



# Fired

*Cora Brent*

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**Fired** Cora Brent

**In this fiery series debut from *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author Cora Brent, a workplace romance might prove too hot to handle.**

Still reeling from a nasty divorce, Melanie Cruz's pride takes another beating when she loses her enviable job at an upscale resort. After a flurry of unsuccessful interviews, she finally—desperately—accepts a job managing a small chain of family-owned pizzerias in a quaint downtown Phoenix neighborhood. The job also comes with Dominic Esposito, her overbearing but ridiculously handsome boss. Falling for him might be the last thing she expects, but maybe it's the one thing she needs.

As hard as they try to resist, Melanie and Dominic embark on a romance as hot as a brick oven, and Melanie has every reason to believe that maybe, this time, she's finally found “the one.”

But Dominic has a secret—one even his family doesn't know. And the scandal could threaten everything he and Melanie have worked for...in business *and* in love.

## Fired Details

Date : Published October 31st 2017 by Montlake Romance

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Author : Cora Brent

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## From Reader Review Fired for online ebook

### April Symes says

Fired is book 1 in a new series called Worked Up by Cora Brent. Dominic is determined to bring his family restaurant back to its #1 status, where it used to be. Dominic and Melanie first meet when Dominic's brother hires her to work for them and it's very apparent that there is a sizzling chemistry between them and sparks begin to fly. Melanie has come to Dominic and his brother after having been fired from her other job that she was fantastic at and the firing left her feeling displaced. She is also reeling because she has just gone thru a horrible divorce. Now she is starting over with a new job , in a new place, and her new job she will manage a small chain of family-owned pizzerias in a downtown Phoenix neighborhood. Dominic as Melanie's boss was awesome , for he didn't know what to make of Melanie. Dom cannot stand the fact that he is highly intrigued and attracted to his newest employee and he was adamant that he would never cross that line of the boss/employee relationship and take it a step further yet he continued to pursue Melanie and they continued to do that dance all couples do who are afraid to take things further yet so badly want to... So finally they give in to the pulsing desires they are both feeling and they end up agreeing to keep their "relationship" a secret. What they don't realize is others are so aware that Dominic and Melanie like each other A LOT and that they have something going on, so it really isn't worth it to keep it a secret because others are more aware than they think. See Dom is the classic Dominant – one who has to control everything. And he has this secret... one that is going to blow up in his face if he doesn't tell anyone about it. So he blows hot and cold with Melanie. Dominic is so sexy, intelligent, loves his family , mysterious, alpha male to a T. Yet he doesn't see the forest for the trees at times. Melanie is a good woman, strong, intelligent, faithful, sweet yet has been dealt some rough blows in her young life of recent and she is just looking for that place that can be her port from the storm, and she believes she has found it, believes she has found her MR. Right even though Dominic does this push/pull with Melanie.

What happens to Dom and Melanie when the secret comes out? This is an emotional, angsty, passionate, steamy romance read which was a great read and I enjoyed every moment. I loved reading about the main characters and even the secondary characters . I look forward to the next book in the series.

My Rating: 4.5 stars \*\*\*\*\*

"I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*

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### Lisa McIntire says

4.5-5

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### Jos says

4.5 Nearly Perfect Stars:)

OK, can I say that I had been DYING to read this and when it went on sale recently I snatched it FAST!!!!!!!!!!

It was everything that I had hoped it would be for sure:) I LOVED the writing, storyline, the characters, Dom and Melanie were FANTASTIC characters and I adored the secondary characters. My only wish is that we could have had a story on Gio and Tara BEFOREHAND but hey, they were THAT great of a couple that I had wished for more on them. The storyline flowed beautifully, slowly, sexually charged before and after they get together, it was done just right.

The backstory on both of them was heartbreaking at times and yet it made them THAT much more of their connection so beautiful. The storyline surrounding Donna, the grandmother was absolutely touching, I mean I cried some heavy tears, simply fantastic job by this author!!!!!!

