



Can't Hide from Me

Cordelia Kingsbridge

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Charles Hunter's team is on a mission to extract an unidentified ATF agent from an undercover job gone wrong. All they've got to go on is the rendezvous location—until Charles recognizes the ex he hasn't seen in years. Their "simple rescue mission" is about to get a lot more complicated.

For Ángel Medina, adjusting to life after his cartel nightmare is hard enough without confronting memories of a failed relationship. All he wants is a fresh start. But when a violent stalker lashes out from the shadows, Ángel realizes his nightmare is far from over.

As the stalker's obsession escalates and bodies start dropping, Charles and Ángel are thrown together in a desperate search for the culprit. Tempers flare and old passions reignite, drawing them back into the same turbulent relationship that once ended in disaster.

But the stalker isn't letting go—and the next strike might hit straight through the heart.

Can't Hide from Me Details

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Author : Cordelia Kingsbridge

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From Reader Review Can't Hide from Me for online ebook

Christelle says

Leave it to Cordelia Kingsbridge to mix suspense, action, endearing characters, hotness in one book.

This time, it's about Angel, an undercover agent who paused as the boyfriend of a cartel's boss for two years, before a fast extraction is needed for his safety. And what a surprise, the available extraction team is leaded by Charles, his ex-lover.

Charles and Angel's previous relationship was quite explosive. Not only are they quite opposite, where Charles is all for commitment, but not out, and Angel is a lone wolf and adores sex. They share something though : hot tempered when they are together, in words and in bed. And their last encounter resulted in a very nasty fight and break-up.

Being together again brings this all back for them, while they have to deal with an on-going arm-trafficking case and a stalker.

The tension about the stalker was quite good. I wanted to shout at the MCs to open their eyes before it being too late. As for the steam, let's say Charles and Angel have quite some stamina and I'm not one to complain about it.

But the ending...please, dear author, just like with Cadbury's chocolate fingers, gives us a little bit more !!!

Monica Vidal says

This is my first Cordelia's book and oh boy did she delivered. I try to not judge books ONLY by their sex scenes but if I didn't I would give this one a A++ because HOLY SHIT IT WAS HAWT!

Yeah ok, the story was great too. I am beginning to think I might have a thing for Law Enforcement books, cause when I think of my favorite ones they are a variation of the theme.

This one is a lovers-to enemies-to lovers- kinda deal. And who doesn't love angry sex?! Ok. I'll stop with the sex. I liked both main MCs and the secondary characters, plus the plot was interesting. Tho I must say I figured out the mystery pretty quickly.

I liked how the MCs relationship was built over their bad broke up and how both guys owned their responsibilities. I am most definitely going to read more of Cordelia's books. And not just for the sex. I swear! :D

Sheziss says

This was fun.

I expected no less from Cordelia.

The Spanish was awesome. I was close to tears with the proper use of the opening exclamation and interrogation signs (“¡” and “¿”), the syntax with the verb and noun conjugations, the use of accents, and the loving nicknames. That “cielito” made me laugh and swoon in equal parts. It’s not that I’m fond of nicknames themselves but I loved how the author made her homework and wasn’t content with online translators.

And yes, there are lots of Spanish sentences, dialogues and isolated words now and then. Not only because of the Mexican cartel, but also because of some of the “good” characters themselves speaking this language. So maybe it can be a little challenging for non-Spanish speakers but I suppose the general idea is understood.

Also, Ángel with accent! I can’t tell how delighted I’m with this.

Ángel is not an angel at all.

There were a few minor mistakes, though. A few forgotten accents. Just the sort that are easy to overlook if you are not paying attention. Nothing really important. Still, I hope they are corrected once this book is released:

Ángel shrugged. “He also had a wife an several girlfriends It was no threat to his machismo to fuck a man the same way he would a woman.”

Correct word: **machismo**. But I’m not sure if machismo is the proper word in this specific context. I’d say “masculinidad” fits there, too, maybe even better. Above all after this:

Raúl didn’t respect me - his particular concept of masculinity meant he couldn’t treat me as an equal if he was going to fuck me.

