



First Contact

Alex Gabriel

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Going undercover in a gay BDSM club run by the mob isn't Rick Delaney's idea of a good time – but for all the wrong reasons.

Sure, going undercover in a gay BDSM club run by the mob isn't exactly an everyday assignment. Still, as a cop specializing in undercover work, Rick Delaney is used to tough gigs. The real issue is that Rick's expected to go under with someone he barely knows. But Rick's partner is suspended, and he doesn't have a choice.

Newly transferred detective Jon Messina's short a partner, too, except that his was murdered by the mafia. Jon may seem breezy and lighthearted, but he has a score to settle. And to do so, he's willing to do whatever it takes.

Except that it may take more than either of them can afford. Because their cover as a dom and sub couple spins out of control the minute they set foot into mafia-controlled sex club Gomorrah. What should be mere pretense threatens to become desperately real. And if Rick can't control his desires, he's going to get them both killed.

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From Reader Review First Contact for online ebook

Sunny says

[alcoholism runs in my family and scenes like that always brings back memories I wish I

Adrienne -kocham czyta?- says

Super intense, involved scenes throughout the book. Few books have created such a strong sense of place and feeling for me to be able to sink into the MC's body and mind so fully, and to be so absolutely focused on just one other person. The BDSM and sex scenes are like there is no one else around, even though they are in a club full of people watching and becoming aroused, because Rick and Jon are so extremely attuned and centered on each other, that it is only *just them* during those scenes. It was amazing and beautiful and arousing as hell!

Loved the plot (although it was unfinished--sequel? *perks up and smiles hopefully*), loved Rick and Jon and their chemistry and that I could see and feel it all, loved the scenes, loved the frantic pacing that the writing style created, loved the characters' voices...hmm, yup, **really** enjoyed this one!

ηηηησρηηηα {ηηηηηηηη & ηηηηηηηηηηηη} says

...

Just, brilliant.... with that Ty & Zane ring to it. Whahoohoo.

Tess says

I liked this a lot. It's got a different feel to it which I love (I don't think people do want to read the same thing over and over again) and it's very, very steamy! I found the present tense awkward at first, but it grew on me as the story progressed. I'm very excited for the sequel ... hopefully Mr. Gabriel doesn't make us wait too long!

Barb ~rede-2-read~ says

Note: This book was provided to me by the author through the DBML Program in exchange for an honest review.

Detective Rick Delaney and his newly assigned partner Jon Messina are assigned an undercover operation at a gay BDSM club. Ostensibly, they are going in to bust up a crime family, but in reality, most of the story centers around prepping for the visit, the visit itself, and getting through the aftermath of what happens.

And what happens is an extremely graphic, extremely well-written, hot, sexual tension-riddled interaction between the two men that ultimately seals their partnership in more ways than one.

Considering the fact that they barely know each other as the story opens, and Rick was pretty resentful of getting a new partner after his regular partner was suspended, when the two get together as pseudo-Dom and sub, their chemistry is off-the-wall. Without dwelling on just how hot that chemistry is, I caution that personal fans should be kept nearby. Just sayin'.

I did like the characters, and I believe the setup for an ongoing series is in place as the two will likely need to try to resolve the death of Jon's former partner who was killed by a crime family in Chicago, as well as solve the current case their captain has assigned them.

The story is fairly short, leaves the two men with the promise of a HFN, if not a HEA, and is just one of the most smokin' hot stories I've read in a long time, and I read a lot of stories! The BDSM is very mild, limited to a cock cage, vibrator, and swing in the club itself so if you have never read one, this is a good place to start.

I recommend it to all who like alpha men, a buildup of sexual tension, and explicit sex with a twist of BDSM and undercover police work. Yummy!

Borderstar says

Wow, this one packed a punch for under 100 pages! Laughs, hot sex, feelz...and did I say hot sex? :P

I have to admit, I'm not normally one for shorter stories, as I prefer the depth you get with a longer book, but I REALLY wanted to read this one anyway, as I love the other works I've read by Alex Gabriel so far. I did think that it was a little difficult to build up much of a picture of any of the characters because of the length, especially the secondary characters, but we still got a really good impression of Rick, our main narrator, and I LIKED him! :) In fact, I was surprised quite how fast I felt like we knew him, despite not really knowing THAT much about him. I did feel that I wanted to know a lot more about Jon, as the other main character, so I was a little disappointed we didn't get more of his back story – but from what we see, he seemed to fit well with Rick.

