



## Unconditional

*Lexi Blake*

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A curious woman

Ashley Paxon understands responsibility. After her fiancé left her alone and pregnant, she forged a new life for herself and her daughter. Moving to Dallas, she went back to school and found a job at a club called Sanctum. As one of the BDSM club's waitresses, she watches the Doms and their submissives every night. She yearns to explore their lifestyle of discipline and power exchange, but she knows she wouldn't belong.

A wounded man

Keith Langston believes in living in the moment. Haunted by the past, he moves from one casual relationship to the next and never looks back. But the moment he lays eyes on Ashley, something primal and possessive takes over. He can't stop thinking about her and yet he knows he can't offer her what she needs. Having her seems impossible until Sanctum's owner, the mysterious Ian Taggart, makes him an offer he can't refuse.

The perfect contract

Offered the chance to train Ashley and initiate her into the D/s lifestyle, Keith is delighted to accept. Under the guidelines of a carefully crafted contract, they lose themselves in the pleasures and intimacies of being Master and submissive. But when Ashley and her daughter are threatened, Keith realizes she needs much more than a part-time Dom. To protect her, he will have to break through the barriers of their contract and finally face the demons haunting his heart.

A Masters and Mercenaries Novella

Word count: 50,120

## Unconditional Details

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## From Reader Review Unconditional for online ebook

### Rosebud says

Ashley Paxon is damaged goods, or so she's been told. Abandoned by her baby's birth father, Ashley is getting by partly because of the generosity of her sister and Ian Taggart.

Working at *Sanctum* allows her to make enough money to support her daughter while attending school but her timid personality and fear of the Doms are a major roadblock. When Ian suggests a possible solution to getting over her debilitating fear while helping him test the skills of a new potential Dom she reluctantly agrees.

Keith Langston is up for Dom membership/privileges at the exclusive *Sanctum*. The owner, Ian Taggart, proposes a make or break skills test of taking a vanilla employee at the club and train her as a submissive over a six week period. The problem is that said female is the very girl that Keith has secretly lusted over since coming to the club but as she's the sister-in-law of his best friend AND has a child he knows she isn't for him. This would be his chance to enjoy the little sub for the short haul though to get her out of his system as he doesn't do long term relationships, especially with women who have kids which is a hard limit for him.

This was a fill in installment for the series that any fan who has followed the "Masters & Mercenaries" series will enjoy. There is a suspense factor that includes a twist that I did appreciate and a few laughs that only the crew from "McKay/Taggart Security" can get away with. Love love love the flavor of writing style of the author in portraying alpha guys who have that macho playfullness in a high stress work environment.

The adult content is definitely glitterkink BDSM and play scenes are consistent with a Dom introducing a vanilla female to the submissive role so don't expect any intense play scenes or elements. I will say that spankings, toys, and squirming is involved though. :D

I do feel that this isn't a stand alone installment only because characters from previous installments are featured throughout the story so you would lose the flavor if you aren't familiar with them. It is possible to read this if you haven't if you're curious enough but do realize that some of the characters referenced were featured in earlier installments.

As for those who follow this series. This is a read that will tide you over until "Dungeon Games" comes out in May/2014. Enjoy.

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### Jackie Kiwibooknerd says

This book was such a surprise....When I saw it on Amazon I pretty much did the happy dance of all happy dances....See I did not even know this book was coming out....I have been holding out for Dungeon Royale on the 18th Feb...In fact I have been doing a freaking count down till that book, so this one was a very welcome and happy surprise.

Loved the story of Keith and Ashley!!! As usual my darling Ian Taggart stole the show with his witty humor and one liners....

I love this series.... I mean I really love this series....

Roll on 18th Feb....shit I think I am pretty much gonna go back and do a re-read of all the books in this series, because seriously best series EVER!!!!

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### **Konny says**

Unconditional by Lexi Blake is book 5.5 in the Masters and Mercenaries world.

Ashley Paxon is a single mom with a rough past. She lives with her sister and brother-in-law, works as waitress at Sanctum and cares for her daughter. She goes to college and that about all her social life. When Ian Taggart wants her to be sub for a limited time, she wants to refuse, but the temptation and curiosity are stronger than her fear.

Keith is a very wealthy man. He's a investor and makes billions. He's new in Dallas and wants to attend Sanctum, Ian Taggart's BDSM club. To receive Master rights at Sanctum he has to train a submissive, Ashley.

Ashley and Keith have issues and Keith has demons. But both have this crazy insta chemistry. They could be so good together and everyone around them knows it, the only blind ones are Ashley and Keith. When Ashley and her daughter are threatened by her past, Keith jumps in and keeps them safe. He's the knight in shining armor. Now they could have their HEA, but Keith is stubborn. He breaks up with her and is miserable, what else.

Ashley doesn't give up and fights for her HEA. Go Girl !!

I can't say how much I love Laex Blake's Masters and Mercenaries world. Every time a new book releases I'm giddy with high expectations. And Unconditional doesn't disappoint. The story is great, I could easily connect with the characters and the writing is excellent. I loved meeting characters from previous books ( winks to Serena and Adam ). And now I can't wait to read the next installment, Dungeon Royale.

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### **Jamie says**

Fantastic ?

