Whilst I completely understand that the action unfolds quickly in a novella, I found that the ending was executed too quickly to give justice to the situation. Had it been a slightly longer book, I think the crucial scenes in the end would have had a chance to develop more and subsequently would have had the effect of wrecking my feels. As it was, the suspense passed rather quickly before ending on a pleasant note. Despite this, I did still enjoy it and find it, overall, a recommended read.

Please be more intelligent than I and read this novella before its sequel Riskier Business. You can find my review for Riskier Business [here](#).

Olga therebelreader says

In short:

Hero 5/5 | Heroine 4/5 | Plot (Point, Originality) 5/5 | Writing Style 4/5 | Steam 4/5 | Romance 4/5 | Angst-Suspense 4/5 | Darkness 1/5 | Humor 3/5 | Secondary Characters 4/5 | Drama-Conflict 4/5 | Mystery 0/5 | Twists 4/5 | Pacing Steady | Action 4/5

Sandra says

"Next time you bend over a table, i'm going to wrap all that hair around my fist and pull your head back. I want to watch your eyes glaze over when i fuck you into oblivion."

Holy hell! *Tessa Bailey* has managed to write another **HOT** as the Alabama sun book! And the male MC...

YUM!

His Risk to Take is the 2nd book in the *Line of Duty* series and is a companion novel to *Protecting What's His*, which means it can be read as a stand alone and is about a different couple - Troy and Ruby.

You already met Troy, so now meet the girl...

"So, blue eyes. Why don't you stop staring and buy me a drink? I don't want to dehydrate before you work up the nerve."

Ruby was definitely a **sassy, independent** and full of **bad attitude** protagonist that I really liked. She wasn't afraid of doing or saying anything she desired. Her lifestyle is unique, she plays pool for a living and sometimes that comes with danger. You don't get to see that a lot in books. So that was something new for me.

Troy is protective, casual, and nice outside the bedroom, but inside he's commanding, controlling and dominant to the max. And his dirty talking *swoon*!!!

"It's going to take me hours of fucking that tight little body of yours to satisfy it."

For those naughty readers who love naughty gifs - (view spoiler)

I **LOVED** the 1st book but this one I only liked. It was too short, I felt like there was not enough description

of the characters, and i didn't feel that **chemistry** between Ruby and Troy. Which is a shame because they were a pretty **interesting** and **entertaining** couple to read about.

I also found something lacking in it. Maybe it was the **lack of humor** that made book 1 so special for me? Maybe it was something else, i don't know. All i know is that (like i said before) the book was **too short** and it wasn't as good as i expected it to be.

That's the truth.

Sharon ∞🔞 is an emotional book junkie 🔞∞ says

You know you're being hustled when the heroine pulls a pool stick out of her yoga bag! And the good part about it is that you *like* it and that's exactly what hooked Troy.

Troy as in, hot, sexy, tortured police detective from Chicago, who's here in New York for a fresh start. While he seems very easy going, he gives you hints that he is a different beast in the bedroom.

Ruby always gets what she wants even if she has to hustle it. Something calls to her about Troy and she goes after him with no holds barred.

What I loved about this is that they both can read each other so well. Troy of course from being a cop and Ruby from being raised on the streets and being taught to hustle. They both don't miss a beat. They seem to be opposites but they are so much alike. It was almost like they saw a homing beacon in the other and couldn't stay away.

Doesn't hurt that the steamy scenes are off the charts. Nothing better than a dirty talker! And the more Troy turns on Ruby, the more he's turned on. Naturally, they fight it but not for long.

Wouldn't be a good story without some drama. Turns out one of the cops gets beat up and wouldn't you know it? The major person of interest is someone Ruby used to work for. Troy knows he needs to keep her away from him but that's easier said than done.

I thought the ending was really sweet and I loved what Troy did. Of course, the major problem is that the

story was just too short...it had such potential!

Favorite quotes:

♥ I can't turn off this need to protect you."

♥ "Just so we're clear, baby, that's what I'm doing. Letting you divert my attention with your tempting body so you don't have to answer my questions or explain where you went tonight. I'm *aware* of it. I'm the one who's *letting* you get away with it."

♥ "Look, we're both stubborn hotheads, and we're going to fight. Early and often. But I will *never* make it more than one block before I come back. That is my *promise* to you."
