



## Love's Strategy

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Valentine Westridge and Kurt Schillig are lovers, and have been since the Peninsular War when lonely young officer Valentine let himself be seduced by the equally lonely Kurt. Now they're back from the war and intent on beginning the future they dreamed of together, one that includes a quiet country estate, horses, dogs, children, and each other. Their plan, however, also requires a wife. At the suggestion of a mutual friend, Valentine and Kurt believe the financial security they can offer to impoverished widow Leah Marleston will help her accept the unusual sexual relationship they are suggesting.

Leah is at her wit's end, creditors having taken everything she owns to pay off her late husband's gambling debts. She must find a way to support herself and her two children, or be forced to marry her abusive and obsessive brother-in-law. In Valentine's and Kurt's arms, Leah discovers a passion she never knew existed. Brought together by necessity, bonded by desire, these three lonely people find themselves fighting against all odds for a love that was never part of their plans.

## **Love's Strategy Details**

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Author : Samantha Kane

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## From Reader Review Love's Strategy for online ebook

### Oleta Blaylock says

August 10, 2012

This is the first book in this series that the men are already lovers. I liked the way they approached Leah, telling her the truth about what they wanted and how they loved each other. I also liked seeing the other characters that showed up in previous books. I also like how much Freddie seems to have grown up. For a short story Ms. Kane packs in a very good story, with lots of characters and a vile evil brother in law that should have been taken out and hung from the nearest tree limb. I don't want to say more since this is a short story. This would be a great read for the beach or an afternoon at the pool.

January 6, 2014

The only disappointment that I have with this book is that it is just a novella. I would have loved to see more of the relationship with these three people. One other thing I should point out right up front is that this is a m/m/f story.

Valentine Westridge and Kurt Shchillg have been lovers since the Peninsula War. Through all that horror and struggle they wanted one thing. They dreamed of a place in the country where they could raise horse and dogs and children. They want a wife and peace. Finding a wife is harder they imagined. With the help of Stephen Matthews they are introduced to Leah Marleston. Leah is in debt due to her late husband's gambling debts. She is desperate need of a hero or two.

I liked Valentine and Kurt very much. They are both honorable men that have seen too much of war and just want to live a quite country life with a wife and family. I am not sure who the dominant one is in this pair. I think that it is Valentine. I am sure it would have been much clearer if the story had been a little longer. Neither of these men thought they would find a woman that they both could love so they are surprised with Leah. Both men fall for Leah's children the first time they are introduced to them and it isn't long before both children start to care for them. These are strong, compassionate men that are willing to stand up for their family and their friends.

Leah is so tired for worrying over how she is going to support her children. She is in desperate straits when Valentine and Kurt approach her about marriage. She is a little shock that they are lovers but she is intrigued as well. Her husband never really cared about her and her brother-in-law scares her. In many ways Leah is still very innocent but she has an open mind and is willing to make the relationship work between the three of them. She is a passionate woman that hasn't had all that passion tapped yet.

This is a quick read and we see very little of the other characters previously introduced. There is a quick scene with Freddy and Brett. It is obvious that Freddy is coming into his title finally. I love how Freddy handles Leah's brother-in-law.

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### Tara♥ says

Why is this only a novella?

This should have been much longer with much more Kurt. Much more!!

Far too short. I'm not impressed.

What I am most enjoying about this series is that I really like all the characters. Leah was particularly level headed and didn't have a shit fit like I'd imagine 99% of other women would have if propositioned the way she was. Lord the boys were really not into sugar coating! Just right out with it.

Have I mentioned that this series is ridiculous?

Because it is.

But I am absolutely addicted. I can't put it down. I don't want to put it down. I want to know everything!

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### **Ivy Deluca says**

Histo-erotica MMF menage series. This is what happens when I'm stuck in the house for a week because of snowstorms.

The Bottom Line

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### **Katrina Passick Lumsden says**

Valentine and Kurt are so cool together. I mean, just suave and adorable, Throw in beautiful, practical Leah and you've got a recipe for a heartwarming menage scenario, which hardly seems possible. I liked all three characters, especially Leah, who'd been through enough to not faint at the idea of two men being lovers, and who actually recognized the advantages of the situation Valentine and Kurt were presenting to her.