OK, so why not 5 Stars, hmmm, it wasn't anything major and nothing truly "bad" so to speak, I guess I had some personal issues with the "Beth" storyline....I just didn't "like" it or really "buy" it and honestly I have to say I really didn't see that coming either, kudos to the author for keeping that element of surprise tucked away but for me I had wished it was a different twist, again, thats just me.

I can't wait for the next story and to be honest before I read who it would be on I was actually disappointed that Lucy, Melanie's sister wasn't the star heroine, lol. I really thought that she would be featured with either Jason OR even the cousin Steve now that he's back lol. Well, I guess I can be hopeful for her story, hehehe!!!!

All in all a near PERFECT story for me:) I loved it!!!!!!

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### **Anna says**

\*\*\*ARC received from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Since I've discovered her, I've been a fan of Cora Brent's books. When I was given the opportunity for an early read I was ALL IN. I wish I could say I loved this as much as I wanted to. I didn't NOT like it but I felt it was missing that reader connection between me and the hero/heroine. For much of the book the push and pull Dominic had about Melanie and the "secret" left me feeling disconnected and not as invested as I like to be in a romance. And once the "secret" was out my first thought was "that's it?".

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### **Kodie Mackay says**

Feeling all kinds of mixed signals in Cora Brent's latest release.

I love the humour laced through this story and I really enjoyed the fresh take on the o'l sleeping with the boss storyline. It definitely has Cora's stamp on it. The plot was pretty decent and it's written well with a good mixture of emotions and a smoking hot slow burning build up of sexual tension.

Melanie starts the book in a bit of a pickle. Having been fired from her job through no fault of her own, doing a job she wasn't even employed for.. my heart went out for her. I enjoyed her as a character, I liked that she had her crazy melt downs because it made her super relatable. She was funny and sweet and a all round pretty likeable character.

Dominic is your typical brooding alpha asshole. Short tempered, he had that love to hate attitude that has you wanting to kiss and throttle him all at the same time. A wall build a mile high around him and so many regrets and skeletons in the closet he can't see what's standing right in front of him. Running himself into the ground trying to finish the second restaurant on time for the opening, a distraction was definitely not what he needed nor wanted when Melanie strutted in the door.

Now my issue with this story is that I didn't connect to them as a couple therefore the romance was at a blank for me. The foreplay went on so long!. I felt like they didn't really know if they wanted eachother and it made it hard for me to be excited when they did eventually get together. I've never had this issue with any of the previous stories I have read by this author so it shocked me. I also wasn't a fan of Dom's brother. He came across a whiny tool who didn't even give Dom the chance but instead always expected the worse acting like the disappointed parent instead of his brother.

I love all of Cora's previous books that I have read, I don't dislike this it just didn't click for me is all. That's not to say I didn't enjoy a lot of the story... there's a lot of well placed funny entertaining moments. I enjoyed it ok it just wasn't my favourite of hers so far.

I kindly received this ARC from netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Lorie says**

67%... I need a break. This took off from the start and had my undivided attention but now my interest in waning. :(

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### **nick says**

I was excited to try Fired out because it featured a restaurateur and a pizzeria at the center. I'm all for foodie romances as it combines two of my favorite things. How could I say no to that? I'm sad to say though, this book wound up falling flat for me. I had a hard time connecting to any of the characters as they were very much one-dimensional. Melanie was a typical spunky heroine, while Dominic was the gruff douche. They were lacking in layers, in my opinion, which made them both very forgettable. I also didn't think there was much chemistry between the two of them. Even the sex scenes fell really flat for me, and I wound up skimming them as they bored me. I think the only reason I kept pushing through the book was because of the actual pizzeria, and because I really liked Dominic's bond with his brother. Other than that, I can't remember much from Fired. It's a shame though because if the book had been executed a bit more differently, this could have been a really fun boss-employee romance! But hey, we can't love them all, so I'm fine with not loving this one! If you're curious though I recommend giving it a try!