Later we have:

¿Como estás?”

“Pues más o menos.”

Correct version: **¿Cómo estás?**

Sometimes names have accents, sometimes they don't. I'm not delighted with this constant changes but in USA accents tend to disappear. Anyway, there was a character (Mexican) who was called "Manuel Juarez", no accent, but then the author mentions "Ciudad Juárez" (Mexican), with accent.

This made me laugh. Hard:

"Fucking Spanish! Says he doesn't like not knowing what they're saying around him. I told him, 'Johnny, those fuckers are gonna come to America, they gotta speak American.' You know?"

Jesus Christ.

My sentiments exactly.

Ángel was undercover in a Mexican cartel. As the toy boy of an important mafioso. Once this mafioso is killed, he's at risk, so he asks for a way out. The team in charge of this mission is Charles's one.

And it's not a nice reencounter.

Charles is black. Ángel is Hispanic. I loved how naturally Cordelia describes the characters. No "coffee skin" or other ambiguous terms, just straight to the point. In my head, Ángel was white, as no further description was provided, with a mischievous glance that makes Charles nervous more often than not. I don't know if I'm wrong but that's how I imagine him. Charles is more serious and tries to keep the distances and the anger awake (he also has the biggest cock Ángel has ever seen, which I think is a cliché, but whatever).

I love how shamelessly Cordelia writes sex scenes. They are porny. Every time I read a book of hers, I know what I will get, and I rub my hands in advance. Dirty talk is mandatory with her. And dirty sex. In fact, I was disappointed there weren't more hot scenes. There should have been more and longer!

Even more, I think this book should have been longer. The love department needed a deeper development. Things are doomed since the very beginning because of a past that none of them can forget nor forgive. So they don't talk, they don't form a bond. They fuck instead. Multiple times. Then the relationship seems finished for good after a Big Revelation, and then all hell breaks loose with the stalker taking the reins of the situation.

At this stage of the story, the MCs find out that nothing really matters, only them together. Because of the danger and the oh-my-god-you-almost-died vibes, everything is "solved". I feel the book should have dedicated a few chapters to the "after", to the "re-bonding", the "getting to know each other for real". But that didn't happen. Or happened off-stage.

The mystery part was weak. I suck in mysteries but I figured who the baddie was once this character's good

façade makes an appearance. A pity.

So, it was an entertaining read. Not the best by Cordelia, but good enough to hold my attention until the very end.

Pics:

(view spoiler)

Team Review with Adam and Cupkita!

****Copy provided by the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.****

Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

Edited to add 3/12/18

Gross. I feel like an asshat for raving about how well her & her editor worked together now so I'm striking all that out.

Group Review!

4.25 Hearts

Long ago when I was but a mini Cupcake and we still *bought* our Christmas trees *gasp* my parents let me (within reason) pick them out. I loved this part of the holidays. One year I picked the most amazing tree; it was fluffy without gaps and it smelled heavenly. Were I the dendrophiliac kind of Cupcake I would've given this tree my number; it was a good looking tree, I tell ya. After we put the lights, garland, ornaments and tree topper on it was dazzling though. I still remember that tree. And that is the best way I can describe *Can't Hide From Me*. ~~The original version was really good but the editing made it shine. Why god, why?~~

I read the original when CK was writing it and I had... issues that made me... animated at times. Mostly the so called professional behavior of the two protagonists, but I still gave that version 3.5 stars with the caveat that I'd reread it in one go and see if that changed my experience any. Then Riptide optioned it before I got a

chance to download it.

~~I have to say whomever CK worked with they make a good team. All the things that I took issue with in the original were either omitted or expounded upon in logical and believable ways.~~ *barf* In my experience, feds are meticulous planners and are partner/team oriented not reckless or impulsive. Not only were those things addressed but the dynamics and page time with the team were enhanced. I enjoyed the time spent with them and having those characters fleshed out more added positively to the narrative. I can always count on CK to write strong female characters and have a wide diversity of characters that aren't carbon copies or recycled.

