



Playing Easy to Get

Sherrilyn Kenyon, Jaid Black, Kresley Cole

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New York Times bestselling author Sherrilyn Kenyon and rising stars Jaid Black and Kresley Cole unlock the pleasures and perils of embracing the boldest and most powerful of lovers -- 100% alpha males -- in three sensually erotic tales. Discover the physical rapture of his muscular arms.... Become a prisoner of passion, swept away by an encounter with his primal side.... And get lost in the all-consuming thrill of white-hot pursuit by a relentless stranger who may be your most dangerous foe, the best lover you've ever had -- or both. Let your fantasies run wild with these unforgettable novellas where bigger is most definitely better -- and playing easy-to-get is the only way to go!

"Turn Up The Heat" / Sherrilyn Kenyon

The story of an average woman who wins the vacation of a lifetime - a trip to Sex Camp. But what Allison George gets is a race for her life with an ex-Mafia who is now being sought by his previous employer. Vince Cappelletti knew the island was a risky proposition, but he'd run out of options. Now the only thing he wants in his sights is Allison, but in order to have a future with her, he must first deal with his past.

"Hunter's Oath" / Jaid Black

What was supposed to be a simple taxi ride to Fairbanks, Alaska for Sofia Rowley ends up becoming a terrifying fight for her freedom. Sold by the cab driver to a mysterious man who imprisons her in a lost Viking world, Sofia is forced to stand all but naked on a bride auction block, her fate now in the hands of the highest bidder.

"The Warlord Wants Forever" / Kresley Cole

Nikolai Wroth, a ruthless vampire general, will stop at nothing to find his Bride, the one woman who can "blood" him, making his heart beat and filling him with strength. Coldly interested only in the power his mate will bring, he can hardly believe when Myst the Coveted, his army's new immortal captive, awakens him body -- and soul. Famed throughout the world as the most beautiful Valkyrie, Myst has devoted her life to protecting a magical jewel and to fighting the vampires.

Playing Easy to Get Details

Date : Published February 7th 2006 by Gallery Books (first published February 1st 2006)

ISBN : 9781416510871

Author : Sherrilyn Kenyon , Jaid Black , Kresley Cole

Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : Romance, Paranormal Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Anthologies, Vampires

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From Reader Review Playing Easy to Get for online ebook

Quinn says

I imagine that most readers, like me, pick up *Playing Easy to Get* for the purpose of reading *The Warlord Wants Forever* - the first story in Kresley Cole's *Immortals After Dark* series.

Well, do yourself a favour, and skip straight to that story, because the first two in this anthology, Sherrilyn Kenyon's *Turn up the Heat* and Jaid Black's *Hunter's Oath*, probably aren't worth your time – at least that was the case for me.

Turn up the Heat - Sherrilyn Kenyon

1.5 stars

Thankfully, I've read Sherrilyn Kenyon writing as Kinley MacGregor, so I know she can write stories that I enjoy. But I've got to say, this one would not inspire me to pick up any more of Sherrilyn Kenyon's books. I understand the limitations and challenges of telling a satisfying short story, but I have seen it done soooo much better than this.

The writing itself was OK to a point, and I actually kind of liked the premise – a *Hideaway Heroine Sweepstakes* where you win the chance to become the heroine of your favourite romance novel. Cheesy, yes, but it had potential. Unfortunately, the execution bypassed mere cheesiness and headed straight to utter ridiculousness.

The heroine covered the stereotypes at both ends of the spectrum, starting off as a meek plain Jane, then out of nowhere, morphing into a kick-ass Lara Croft type. And the romance (and I use that term loosely), which also came completely out of nowhere, was completely unbelievable and unsatisfying. This one left me thinking WTF? Enough said.

Hunter's Oath - Jaid Black

2 stars

This was my second book by Jaid Black, and I must give credit where credit is due – she has a fascinating imagination.

I believe this one is part of her *Vikings Underground* series, in which clans of Vikings live underground (natch) due to some crazy prophecy, and obtain (read: abduct) their wives from the surface before auctioning them off, naked, to the highest bidder.