And that ending, \*sigh\*

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### **Kate's Corner says**

**I usually don't read novellas or take a look at the .5 books that are always on offer. Ms. Blake is the exception to my rule it seems.**

**We meet Keith & Ashley in Sanctum. I liked Ashley. Wasn't entirely sure what my take on Keith was but I gave him a chance.**

**Unconditional is a pleasure to read. A story of second chances. It is sweet yet extremely sexy. I liked Keith in this book and I understood his past and why it was hard for him to move on with his future but he is stuck and Ashley helped him with the healing process.**

**Ashley was left high and dry when she was pregnant she is now a Mum and feels lonely. Her choice to sub for Keith is a choice she doesn't regret. She is patient and shows Keith that he is worth unconditional love.**

**Keith was willing to lose millions to protect Ashley from her in-laws as they were only after their granddaughter after their son died. Keith works through his demons but obviously after he royally screwed it up.**

**If I find it so perfect why didn't I give it 5 stars? Ian & Charlie are a tough act to follow.**

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### **Mareli says**

Thanks, Ms Blake for this precious little jewel. As usual you give us a great story.

Ashley Paxon is beginning her training at Sanctum. She already works here and Ian Taggart thinks he already has the right Dom for her, Keith Langston.

She's a lovely lady with a little daughter, no husband, her life full of responsibility. Keith seems to reject every responsibility except being a Dom. He seems to be the stronger but in the end, that little sub has some surprises for him!

Great!

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### **starsaga says**

#### **Short, well-written book.,**

This was a good re-visit of the Masters and Mercenaries world, by Lexi Blake/Sophie Oak. It was very typical in the style of SO and that is why I wanted to read it. I felt a little let down by the way Keith was portrayed, he was almost too laid-back for most of the book and only seemed to perk up when he found out that Ashley had a stalker. Then he went back into turtle-mode and the book was almost over before he had his own revelation. I think that Ashley deserved better but she loved him so she rolled over and begged for Keith whenever she could. But it was well-written and for the length, I usually don't see the point in these short stories, it was an acceptable read.

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### **? BookAddict ✕ La Crimson Femme says**

Huh, well, I have to say, this one went down easy and fast. This was totally glitterkink and it was so sweet. The story is predictable. Keith is a good guy and he does a good job of coaxing timid ashley to the dark side. For those who are hungry for the next full novel in this series, this little teaser is satisfying.

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### **Christina Montminy says**

Keith & Ashley's story was short being a .5 book but it was still good. He's a troubled Dom with a past nobody knows about, not even his friend Ryan & she's a young mother trying to raise her infant daughter on her own while going to school & working part-time at Sanctum. He's looking for entry as a Master @ Sanctum & Ian puts Ashley in his care. They've had eyes for each other but think no one's noticed...Ian & Charlotte did hence putting them together. Their pasts come back to collide together & force them to face each other & try to help each other out. One accepts, one fights it & the battle heats up. Very nicely done, I love Lexi Blakes' stories & can't wait for the next ones in the series to come out. Definite recommend for my friends that are into this genre.

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### **A??ela W. says**

I love reading Lexi Blake books I know that they will be well written they will have hot sex scenes and suspends with a little actions. I also love the characters in this series and Ian Taggart is one of my favorite Doms. Unconditional is the story of Ashley and Keith. Ashley who is Jillian's sister from (Sanctum) is trying to gain self confidence and realize that she is worthy of so much more than the raw deal she's been dealt. Keith is running from his past and doesn't let anyone get close enough to learn his secret. He is looking for a casual no strings attached, D/s relationship. They are two people who need each other more than they realize to understand that their past does not define them. Their individual stories are heartbreaking. At times I wanted to slap Keith because although he thought that he wasn't good enough for Ashley he didn't want to get close to her child due to his past. When the baby's fathers family tried to take her baby he stepped up and did something to help her. Ashley was patient with him she knew that he had feelings for her Keith realized that you can be a father to a child even if it is not made with your DNA and it was heartwarming for me personally because I am a mother to a child that I didn't give birth to.

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### **Misty says**

Another great addition to the series, but I have to say, I swear if I could just follow Ian Taggart around all day and listen to the crazy shit he says, I would be a happy woman for the rest of my life.

I know she can't include everyone from past books, so I'll just be thankful for the glimpses I got of previous, much loved characters and am looking forward to the new ones I see peeking around the corner.

I usually share my favorite highlights from the books, but since half the book is highlighted I'm passing on that this time.

Has one of the best/WORST proposals ever.

Ends at 95% on my Kindle. Approx 2215 locations.

Standalone novella, but really you should ALL The books in the series.

Cock count = 42 - very impressive for a novella!

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**Jennifer says**

A friend handed me this book and said read it you'll love it. I did and I do. Now I must find the rest of the series cause I really loved Ian and must know more about him.

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**Nicole P says**

A quick and easy read. Its been a while since I've read a *Master and Mercenaries* book so it was nice to get another little piece into Sanctum and the men and women who are intriguing and make the BDSM world fascinating.

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**Lin #Historical lover...♥? says**

5 unreserved stars!!!!

I needed a short book starting with U for a challenge so I dived into this although it was 5.5 of a series!!!

**TOTALLY ENJOYED THIS!!!!**

Well developed characters nice story, sexy read....

Not too much of anything!!!

Just enough of the good stuff.

Now I cannot wait to dive into the whole series. This story was chock full of alpha males whose stories are told elsewhere.... I'm going Lexi shopping!!!

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**Joyce says**

Revisiting this family of kinksters is always a great read!

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