There is a lot of water under the Charles and Ángel bridge. I feel like their back story was infused with more emotion in this version. Each of them have depth and getting inside both of their psyche's showed me just how deep the hurt they've caused one another runs as well as how deep the love between them is. The connection was plain to see in the original, but it's stronger in this version, grander in scope somehow. Both Charles and Ángel are clearer to me as people and what motivates them. Also, I appreciated the attention given to the lasting impact of trauma. The thriller aspect was just as absorbing the second time around and I knew who the culprit was!

One thing that needed no improvement was the off the charts chemistry between them. **Jimmy Crack Corn! Can CK write the sex!** It's dirty and filthy and perfect. Tongue slap your brains out hot. Every time! I don't know how she does it. Adam and I were talking recently about how CK, HC and Hassell should have a sex off. I'd happily volunteer to be front row center for them to reduce us all to quivering, drooling, monosyllabic puddles.

I'm about to make a bold statement so brace yourselves. I think CK could rival the top MM authors in relationship development and that's BEFORE she was published. The evolution of her character's relationships always strikes a chord with me; they're always realistic, lack melodramatic antics and make me invest in the couple. Worldbuilding is certainly in her wheelhouse as is gripping dialogue. *stepping off my fangirl soapbox* But more people should take notice of this author is all I'm trying to say.

I do wish there had been an epilogue but I think I am ~~greedy~~ just wasn't ready to say goodbye to Charles and Ángel yet.

Recommended for mystery/thriller as well as MM romance fans.

An ARC was provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Gaby says

This is one of those times. One of those books. I had very personal reasons for disliking this book and after commenting on what did work for me I will try to go on what I didn't like and explain myself e best I can.

This book tells us the story about Ángel and Charles. Ángel is a Latino who spent a couple of years undercover with a Mexican cartel. Before he left for his undercover job he had a relationship with Charles. They broke up and ended up in quite bad terms, for years they didn't see or hear of each other, but now Charles' team has to rescue a guy from a group of bad guys. That guy is Ángel.

The chemistry between them felt off for the first 30%. I struggled a lot to believe that they were actually attracted to each other, but then things started to get a bit better. In the end I did buy their relationship, and once I understood why things happened the way they did before Ángel left things made a bit more of sense. Not that I applaud it, though. I think there would have been ways to make it work out without being an ass.

Another good thing was the pace of the story, it was good and it kept me entertained.. In spite of all the moments of anger I felt.

And speaking about anger... I had major problems with this book. The book features a huge amount of Latino characters. Some of them are Mexican, and others are Mexican American. At some point it felt like this was the sort of "good Mexican"vs "bad Mexican" kind of book, I'm which,more course, the good Mexicans were mostly Mexican Americans and the bad Mexicans were, of course, the Mexicans. Over and over I read lines like:

* "he's getting in too deep with those Mexicans" - they were talking about the cartel people and drug dealers, but instead of going for "those dealers", the author chose to use the word Mexicans. Because, sure, we are all evil. Did I mention that I am Mexican? No? Well, I am.

* "Johnny, those fuckers are gonna come to America, they gotta speak American" yo, this has to stop. Many people who go to the US are stopped at the border and treated like shit if they don't speak English, and even if they do but don't speak it well. I know this. Trust me. People are stopped and searched and mocked for it.

Those two lines were both said by the same character, so I thought... Well, maybe she's racist. I kept waiting for the MC to stop her. He didn't.

Then, this happened:

The characters are talking about "stupid rules" like don't getting drunk on weeknights or accept rides on motorcycles, and then one of them says this:

* "Don't take off for a weekend in Mexico on the spur of the moment and end up staying with total strangers you met in a bar" then the other mc says "those are stupid rules, except for the last one (the weekend in Mexico) that was an error in judgement on our part" - beeeecaaaaauuuuseee....? Oh yes, people here kill everyone. So yea,pretty unsafe to go around in Mexico and meet strangers. **THEY ARE ALL KILLERS** *takes a pic of her machete and tweets it*.