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### **Mandy says**

I really enjoyed this boss/employee romance. Dominic is trying to revive the family restaurant business with his brother and they're opening a second location. Melanie recently lost her job and is looking for something else when her friend suggests her for the position at a new restaurant. From the moment Dominic and

Melanie meet, there are sparks and insane chemistry. Dominic won't touch an employee but there's something special about Melanie and he can't resist her. I really liked that these two actually got to know each other before anything sexual happened between them. They had a great connection and I liked both characters a lot. Dominic could be a little rough around the edges but overall he was sweet and kind. Melanie was independent, driven and smart. I really enjoyed this book and can't wait to read more in this series!

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### **Heather says**

I struggled with this book. I didn't feel the connection between Dominic and Melanie, especially in the beginning. We're to believe that from the moment he lays eyes on Melanie, that Dominic is completely taken by her. I just didn't feel this. His avoidance of her didn't make sense because I didn't feel that he was so taken by her. Eventually you feel the attraction, but it's in such a way that you still don't feel get his actions.

The huge "scandal" is really not that huge and really isn't that much of a scandal. I mean yeah it was a sucky thing to do, but the kid was 18 at the time. He was young and stupid. They made a huge deal out of this one small incident that when it was finally revealed was disappointing.

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### **Bookgyrl says**

After getting fired from her job after an unfortunate incident which was not even her fault, Melanie Cruz is happy to find a job as assistant manager at the pizza-restaurants of the Esposito brothers.

Dominic Esposito is working hard on the second restaurant and he and Melanie are both immediately attracted to each other. But Dominic promised his brother Gio to stay away from employees, so Melanie and Dominic suffer a bit from afar. Until... yes ofcourse :-)

I really liked this story about - in essence - family. Melanie has lost her parents and has only one sister. Dominic has been raised by his grandparents and the restaurant for him stands for family values. His family plays a big part in his life and especially his grandmother Donna.

The writing style is flowing and pleasant and I read the whole book in a couple of hours. So it definitely kept my attention. No overdramatics. Just a romantic story of love and family. I give it 5 stars as I enjoyed the storyline and really want to read the next one in the series.

\*\*\* I requested and received an ARC via Netgalley and this is my honest review. \*\*\*

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### **BookSmacked says**

Fired is book 1 in a new series by Cora Brent. I was excited to see this and immediately wanted to read it being a huge fan of her Gentry Boys series.

Dominic is determined to bring his family restaurant back to where it once was. He and his brother Gio want to honor their grandfather as they start a second restaurant and have hired Melanie to help with all the administrative aspects of the business.

Dominic at first comes across as a bit gruff, not very friendly and it's clear that his focus is on the restaurant and he isn't looking for distractions. Melanie comes in and it's an immediate distraction for Dominic. Melanie was sweet and I could tell that she was such a genuinely nice person. At first these two have a bit of a rough time just being around each other. The attraction is there on both parts but he's doing what he can to avoid it by almost being a bit of a jerk.

I liked this storyline, I thought it was cute, I loved the idea of the two brothers carrying on their grandfather's tradition. There were also some moments between Melanie and Dominic that were sweet as they seemed to eventually find a rhythm with each other once they decided to go for it. I had issues however with feeling the relationship between the two of them. I just couldn't quite connect to them as much as I would like.

Overall it was an ok read that had some sweet moments.

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## **Sabrina says**

Get it here:

Amazon US \* Amazon UK

I loved this start to a new series. Dom and Melanie had amazing chemistry and the difference in their personalities was very intriguing. Dom was this growly and quiet character while Melanie was more upbeat and the mix of that worked perfectly with the story. There was also a little angst involved in their relationship which added to how much I enjoyed the story. Definitely a book I would recommend.

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## **Snow says**

I have read several books by Cora Brent some time ago and all I remember is that there was a drama in it...lol, well duh?!

But since I wanted smth light and funny again, after reading the blurb I've decided to give this one a go...