I guess thinking back on it, I had a couple of other niggles, but again they were kind of related/constrained by the length of the read – for instance the main case doesn't get wrapped up/there's really no progress on it during this story at all, and there were a couple of plot points that were introduced but then either dropped or we didn't find out anything much about them. What happened to (view spoiler). However, I tried to see this more as a short glimpse/window into the lives of these guys, rather than a whole story – with the case and

everything else really taking a back seat to Rick & Jon being undercover in the BDSM club and all this entailed. In that way it worked and I'm just hoping that this will be the first in a series of little glimpses!

The humour woven through this was great – I don't know why I didn't expect it, but for some reason I hadn't considered there was going to be that element in this, so it was a good surprise. I love Alex Gabriel's humour. This wasn't as laugh out loud hilarious as Love for the Cold-Blooded, or The Part-Time Evil Minion's Guide to Accidentally Dating a Superhero but it was still there, running through a lot of the story.

And oh my god, these guys were SCORCHING hot together. I stupidly decided to read this through a break at work and had to stop, lol! ;) Alex writes some seriously HOT sex scenes, that's for sure!! The descriptions are so real, you feel completely caught up in them.

It incorporates BDSM from a different angle to the normal stuff I read too – i.e. the guys are supposed to be undercover cops, and from what we are shown, BDSM clubs are really not meant to be the kind of thing they are used to, but they seem to fall into their roles very believably anyway! There was one thing I am a little conflicted over - (view spoiler) This is normally the kind of thing I don't like, but I just kind of went with it, and it was fine.

I loved the way the author described some of the thoughts that run through Rick's mind during times when he is experiencing high emotions – his thoughts are all kind of jumbled and passionate and it really gives you a good impression of how he's feeling – raw and emotional and slightly out of control almost.

“He feels fierce, helpless, filled up, spilling over with emotions fiery and uncontrollable and tender and wild, too much for any one person to contain, and centred entirely on the man in his arms.”

Rick's kind of surly and private, but a big softie inside – he's also not very good at using his words out loud! I'm really hoping Alex creates more in this world so we can see more of these guys together and learn more about Jon.

Overall this was burning hot, funny and at the same time there were glimpses of something more tender...there was just no ending to anything, and I would definitely love to read more in this 'verse!

PS: Oooooooooo, I've read on Alex's blog that there's a potential sequel to this in the works, so yeay!! :) Definitely 4 stars knowing there's more to come!

This book was provided for free by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Susan says

3.5 stars

There were a lot of things I really liked about this one. And I would gladly have given this 4 or 5 stars if it wasn't for the ending. Because there was no ending.

Likes:

- The guys were great. I loved Rick's snarky remarks and the friendly banter between Rick and Jon.

Rick kneels down and leans against Messina's leg. Like this is such a big thing? He can be cuddly and sexy and submissive. But when he looks up at Messina to try some smouldering, Messina's watching him all wide-eyed and doubtful. (..)

"Uhm," says Messina. "Not that your own special brand of aggressive submission isn't entertaining, Delaney, but I'm afraid that you have flunked the test."

- HOT HOT HOT BDSM times. Voyeuristic people pay attention!

He hooks a finger into the D-ring at Jon's collar, and when he tugs, Jon lifts up and turns, straddles him in a single smooth movement. Jon's mouth opens to him with no hesitation; Rick runs possessive hands down his back as they kiss, and Jon presses closer until he's molded against Rick from chest to groin. Jon's thighs tense around Rick's waist and Jon pushes back into the touch, so Rick slides a hand up to the small of Jon's back, slips underneath his waistband and onto bare skin.

- I loved that the taller Jon was submissive to the shorter Rick. No stereotyping, yay!

- I really got into the story and I would have loved to see how everything developed. The relationship, the being partners, the case they were working on, everything.

And that brings me to the dislikes:

- I didn't like the fact that Rick let (view spoiler)

- This book ended in the middle of the story! Nothing is resolved. Not the case, not their relationship, nothing. I was just getting warmed up!

3.5 stars it is.