It's all good until a scene involves a bit about Mexico and/or Mexican characters. The Mexican Americans are okay, the Mexicans are not. And that, is racist. Period. Not once a character mentions anything good about Mexico. Nothing. Not once a character mentions someone kind they met in Mexico. Nope. It's all horrible and awful and unsafe and guns and drugs and blood.

Mexico is a beautiful country. It's not perfect. It has many things that I wish were different, but every single country has things that its people wished they were different. And, honestly, if you are writing about a country that isn't yours and you can't think of one single positive thing to mention in your book. **DON'T**

FUCKING WRITE IT.

Is that all? No. It's not. See, Ángel had an affair with the head of the Mexican cartel. The cabezilla, fell in love with Ángel, and Ángel knew this. Raúl (the cabeza of the cartel) dies. We are told about horrible things he did. I have to give the author that - what she wrote about the inside goings of the cartel read very real. But then Ángel goes and says that despite all the things his ex lover did, he's still human, and maybe not a bad person, and that he was kind... And I just... No. Do you know how many innocent people these guys kill IN REAL LIFE? Tons. They make no difference on age or gender. I have seen people cry because they lost their loved ones because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time. The author could not find one single good thing to say about my country, my culture... But she went and managed to humanize the only asshole that should not be humanized. Not here. Not with all the pain I've seen in my people. No. Don't do that. No.

I wonder if maybe this was because Ángel spent so much time with the cartel that the lines were blurred. That shit happens, I know that and I'm not blind to it... But then, he never quite changed his mind about it. He knew Raúl was evil, but hey he was not that bad. Dude.

Now, the language - the Spanish in the book was mostly okay. There were accents in all the right places... But also, in the wrong ones. Words that do not take an accent took it here, and I didn't know why.. Like.. Huh? There were phrases that were very Mexican, and in a lot of cases they were used correctly, but in other they sounded off. So, yea.

I can't tell people to read or not a book. This is entirely a decision that the reader should make. I see that this book is being recommended as a diverse read with Latino MCs. No. Please, no. If there is one book I don't want people to ever associate with Mexico is this one. If you want to read a book with a brilliant Mexican rep go and read Evenfall by Santino and Ais. Part of that book takes place in Mexico and it is very respectful of my country and my people. If you want to read books with Latino MC's read

1. Aristotle and Dante Discover The Secrets Of The Universe - Mexican characters
2. Sutphin Boulevard - Puerto Rican
3. Cam Girl - Puerto Rican
4. The Brief And Wondrous Life Of Oscar Wao - Dominican and half the book takes place in adoring an Republic
5. Moonlight Becomes You - Puerto Rican
6. The Kiss Of The Spider Woman - Argentine

There are many more but right now they escape me. But please, please, don't let one book shape your idea of a culture. Especially not this book.

** I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review via NetGalley

~Mindy Lynn~ says

4 Stars!

This was a thrilling read. It had everything I really love in a cop book. Complicated characters. Great banter. Great suspense. Action packed. Two hot guys with a past that gave some good sexy scenes. Then of course a heart stopping ending. It was definitely an edge of your seat kind of story. This was my first time reading this

author and you can be sure it won't be my last.

I was so relieved that with these characters having a past and one were they parted on bad terms that I didn't have to suffer through flashbacks. I really liked how the author handled telling us what happened in their past without having to take us there. Sometimes I don't mind the flashbacks, but the majority of the time it takes me out of the present story which just ends up annoying me. So I liked how they talked it out and gave us pieces of their past as the story unfolded.

Charles and Angel are pretty angry with each other. They both are holding on to old hurts. Their relationship doesn't come easy. There is a lot boiling under the surface and it gets pretty tense when these two are together. But when they are alone is when the sparks fly. They forget their not supposed to be falling into bed with one another. They are passionate in their anger as they are between the sheets. The chemistry between these two steams off the pages. If only they can let the past go so they can maybe have a future. Getting there isn't easy and it takes some extreme measures for these men to finally let their walls down and let the other one in.

