



A Calling for Pleasure

J.L. Merrow

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If you summon this demon, he's guaranteed to come!

With a killer succubus leaving a trail of desiccated corpses, Detective Lars Thornsson of the Paranormal Enforcement Agency knows he shouldn't be falling for a suspect. But a hot little piece of demon tail like Rael is impossible to resist. Slender, snake-hipped, and dark skinned, he swears he's innocent—of murder, at least.

Rael is delighted when a summoning brings him up to Earth, filled as it is with hot guys walking around like an all-you-can-eat buffet. He's not so happy about the mean old detectives interrupting him halfway through his dinner—but he changes his mind after getting an eyeful of Lars's muscular, Nordic charms.

Now Rael has a vested interest in keeping Lars safe from the real killer, even if that means putting himself into the killer's path.

A Calling for Pleasure Details

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Author : J.L. Merrow

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From Reader Review A Calling for Pleasure for online ebook

Janeylou says

3.5 stars

Emma Sea says

Cute, fun and hot. Gets an extra star for being free. I had to shake myself a bit at the begining as the summoning scene reminded me so much of Rincewind being summoned in *Eric*. However, soon sorted myself in the right universe, and am now in lust with Rael and have to read the books in the series.

Sabine says

Lars Thornsson has to catch a succubus before she kills all men in town. Rael, who's been summoned by a foolish teenager, is a possible suspect. Lars hopes that he can clear Rael's name because he wouldn't mind hitting that...

This is another quick read, but a cute story. I have a weak spot for incubi/succubi so this was right up my alley. I'm looking forward to the other stories in this series.

Kk says

Cute beginning.

JL Merrow is a fun writer, seriously fun. This short is the beginning of a new series. Free read at 25 pages isn't bad, can't wait to read the rest!

Serena Yates says

This is such a fun read. Hilarious, sexy and with an intriguing story concept, it captured my imagination as much as it made me laugh. The story has been out for a while (as part of an anthology I just never got around to reading), and I'm really glad this re-release has drawn my attention to it.

Lars is a detective who gets to investigate and hunt paranormal criminals on a daily basis. I thought it was hilarious that he has no paranormal abilities whatsoever, even though his mother is an immortal. Resorting to 'normal' investigative methods as well as relying on his (truly abrasive) partner, who does have some talents, make his job really hard. There are only a few hints in this short story, but I can well imagine his issues.

Rael is so cute! He is a lower-level demon who has his own way of dealing with things and won't let anyone

interfere. If there is such a thing as a good demon, he's it. I loved how he manages to get close to Lars and sneaks into his life – and hope he does get to stay there for a while.

A must-read for anyone who likes the humorous side of paranormal stories, this is the first volume in a series of three. I really look forward to reading the other two next!

Lily says

I really enjoyed reading this one. There's humor, likable characters, a little mystery/suspense to the plot and some really smoking hot sex as well. Looking forward to the rest of the series.

Cole Riann says

Review posted at Brief Encounters Reviews.

Lars and his partner Rochelle are investigators for the Paranormal Enforcement Agency and are frustrated they keep finding dead corpses and still haven't found the succubus responsible for killing them. That all changes, however, when a young man is almost killed and tells them a tale of a male succubus whose description has Lars panting just from visualization. With a new lead to follow, Lars and Rochelle assume that he's just a lucky, if somewhat stupid, young man. If Rael has anything to say about it (and Rael always has something to say), then not only will he point them towards the real culprit of the killings, but maybe snare a blond, hunky half-Valkyrie officer in the process — one that just might be more than the one night stands he's used to.

This was such a cute story. Right off the bat I was laughing as Rael used his charm and sexuality in confronting the young, straight man who summoned him while hoping for a female demon. The story has a nice flow and easiness to it, which is partly due to Rael's confident, sexy, and funny voice. I really liked Lars as well, who has the heart and soul of an honest geek wrapped in the godly package he inherited from his gorgeous Valkyrie mother. They made a nice couple and I could instantly see that they would work well together.

There's quite a bit to like about the story, and I'm very much looking forward to reading the rest of the series. I absolutely loved Rochelle, Lars' tough-as-nails partner, and if I read her romance I'd beg J.L. Merrow for her story in a heartbeat. I understood that Rael being a male succubus (and not an incubus) is the impetus in putting him in Lars' path, but I would have loved to know what made him a succubus and not an incubus. Also, the sex was smokin'! I love me a demon with an agile tail :)

This is just the kind of short story that I love to read and the quick pace and the ease in the prose suited to fill out the story in a short amount of time, leaving me satisfied at the end though no less excited to pick up the next installment in Lars and Rael's relationship. B

Chris says

Very good short paranormal m/m romance about two detectives for the Paranormal Enforcement Agency trying to track down a succubus who's leaving a trail of dead guys behind her. The male detective (non-romantic detective pairing, not to worry!) becomes fascinated by a male succubus who's picked up during the investigation... This was a fun start to a (currently) three-book series that I'm hoping J.L. adds to. :)

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

Cute succubus Rael meets sexy detective Lars during an investigation! I'll definitely want to read the second one, when it comes out!