Because the kidnapped heroine was not likely to be in the mood after such a traumatic experience, she was unknowingly given *erotisk*, otherwise known as Spanish Fly (an aphrodisiac), so that the author had an explanation and opportunity to include some hot and plentiful sex scenes.

Again, although the premise won't be to everyone's taste, the writing itself was OK. But then, with no warning whatsoever, the story just stopped, and an epilogue was provided with a HEA that came out of nowhere. Again, limitations in length should not be an excuse to stop writing and fast-forward unexpectedly

to the end. This one also left me thinking WTF?

The Warlord Wants Forever - Kresley Cole

3.5 – 4 stars

My reason for getting this book was to start the much lauded *Immortals After Dark* series, with this novella being the first installment. Thankfully, it was longer than the two preceding stories in this anthology, and it showed.

We start with an explanation of the origin of the Valkyrie, one of the many paranormal beings in Cole's world, which also includes vampires and ghouls. It was an interesting take on the paranormal, with different vampire lore than I have read before. Valkyries are also a first for me, and they made for quite entertaining, if at times conflicting, reading.

The Warlord Wants Forever is quite an interesting, almost brave start to a series, in that Nikolai Wroth, the hero, (a Forebearer, or turned vampire), and Myst, the heroine, (a valkyrie), were not initially particularly likeable characters, who both behaved quite abominably at times.

Myst, in particular, I found difficult to like until we learned more about her. To be fair to Myst, it seems that most, if not all Valkyries in Cole's world have the potential to be irritating, but Myst in particular ran very hot and cold. That said, she was a fairly well-developed character given the length of the story.

I didn't quite get the sense of knowing enough about Wroth, because he was so fixated on Myst (for reasons which are very well explained), and this was essentially the driving force behind his almost every action in the story. I must say, though, Wroth and Myst had some very hot scenes together in this enemies to lovers story.

I'll definitely be continuing with the series. I think Cole has created an interesting world, and I'm looking forward to seeing what she will do with a full-length novel.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

This book excels because of The Warlord Wants Forever, the first Immortals After Dark story by Kresley Cole. I actually read this one second because I read A Hunger Like No Other first. I remember reading A Hunger and being like, "Who are Myst and Nikolai?" When I realized that there was a prequel short story, I was on the hunt to get it. Finally I found it at a Half Price Books in San Antonio. I bought it and read it when I was in Denver for training. I actually read it about 2 and 1/2 times. I love this story so much. It's short but it's very hot and sweet. So well written, with characters that jump off the page at you. I thought I loved Lachlain, until I met Nikolai. The man is so delicious to me, and like Myst, I can't resist his scars and his warrior essence. It has a captive theme, so that might not work for some. As the saying goes, I would not kick Nikolai out of bed for eating crackers. Yet honestly, Nikolai is not a gentle lover, but Myst doesn't exactly play fair either. In the IAD universe vampires are unable to have sex until they meet their Bride who 'bloods' them. And then, watch out. Well, Myst is Nikolai's bride, despite the fact that as a valkyrie she hates vampires and kills their kind. She actually exploits the fact that she can 'blood' vampires and has killed them by almost seducing them. Well she feels an attraction to Nikolai despite her hatred of vamps. When she

'bloods' him, she leaves him hanging, in desperate need that only she can assuage for five years. Talk about frustration. This story has excellent chemistry, and the skill of Cole's writing shines in this short story. She is so good at combining humor, action, and writing characters that burn for each other.

Although I do love Sherrilyn Kenyon, I have not been enthralled by her BAD stories. They are just too ordinary for me. I really like what she does with paranormal in contemporaries, and I miss it when it's not there.

The Jaid Black story was pretty unique with the modern vikings who steal women to take underground. This is one is also a captive/kidnapped story with a bit of forced seduction if that is not a person's cup of tea. It was good, and I enjoyed it. However, I would say read this collection for the Kresley Cole story!

Gary says

I don't normally read short stories as I normally feel there isn't enough pages to get into but I did this one

LibraryLass says

Yee-ha! Off on another series adventure. I only read Kresley Coles' "The warlord wants forever" cos I wanted to start her series. Loved it. Took me a little time to get into the 'other world' as I am not used to reading fantastical fiction. But once in I was hooked. Can't wait to get to the official first in the series "A hunger like no other."