The stalking was really well done. I really was pretty clueless to who it was. There was handful of suspects but I figured it out before it was revealed. I was thrilled when I was proved right because I usually am bad at figuring out who done it. I won't go into detail about it because I feel like that would give so much away and I don't wanna spoil it for y'all if you haven't read it.

If you're up for a thrilling ride then pick this one up!

Happy reading dolls! xx

Adam says

It's a group review over at the blog!

I've been eagerly anticipating Cordelia Kingsbridge's first published book. Having read a number of her slashfics, I can say without a doubt that this author knows how to tell a story, and how to tell it well.

'Can't Hide from Me' definitely lived up to the expectations!

I was hooked early on. Within the first couple of chapters, we've got danger, high emotions, and sexual tension you could cut through with a knife.

It would be easy to dislike Angel, given what he did to Charles and his very cocky attitude. But I thought the author did a good job of hinting at a more complex character, so I was happy to sit back and find out how the story unfolded before making any snap judgements. Plus, I loved how unapologetic Angel was about his sexuality.

Charles was a lot easier to understand and connect to. He's a simple man who likes a simple orderly life, and tries to avoid drama. He might not have been as exciting or intriguing as Angel, but I got where he was

coming from.

Charles and Angel don't hash out their issues until much later in the book. Instead, they speak through sex, because that's the only time when they're not at each other's' throats. And I have to say - this was some hot sex. It's rough, raw, and just a bit dirty. I approve!

The mystery/thriller kept me very entertained. I had an inkling about what was going on around the halfway point, however the twists and turns still kept me on the edge of my seat. The ending was a bit of a clusterfuck, but I still enjoyed the ride.

It isn't until right at the end that Angel and Charles finally talk and figure out what they want from each other so that they can build a future together. It was emotionally draining, and I might even have sniffled once or twice. I was really happy with the outcome!

Charles and Angel certainly get a happy ending, though it might not be a conventional HEA. But that's okay, because neither of the two are conventional MM romance heroes.

This book has everything I enjoy - a crime mystery that kept me guessing, a complicated romance with two multi-layered MCs, and some scorching hot sex. If you're looking for an action-packed and sexy read, 'Can't Hide from Me' might fit the bill!

Shile says

5 stars for Nick J Russo's narration

3.89 for the story

- It was hot, Charles and Angel had some serious sexual chemistry in bed, but i did not feel that out of bed.

- The mystery was ok, but predictable.

-I liked the side characters.

-The ending was rushed and left me unsatisfied.

Overall, it was an enjoyable read/listen.

Lyn says

3.5 stars round down because the last chapter felt rushed and the ending was unsatisfactory. A follow up novella would be nice.

Charles and Angel...I had a tough time liking these guys for most of the book. I couldn't understand why Charles would get upset about Angel being with other people, if he wasn't willing to come out. I also couldn't understand why Angel, who is openly gay, would want to be with someone who didn't want to come out. The push and pull between these two frustrated me to no end. As the story continues, and communication happens, I started to understand and like them. Unfortunately, it happens when shit hits the fan, so I didn't get to enjoy them as a couple.

As for the crime/mystery part of the story, there were parts that were suspenseful, but mostly, I found it predictable and boring at times.

Jaime says

This was a great book! Just another example of Kingsbridge wicked and brilliant mind with the stories she weaves! Loved it! I had an idea who the "bad guy" was but it didn't even make the book less enjoyable - I loved the reveal and the craziness that ensued!

What does it say about me that I am happiest when enthralled in a twisted book, with crazy characters?

5 stars!

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(..•'(..•`*Review Copy provided by Riptide Publishing in exchange for an honest review.

Reviewed by Jaime from Alpha Book Club

Lena♥Ribka says

I was looking forward to read my first Cordelia Kingsbridge, and maybe because her books are very popular and have a very high average rating my expectations were set accordingly high. I don't know who is to blame for my disappointment, the expectations or the book itself, but I am not eager to read immediately more by this author.