Tamarrion Lash says

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Sadie Forsythe says

4.5

Really cute and hot. Extra points for Rael's tail and being a freebie, but minus for the cliched 'scorned woman turns murderous' schtick.

Cryselle says

JL Merrow's biography explains that she's "frequently accused of humor," and I'm going to shake that finger at her again. From the opening scene between the demon Rael and the pimply teenager, aka the "sebum king" who's summoned him, to the climactic declarations at the end, this story pushes expectations in one direction and then takes a sudden left turn.

They'd been on this case for three weeks now, and were getting nowhere fast. The succubus they were after had put, at last count, thirteen men in the morgue, their souls literally sucked out through their dicks. Just contemplating it made Lars simultaneously wince and think damn, what a way to go.

Yeah, like that. Every few pages.

Rael hasn't been 'topside' for quite some time: he's quite bemused over the changes in society. Good times for him: what he wants is offered everywhere. For a male succubus, it's easy pickings in the clubs and the

streets. When this story came out originally in a Torquere anthology titled Care and Feeding of Demons, the author took some heat for the term, some folks insisting that Rael had to be an incubus for being male, but looking at who he's having sex with rather than how he's plumbed, it both makes sense and provides a little skew. The story has been reworked and expanded to stand alone: it's about twenty percent longer now and the stronger for it.

Detective Lars Thornsson and his partner Detective Rochelle of the Paranormal Enforcement Agency are on the case; he's got Immortal parentage, she's got the magical skills, and they make a good team. The banter between them is funny, particularly as she hasn't got any detectable sense of humor to appreciate the things coming out of her mouth. She's a little put out by Lars being attracted to their suspect. Big, blond, hunky Lars has to keep hauling his attentions back to the case, because they keep straying to Rael's ass and mouth.

Rael's so danged cute I want to squish him: demonic but sweet, worrying about what his momma will say (Demons have mommas? I never knew.) and offering sympathy like only a gay best friend can do. He's also accused of thirteen murders and an assault.

The police procedural end of the story had the perfect villain committing crimes for the most fitting of reasons, and has a solution Horatio Cain couldn't improve on. Then Rael and Lars, who are perfect for each other in ways that become clear as the story progresses, can act on their mutual interest, and this is where the story fell down for me. I'm all for hot sex, but the couple goes from interrogations in silver handcuffs and a rowan wood chair to bed with declarations of never leaving, with barely a pause to get out of their clothing. It works better if taken as the babbling of men who are too horny to make actual sense.

There are two more stories with this couple, which I am now anxious to read.

The cover artist, Lou Harper, has a sly sense of humor. Giggle: look closely. 4.5

Mandapanda says

3.5 stars. I read both the shorter version in The Care and Feeding of Demons and this new expanded version. I couldn't really tell the difference from memory but anyway they're both very entertaining. The two sequels are great too: A Blast from the Past and A Wish Too Far.

LWM says

? So adorable, once you get past the freakiness of paranormal existence... .

Very cute paranormal romance between beings from opposite ends of the spectrum. Lars happens to be half Valkerie, therefore immortal, while Rael is a succubus called accidentally by a misguided, pimply and very heterosexual teenager. Lars is half of a paranormal partnership searching for a succubus rampaging and murdering gay and bisexual men. They stumble across Rael when their paths cross at another crime scene, and since Rael fits the profile, he gets arrested. He points them in the direction of the real perpetrator, then ends up convincing her that taking out her hate against innocent victims wasn't doing her any good, and that she was better than that. As she was a high ranking demon, thus very powerful, Rael basically saves Lars and his partner from harm and embarrassment, so with the case closed Lars is free to pursue his interest in Rael,

who is thrilled to have found the one person on earth who could handle him without hurting himself. Such a delightful story! Five stars.

Miriam says

This had potential but was much too rushed in terms of both the police investigation (zero suspense) and the romance. Who is talking about long-term commitment by evening of the day they met -- a day on which, additionally, they hardly spent time or spoke together except for some heavy-handed flirting?

Also, points off for the fake-Southern-belle "honey" laden dialog and for the needless sneers at unattractive individuals. The was something that bothered in my previous read of Merrow as well.