I thought the romance between Nikolae and Myst was yummy. Just the right mix of friction and romance. The sex was hot (about my limit - but oh so good). I usually don't like reading short stories or anthologies cos they leave me wanting as far as plot and character development go, but that is just not the case in this book. It was great. The writing flowed well which meant that I didn't have to skip back and forward to figure out what was what (often the case lately with this new genre for me).

Highly recommended and I am so please I read this first so I have a 'base' for the series.

Ladiibbug says

Romance Anthol.

"Turn Up The Heat" (non-PNR) - Sherrilyn Kenyon

One more fun, exciting adventure featuring the men & women of B.A.D. (Bureau of American Defense (think off-the-books CIA-like).

I LOVE her BAD series - many are stories in anthol's. - and wish she'd write another full-length BAD book.

"Hunter's Oath" (PNR) - Jaid Black

Cool, I stumbled over a 2nd JB anthol. story featuring the hidden underground world of the Vikings! Must check out this author.

"The Warlord Wants Forever" (PNR) - Kresley Cole

First time I've read this very popular author. This story was good, I wasn't crazy about the Valkyrie sisters thing, but the romance was GREAT!

An excerpt for "A Hunger Like No Other", #1 Immortals After Dark knocked my socks off!!!! OMG, I went running to her site and have a copy coming from Books Free! Yowsa!

Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

I only read the Kresley Cole story.

Baby said so I did.

I'm giving it **3 Stars**. Great world building and I like Cole's writing style but it didn't dazzle me.

Evidently, the lure of the IAD are the immortal dudes. I do like a big un and Wroth is big... *everywhere*.

I'm not mad about this, but otherwise he was kind of white bread.

I was thoroughly enjoying Myst initially especially when she bled him then left him hanging. Literally.

FOR 5 YEARS!!!!

"I need to fuck you so bad I'm sick with it.

I bet he is. Poor guy.

tries to hide grin

/fails

But then she kinda fizzled when she got a taste of Wroth's monster D. I mean, I get it, but... it lost its luster a little.

However, I did enjoy it enough to continue on with the series.

So, Baby, chip chop! The Siren is calling your name.

Mojca says

I expected a little more from this anthology since the blurbs promised a bang that the stories just didn't deliver.

Sherrilyn Kenyon's contribution was typical SK. A goody-two-shoes heroine with no life whatsoever that needs just the right guy to unleash the temptress that's lurking just beneath her holier-than-thou facade. A tall, dark, and dangerous hero with a shady past and a murderous "family" bossman on his tight ass, that just happens to have a penchant for the Dairy Maid thing the heroine has going on.

The premise was promising, but the acting-out-a-book scenario and the slowness of the pace ruined it for me. Luckily Joe Public, BAD leader, made a small appearance in the end, bringing a much needed ray of sunshine in this rather boring story.

I'm growing rather tired of Jaid Black's Viking stories. There's nothing interesting about a bunch of Vikings buried underground because of a crazy prophecy. They might appear interesting for a while, though the softness-of-heart could be toned down a bit - getting old and boring, but whenever I start enjoying the story, bam, there goes the mention of them living underground because of a crazy prophecy, and my interest withers and dies a slow and agonizing death.

This one was no exception...And it was too short to even make it believable (despite the living underground because of a crazy prophecy).

I'm not sure about Kresley Cole's novella. One moment I liked it, than something the hero or heroine (or both) did got me disliking it with a passion. I just couldn't relate to neither of them, not fully. They were quite perfect fiction characters, both with major flaws, both with huge chips on their shoulders, so reading about them and their journey should've been quite a ride, yet I just couldn't go past the fact she was a psychotic nutcase and him a jealousy-prone, possessive jerk. But that's just me.

The sneak peek for Ms. Cole's next novel, the first full installment in the *Immortals After Dark* series was quite promising, so I'm truly hoping for the best.

Shawna says

4 stars – Romantic Suspense/Paranormal Romance/Erotica Anthology

Shannon (Giraffe Days) says

My ratings for the three separate stories are:

??? for *Turn Up the Heat* by Sherrilyn Kenyon

???? for *Hunter's Oath* by Jaid Black

????? for *The Warlord Wants Forever* by Kresley Cole

I bought this book specifically for the Cole story, as it is technically #1 in the series and I've already read #2 & 3 - and god it was good! Very hot and steamy, and very well written, it's obvious she wrote it at the same time as book #2 because at the end there they overlap.