What I liked:

The beginning.

That was well done, and the story was really promising, including the suspense tension!

SEX was pretty hot. If you like dirty talk....*grin*

What I didn't like:

Charles Hunter and Ángel Medina as a couple. SEX between them was well written and HOT, but they are a bad match. IMO.

Ángel Medina as an ATF agent: Very unprofessional and/or because he can't control his testosterone excess - steadily excessively horny.

The mystery part was ridiculous. And the way EVERYONE acted was - sorry I have to use this word again - very unprofessional. I deeply hope that our state security agencies are much better in their job, otherwise I have to fear for our safety.

A predictable outcome. What normally not that important to me, if it is logical and well performed, but it was not the case here.

Copy provided by the Publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Karen Wellsbury says

I got a copy of this book from Netgally.

When I read something that is problematic for me I either launch straight into a review while it's fresh on my mind, or I sit on it. I sat on this for a while.

I looked at other reviews, and no one seemed to have the same issues as I did, so I thought maybe I read too much into it, my head was in the wrong place, then Gaby read it, and we talked over the things that bothered me so I decided I should review it.

So...the writing is good technically I guess, and the covers nice plus the book starts off OK, Charles gets good page time and his character seems well rounded, distant perhaps but he's got a stressful job. The Angel comes onto/ back onto the scene. Charles and Angel have a Past and it Did Not End Well, but Angel's been undercover and is frankly messed up. The obvious happens and off we go into what should have been some action adventure hurt comfort real love, which is nice.

But, there were 3 things that bothered me:

- I found a sexualised glorification of violence in this book, that made it very hard to read, its not overt, but it's there, the relationship between Charles and Angel was also too angry at times.
- there is a casual racism to the book that also disturbed me, as if the majority of Mexicans are bad or drug barons, and given what's happening in our world right now I think I picked up on this more than I would have if I'd read this a year ago. For a much more in depth, and better review that deals with this check out Gaby's review
- the characters, who are both intelligent articulate educated people don't talk to each other, OK some

reticence is natural, but I found this was just artificial.

Overall I felt that I good writer took a promising idea, and wrote to stereotypes in both the plot and the characters

Annery says

4.5

When I need of something good I can always count on Cordelia Kingsbridge and she didn't disappoint. She doesn't know how to write cookie cutter characters and combined with an AB by Nick J. Russo? **KRYPTONITE.**

As usual CK delivered a story populated by diverse characters, strong women, and unapologetically sexual beings. Brava! The icing on the cake is a great suspense story where I didn't have to do a total suspension of disbelief. Only a bit.

Charles Hunter and Ángel Medina are ATF agents whose **burn-the-sheets** affair ended badly. Spectacularly so. Two years later Charles is on a "routine" extraction mission of an agent who has been undercover in a Mexican cartel and of course it turns out to be Ángel. Once these two reconnect there is no force that can keep them apart. Not past recriminations, not work restrictions, not crazy stalkers. The connection is too strong and CK does a great job of showing it on page.

"Fucking Angel yesterday hadn't gotten him out of Charles's system. If anything, he'd burrowed deeper inside, coursing through Charles's blood like the first hit of heroin after two years clean, all the more potent for having gone so long without. Charles had lost his tolerance."

I loved that though Ángel felt betrayed by and still carried a torch for Charles he didn't cease acting on his sexual appetite, even in situations where others might disapprove. I liked that he's a make lemonade kind of guy doing the best he could with the shitty hand he was dealt. I love his resilience and his sense of humor. I'm more than a little in love with him. There were aspects of their previous relationship that could've easily been resolved by that thing called "talking" but we know that's not always easy. I can see them having a long happy future together.

I loved that though both MCs were other than white it wasn't a belabored part of the story. It was just a fact of life that is normal for anyone who lives in XXIst Century America or the world at large.