Coming across these lines after reading several pages...

***You're telling me I'm fired."***

***"Yes, your employment has been terminated."***

***Terminated.***

***My mind's eye envisioned my body combusting in a cloud of white smoke, my black pumps remaining behind in some cruel, contemporary Wizard of Oz twist.***

***"That sounds so final."***

***"Yes, I'm afraid it is final."***

***"Son of a bitch."***

***The human resources director's bland, colorless eyes bulged, and his comically tiny mouth pursed into a sour, shriveled O. "Pardon?"***

***"My apologies," I said, standing and trying to gather the invisible shreds of my dignity. "I***

*didn't mean you."*

I found the heroine **Melanie Cruz** sassy & hilarious as she dealt with the disastrous fallout of her latest employment...

I looked forward to some more of that...

And even though, there were in fact, several more comedic situations, it was more of a **romance drama with a slice of a forbidden relationship trope** rather than the rom/com I was expecting...

All in all, a solid read!

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## **Irene says**

4 stars

Fired by Cora Brent is a beautifully written and entertaining read.

I enjoyed the storyline, it was easy to follow, held my interest all throughout and I loved watching Melanie and Dominic's relationship unfold.

This was a lovely, heartwarming read and I highly recommend it.

Looking forward to the next book Nailed It, in the Worked Up Series.

**\*Purchase Links\***

Amazon US: <http://amzn.to/2z0w4Lt>

Amazon UK: <http://amzn.to/2lqFP28>

Amazon CA: <http://amzn.to/2gM9rBZ>

Amazon AU: <http://amzn.to/2z2xUxl>

**\*Thank you to the publisher via Netgalley for the advance copy.\***

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## **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Fired is the first book in a new series by Cora Brent and I would say it was an excellent start. The story was emotional and heartfelt. Who says getting fired from your dream job is a bad thing? Melanie Cruz had the dream job at a posh resort but she's fired and can't find another job in her field. With the help of a friend she takes a managerial position for a family restaurant which is opening up at a new location. What Melanie didn't realize is that the job may not be in her chosen field but might be the right job for all different reasons. Dominic Esposito is all about the job and opening up a new location is all he can think about day and night. Work takes precedence over his personal life because once he let it get the better of him. His brother may have hired her but she sure is making it hard to stay focus when she's around him.



Both Melanie and Dominic were realistic characters with both good and bad flaws and I definitely could empathize with them. Melanie's first marriage was based on all the wrong reasons and wondered if she was ever going to find someone to love and make her happy again. The death of her parents still has an effect on her even after years, and it shows how vulnerable she is when someone close to Dominic passes away. With a little introspection she realizes that her present situation is a good thing and that if she wants things to work out for her and Dominic she is going to have to be proactive and not reactive. I love when she talked to her cats and they had such adorable names as well.

Dominic is a man with a big secret and the guilt makes him have tunnel vision about work. Trying to reestablish the Esposito name here in Arizona is his top priority and he is not going to let his family down. The one thing he can't let happen is to let his attraction to Melanie make him lose focus on what is right and not what he wants. When he thinks he can handle both work and Melanie things get a little muddle for Dominic and things are left unsaid between them. It took a close relative's death to make him see what is important and how he needs to clear the air finally and unburden himself of this secret he's been keeping. I'm glad that he made attempts to keep Melanie in touch even if it was through other means rather than talking directly to her. Family is important to Dominic and I'm glad he made things right and the ending was a perfect way to show it.

Overall I enjoyed the story very much. It was well written and it had both heat and heart. There was the slow build attraction between Dominic and Melanie, which felt a little too long for me, but definitely worth the wait. Both Dominic and Melanie learned that you can have it all if you set your mind to it and achieve a balance of work and play. Letting go of the past isn't easy but it sure makes moving forward a whole lot easier when you are carrying less baggage. This was my first story by Cora Brent and I look forward to more stories in the Worked Up series.

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