Hunter's Oath was really good too, and sweet. I really liked Joren - he was such a perfect balance of strong and powerful masculinity and gentle tender caring lover. Not as easy to pull off as you'd think.

Kenyon's story was the weakest. It started off well but quickly turned into a gun fight - literally. The

characterisation was good but it was very short and simple. Not a bad thing, because I was so keen to just skip ahead to Cole's story.

The first story is the shortest, the last one the longest. The first story is the weakest, the last the strongest. And if you're not eager to read more of the Immortals After Dark series after reading *The Warlord Wants Forever*, I'd be very surprised.

[Edit: my cute little stars won't show up unless you're on a Mac, sorry! but you get the idea...]

Alp says

There are 3 short stories in this book.

1. Turn Up The Heat by Sherrilyn Kenyon : 5 Stars

Loved it! I loved this kick-ass heroine! I just wish it were a bit longer than it is.

2. Hunter's Oath by Jaid Black : 3 Stars

Well, this was a little weird story. But somehow the hero managed to grow on me! He's a romantic guy and a devoted husband...Man of my dreams! There always be a place in my heart for you, my hunky Viking!

3. The Warlord Wants Forever by Kresley Cole : 3 Stars

Please check out my review here : <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Hannah says

I read this mainly for "The Warlord Wants Forever." I just finished *A Hunger Like No Other*, and I decided I wanted to know more about what Myst and Nikolai Wroth were up to while Emmaline and Lachlain were having their adventures. I decided that I might as well read the other stories too, while I had the anthology. That turned out to be a mistake.

Note that I gave the whole anthology a 3-star rating because I just didn't know how else to compromise between my very disparate ratings of the three stories it contained.

Turn Up The Heat

Sherrilyn Kenyon

2 stars

This is a bewildering story about a woman who wins a vacation to an island where a group of hunky actors are waiting to help her act out the plot of her favorite romance novel. One of these hunky actors just so

happens to be an ex-Mafia hit-man who is on the run from his former boss. The owner of the resort sent the ex-mafia hit-man to hide out on the island, apparently unconcerned that this could bring the wrath of the mafia down on the island at about the same time an unsuspecting female tourist is enjoying her dream vacation there.

Oh, and there's a government agency training ground on the island, too, because I'm sure the government makes a regular practice of building top secret training facilities right next to fantasy resorts. Needless to say, everyone ends up at the training ground, helping themselves to the supply of weaponry on hand so they can enjoy a big shoot-out.

This story is completely ridiculous. I would have given it 1 star if it hadn't redeemed itself by making me chuckle a few times. If Kenyon had purposely written "Turn Up The Heat" to be a roaring farce, it could have been fun. Unfortunately, it's just too absurd to be taken seriously.

Hunter's Oath

Jaid Black

1 star

Note: this review contains a few spoilers.

This story really made me uncomfortable. It's more erotica than romance, and the premise is both bizarre and disturbing. The heroine is kidnapped and dragged off to a secret world underground that is inhabited by - I kid you not - Vikings. There she is stripped naked and sold to the highest bidder at a bride auction.

What bothers me most is how quickly the heroine is willing to relinquish her freedom, her career, and her dignity. After the briefest of internal struggles, she just gives in to the idea of being little better than a possession to a Neanderthal who has clearly never heard of women's rights. A few months later, she's pregnant, she's blissfully happily with her mast... um, husband, and has forgotten why she would ever want to go back to her old life. You know, that place where she had a successful career? Decent clothing? Voting rights? Sunlight? Yeah, I can see why none of that would appeal anymore, now that she has a big, strong man to make all her decisions for her.

This story might be some reader's idea of wish-fulfillment, but frankly, it scared the hell out of me. And I don't think I'll be reading anything else by Jaid Black in the future.