Elizabetta says

4.5 stars

First— Don't let the blurb fool you (or the present tense narrative put you off). Yeah, we've read it before... cops go undercover in a BDSM/sex club trying to bust the bad guys running it. And at least one of the cops discovers that he likes the b/d/s or m part much more than he ever thought possible... But this one... In this one, the sexual heat between *these* two cops is so off the charts. The author knows just how to describe the turn on and ramp it up with style, all the while threading in the wrongness of it all. 'Cause these cops lose sight of where to draw the line between 'work' and 'play'.

His mouth is open slightly, soft, inviting. The sheen of sweat on his skin makes him glow golden in the dim light, like something out of legend-- a creature of pure carnality and seduction.

Most of the hotness takes place in the BDSM club so there's public sex and voyeurism (and a scene on a swing that you won't soon forget). If that's not your thing, stay far away. If it is... what are you waiting for? One of the best one-handed reads written by a sure hand. (Ok, pun intended.)

Second— There's gotta be more to this. (view spoiler) Please, please, please let the next installment come asap.

Also— Check out the wonderful story this writer did for the 2015 DRitC/LOR Event, Still Waters. Think merman... So different, so well done. Highly recommend that one too.

Optimist ?King's Wench? says

I realize that this may be a bit cliché coming from me so let me back this claim up with a little story. I'm reading this at work. It's short. I figure I can knock it out right quick and get back to whatever. I got so engrossed in their second scene together at Gomorrah that I actually forgot I was at work then someone knocked on my door. I was so fashizzled that it took me a minute to (a) process what it was they were saying to me and (b) try and school my features like I hadn't gotten caught reading porn. Thankfully, my office was a little dim so she couldn't tell I was flushed and I'm fairly certain my eyes were glassy.

That's what I mean by HOT, HOT, HOT!

U period N period F period

What made it so hot was this author's prowess in the visually evocative department. In the beginning felt like it moved at a glacial pace due to all the description and I was thinking it would be maybe 3 hearts but around the 40-50% mark things shifted. Rick began describing how he saw Jon, how he looked beautiful and debauched after Rick had his way with him, biting him and clamping him, in his cock cage and all spread out before him, eyes full of lust and needing. You know how I feel about cages and needing.

INSERT HOT ADOMMY GIF THAT WON'T POST TO GR B/C GR IS LAME (blog only)

The kink isn't heavy, mostly D/s and some light bondage but there is a possible trigger-sharing. It fit within the context of the scene and probably with their case, but it'll probably be off-putting for some. If you're avoiding this because of the mystery/cops/thriller aspect, don't. The case is thin and essentially just an excuse to put Jon and Rick into a BDSM club with a bunch of kinky mobsters and forge their relationship as partners with benefits.

There were two things that I found odd and/or lacking which were the writing style at the beginning of the book is strange. It's almost third person omniscient or Rick's talking about himself in the third person, very jarring, but evolves into Rick's perspective. Also, I would've liked more backstory on both characters.

PLEASE GOD TELL ME THERE WILL BE A SEQUEL!!!

I needz.

Recommend to fans of kinky smut.

A review copy was provided in exchange for an honest review.

Tanu Gill says

I think my friends and other reviewers have pretty much covered every aspect of the story, so I'm sure I won't have anything new to add. So here's to an attempt at it! ;)

The author's writing in this book was simply sensuous. We didn't just experience it all as if it were happening in front of us, the lazy, lust-filled actions were felt by us too. And it was so amazing. It was like a pot simmering on the stove. On the surface, you don't see as many ripples as you would on a high boiling water, but there are ripples deep down, and even more influential.

Yes, as my friends said, the case(s) was unresolved, so I would love to read a sequel. It would be even better to get to know both Jon and Rick more, especially after reading the last chapter.

Bitchie says

Holy hell, please tell me there's going to be a sequel to this!

I'm not much for BDSM, particularly the club type that was, but this was great. Sure, the case(s) weren't solved, and I'd like to know if Fitz was ok, so hopefully, there's a sequel coming.

Gigi says

Public sex ~~freaks~~ fans, rejoice! This story includes a big scene starring our two MC undercover police officers at a BDSM club.