My only niggle is with these omnipotent and omniscient villains who seem to populate fiction. I find them annoying and exhausting.

Bo says

Let me preface this by saying I really wanted to like this book. I don't want to give any spoilers away so I am listing only 2 reasons why this wasn't for ME. I have no doubt it will be a fantastic read for others, so please don't let my review dissuade you.

1. I knew who the stalker/killer was right away. I mean the moment of the character's introduction.
2. I hate when TRAINED law enforcement officers do dumb shit. I expect it out of civilians, but I expect more from them. I don't mean small mistakes, but REALLY dumb shit.

I have many more reasons, but they would spoil the story.

Simone says

'Reread' via audiobook October/November 2018: Ángel's accent is to die for! Great job, Nick J. Russo, great job!

Original review:

*****4.5*****

My initial thoughts about this book:

At the beginning, I was just waiting for Tom Cruise to pop up and the Mission Impossible theme playing in the background. ;-) Soon, though, it felt more like an episode of Criminal Minds and since I'm a fan of both (of the latter more than of the former), I enjoyed every minute of this story.

I simply love the writing style of this author and after finishing her free stories Close Protection and Control, which she unfortunately removed from the internet, I could not get my grabby hands on this book fast enough. I dropped everything else for it and it was so worth the wait... As for me, the author did another great job with this book.

I always felt adventurous. Umm... only in my head and dreams, of course. ;-) After reading this book, I'm so glad to have a boring, but safe office job. Living the life of an undercover agent, constantly living in fear of getting your cover blown up in your face, sometimes being forced to carry it to extremes and do *everything* to survive (sleeping with the enemy just being one of your problems), only to get back to your fellow agents where you have to prove you have not gone rogue? Your life will never be the same again and you have to struggle to get back to 'normal'? Urgh, thank you very much.

After two years undercover in a Mexican drug cartel, ATF agent Ángel Medina needs to get extracted from this organization ASAP and finds himself face to face with his former colleague and lover Charles Hunter. Both had an – hmm, let's say – rather explosive relationship...

Charles glanced sideways, watching Ángel curled up comfortably on his couch, barefoot and wearing Charles's T-shirt. How could he have ever talked himself into believing this was going to work? He'd never been able to spend any length of time in Ángel's company without fucking him, fighting with him, or doing both simultaneously. Ángel had set Charles on fire the moment they'd met, and while those flames had banked and flared over the years, they'd never been extinguished.

... that ended in a clusterfuck with Ángel leaving for his assignment subsequently. There is a good portion of guilt and stubbornness left on both sides, what makes it quite difficult to talk things out and solve their issues in the first place. But the mutual attraction and whatever they feel for each other is still there...

He and Ángel kept acting like they'd ended things with that blowout fight. Since Ángel had left so abruptly afterward, though, the truth was that they'd just pressed Pause.

... and of course, both can't keep their hands off of each other for long.

Phew, and the author *can* write hot sex scenes, I'll give her that...

But as soon as the sparks fly and they are drawn to each other, the moment passes as quickly as it came and they are driven apart once again in a heartbeat, with Charles being a closeted case and their lack of willingness to forgive each other getting in the way.

Add a stalker to the mix who pursues Ángel at every turn and who seems to be constantly one step ahead, and things are getting out of control very fast. The stalker seems to escalate more and more and so does Ángel and Charles's relationship. And when Charles finally gets to the point to admit his feelings for Ángel to himself and that he might be the only person who makes his life worth living, it's almost too late.

I loved Ángel from his first appearance, but I had a few problems with Charles *Never Charlie* (this introduction really says it all ;-)) at the beginning. I could not really warm up to his somewhat cold and detached personality and that's the reason why I gave this book only 4.5 stars instead of 5. But he grew on me and at the end I really liked him and loved the way how understanding he became to give Ángel his much needed space.

If you love a great mystery romance with a story that is action-packed and biting-your nails thrilling, that has you almost constantly on the edge of your seat, with an at the same time hot and vulnerable hero, read this book!!!