The Warlord Wants Forever

Kresley Cole

4 stars

I read the stories in this anthology in order. As a result, I was feeling a little shell-shocked by the time I made it to "The Warlord Wants Forever. " Fortunately, Kresley Cole made the whole experience worthwhile. I love her paranormal world, and I relished getting to know a bit more about the Valkyrie in this story than I did from *A Hunger Like No Other*. This story fills in a few small gaps from *A Hunger*, which I appreciated. It is also just a *really* hot, fun story in its own right.

Some reviewers have complained that Myst goes from being powerful, take-no-prisoners Valkyrie to submissive pet over the course of this story, but I didn't see it that way at all. Myst's vulnerabilities are present even in the beginning of the story, and her happily-ever-after with Wroth doesn't diminish her strengths at the end. I thought she was an excellent heroine, and remarkably complex, given the space

limitations of the novella length. Wroth gets some good character development too over the course of the story. I really liked them both, and found myself wishing Cole had written a full-length novel about them.

I love Kresley Cole's characters and writing style. I am really looking forward to the rest of the Immortals After Dark series.

Emily May says

Plot: 3 star

Characters: 4 stars

Writing: 3 stars

Sexiness: 4 stars

Overall: 3.5 stars

Fangirl Musings says

Okay, so technically I've not 'actually' finished reading this book - I just read the first story, Turn Up The Heat by Sherrilyn Kenyon.

Which was AWESOME!

I adored the story, and just plain loved the chemistry between Vince and Allison! The conclusion of the story was so heartfelt, beautiful, and euphoric that I fell in love with this short story! I felt the characters to be very real and believable, and the plot was just plain fun!

Maya says

This review is only for The Warlord Wants Forever by Kresley Cole. I thought I'd enjoy the other two stories but with my limited book time, I really want to read books that suck me into them withing the first ten or so pages.

I trully enjoyed this story. There was so much action and I adored Nikolai for his patience and his love for his bride. Now, as far as the bride goes, she was really crazy. There were moments in her POV where I thought that she's literally crazy, since the decisions and choices she made made no sense to me at all. Hence the crazy bride... If you're looking for a lot of heartfelt moments then this is not the book for you. But if you're looking for a fun action packed time with lots crazy lovers scenes, then this is a must read. And if you've read some of the Immortals after dark books, then you'll enjoy and understand the plot and setting even more. All I can say, Kresley did a good job with this one.

Mahlet says

I based my rating on The Warlord Wants Forever by Kresley Cole (5 stars) and Hunter's Oath by Jaid Black (3 stars). I skipped Sherrilyn Kenyon's story, Turn Up The Heat, based on friends' comments here.

The Warlord Wants Forever is a short story that introduces readers to the immensely popular Immortals After Dark Series. If you actually started out the series with book one, "A Hunger Like No Other", then you've already met the h/h of this story: valkyrie Myst the Coveted, and turned vampire and general of the Forbearers army, Nikolai Wroth. In A Hunger Like No Other, Myst and Wroth are *already* a couple, so like me, you may have considered skipping this anthology because you know how their story ends and Myst and Wroth just trace in and out of a few scenes in book one, but don't make a huge impression – well DON'T! Don't skip their story! Although The Warlord Wants Forever is considered a short story, it's a nice meaty 150 pages, and makes up nearly half of this "anthology". In true Kresley Cole form, the story and bond between the h/h was extremely sexy, passionate, and palpable. In the beginning, they hurt and/or planned to hurt each other, although their attraction to one another was making matters difficult. Great tension here! And when Wroth finds Myst after five years of sexual torture (*which was inflicted by her*), his pain and wanting come across so real.....Add to that a moving ending and a HEA. The Warlord Wants Forever is the best story in this book; I pretty much re-read it just as soon as I was finished. I was really that good and worth the cost of this entire anthology.

I also enjoyed Hunter's Oath. It was a little short, but since that meant more room for Wroth & Myst, I was happy! The beginning of Hunter's Oath took a little adjusting as they kept referring to women as "wenches." Once I got over that, it was smooth sailing and a wonderful, sweet story. Somehow, the author took the scenario of a young lonely woman being snatched by a "bride-hunter", taken to a secret underground Viking world, then placed onto an auctioning block and sold into marriage to a sexy nobleman.....and yet the heroine and the reader will *still* fall hard for this Viking hero ;)