I was pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed this short story by new author Alex Gabriel. The blurb sucked me in and managed to deliver an interesting, hot story. Not a whole lot was resolved and we didn't learn much about the characters, but that is the downfall of any short story.

I'm going to **recommend** this one for my fellow M/M BDSM fans. I'd love to see more of these boys!

Amy says

Four stars for the hot-as-hell club scene alone! The D/s scene was delicious! A weak/unresolved plot and entirely too short of a book along with the WTH ending but the characters alone made up for it. Did I

mention the club scene? Yeah, that's worth the read alone. All I can say is I want more of these guys! Alex Gabriel I hope you are writing!

Annery says

*****Giddy Applause*****

Here's to buying books just based on pretty covers. I got this for no other reason than that I liked the simple yet beautiful cover. It turns out that this is smoking hot fun. Just what I needed to wipe away the sour taste of a bad read.

The pretext of the book is two newly paired cops going undercover as a Dom/sub couple in a BDSM club where the mob is doing business so ... yeah ... umm ... just go with it. The probabilities of any of this being possible are irrelevant. What matters is Rick & Jon and their page singeing chemistry.

I couldn't tell you with any certainty exactly what was being investigated or who the bad guys were and I don't care. If you're not a BDSM fan you're in luck because there's really minimal play. Mostly some D/s done within the context of the undercover operation and one bondage public sex scene with a bit of what could be considered sharing. (view spoiler) I enjoyed this perhaps more than is seemly and I don't care.

I loved Rick and his inner monologues, how he's at a loss for words even in his own head but feels utterly right once he and Jon are in the club. He feels free and almost compelled to pursue his desire. Jon remains a bit of a cypher, utterly sexy, but mysterious.

Even though the writing suffers from some odd choices in narrative voice I gave it a pass. What brought this down a notch for me is the fact that there is no second book to follow up with all of the threads left dangling in this one. Jon has transferred from Chicago to Rick's precinct and the reasons seem interesting and something worth pursuing. Likewise the story of Rick's former partner or the sub who is a scion of a mob family or the cruel Dom/Mob boss with whom Rick and Jon have "words". All of these are just left in limbo. I sort of knew, going by the length of the book, that they wouldn't be resolved within this installment but to have no follow up is just cruel. BDSM indeed.

Reflection says

First Contact is hot as hell. The sex scenes between the two main characters are visceral and engaging and entirely convincing that the reader is immersed in the thoughts and feelings of undercover cop Rick. This is voyeuristic erotica at its best.

The writing is hypnotic and deftly captures the scattered thoughts of Rick Delaney. He is expected to go undercover with newly transferred detective Jon Messina. Both men are dealing with personal issues, Jon's previous partner was murdered by the mafia; and Rick's partner is currently suspended.

The story is told in the third person from Rick's perspective, as they create an identity as a D/s couple in Gomorrah, a mafia-controlled sex club, and begin to mingle with the potentially deadly clients.

'Words have always been a problem for Nick' we are told, and yet he is clearly bright and intelligent and entirely swamped by feelings of lust and attraction.

Rick needs to keep his wits about him, but feels his professionalism is sorely tried because of his unexpected passion for Jon whom he barely knows. He worries that they must appear convincing, but that he may be stepping over the line (especially as he has taken the role of Dom in the pairing) and they have limited chance to discuss and agree what happens next once they enter Gomorrah's threshold.

He struggles with his desires especially when he and Jon are so closely scrutinised by other players in the club and a wrong move could get them both killed. The sexual tension is high and the chemistry between the protagonists rockets.

'...Jon meets Rick's gaze for just a moment. He's not smiling, but somehow weirdly, he manages to look like he's grinning from the inside...'

Their sexual encounter at the club is explosive and the way each of them deal with the consequences was fascinating and unexpected for me.

This book would have shot to a place on my favourites shelf except for the issue that it feels incomplete. The eroticism is brilliant but other story threads woven throughout are forgotten - no further details on their investigation. No update on Nick's partner. No resolution on Jon's murdered partner.

My hope is that the series will continue and each of these details will be addressed. In which case I will gladly bump my rating up to five stars and give First Contact a warm welcome to my favourites shelf. I would like much, much more of Rick and Jon.

** I was provided with a complimentary copy by the author in exchange for an honest review as part of the Male/Male Romance group's Don't Buy My Love event **