This isn't Pulitzer Prize winning stuff. This is erotic fiction. So if you're in the mood for something worthy of a Pulitzer, look elsewhere. If you are, however, in the mood to read a dirty story about a hot threesome with likable characters and an engaging plot, you can't really go wrong with this one. So much erotica is focused solely on the sex, and I won't lie and say this book doesn't contain a lot of sex, but what sets Kane's work apart from some others I've read is her ability to actually give her characters personality, and to actually weave a story in between the steamy stuff. I liked this first book quite a bit, but there are a few in the series I will probably be rating higher simply because I liked the storyline and/or the characters a little more.

Contains m/m and m/m/f sex scenes with an insanely high steam factor, so if you're a pearl clutch, don't bother.

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### **BellaGBear says**

Very good one for it's genre! If you like erotica, this is a recommendation. One of the best things in this book is that there is no hint of non-consensual sex. In some erotica I've read it's considered sexy to force a woman into the steamy sex scenes and that always reads wrong to me. Nothing like that here though. Just a lot of people dtf, which is as it should be.

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### **Judith says**

It is fascinating to be reminded, as a contemporary woman, that women and their children were often pawns in the hands of unprincipled men. Leah was just such a woman who was constantly beaten and threatened by her brother-in-law, even while still married to her husband, a man who was far to self-absorbed and totally unfeeling about the abuse heaped on his loyal wife. Now as a widow she is being blackmailed into marriage with this same brother-in-law until she is presented with a proposal by Westridge & Shilling. Again Samantha Kane has taken her considerable writing talent and used it to develop an unusual tale of love and caring amidst the restraints and social repression of the post-Napoleonic War. It is a good story and not an extensive read, being somewhat shorter than Kane's other works. However, the story gets told well and readers will not be disappointed. There is MM sexuality and Menage sizzle, but all in the context of relationships that fulfill and complete the main characters.

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### **Steph says**

2.75 Stars

Oh Novellas. I can never seem to give them great ratings because they almost always leave me wanting. I actually quite enjoyed this one but at the same time I wish the story had been further developed. And it's stories like these where I do think there is room to round out characters and add a little meat to the story, that I ask why an author decides to only give you what felt like at times to be the Coles Notes version of the story?

Book 3 of the Brothers in Arms series (a regency ménage series MMF) sees Valentine and Kurt return from the war, not only as lovers, but determined to start a life together that includes finding a wife for both of them, having some kids, and living happily ever after. In this particular installment Valentine and Kurt are recommended a potential bride when the few women they initially seek out do not react well to Kurt and Valentine's lover status as well as the fact they'd be entering a relationship as a threesome. They need to find someone who will accept both Kurt and Valentine. Enter their potential bride Leah: widow of a gambler that left her with serious debts to pay and few ways to pay it, mother of two children, and woman who's dealt with a whole lot of shit because of her dead husband and her even MORE awful brother-in-law who actually wants to marry her. She's on the brink of giving into this horrible man, when Valentine and Kurt come to the rescue in the nick of time. It's definitely not smooth sailing initially, especially with said awful brother-in-law continuing to try to get his way, but if the three of them can make it through these initial struggles and obstacles then they can make it through anything.

So with that kind of storyline, and less than 100 ebook pages, you barely scratch the surface on the individual characters, their lives leading up to the trio's first meeting, the development of their relationship (including

their sex scenes together), their struggles, and on top of it all the ending to me felt a little abrupt. Like I said, it is good, but if this story had been fleshed out more, it would have been great!

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### **Mike says**

#### **Best relationship set-up of the series, decent MMF sizzle, but quick/short-shrifted romance/relationship/plot**

3.5 stars - read for the MMF heat and/or the interesting (but too quick) "two heroes to the (polyamorous) rescue" story

All of the books in this series about two male lovers pursuing polyamorous, threeway marriage in Regency England have plenty of very heated MMF sizzle, heightened by Regency romance settings, characters, and plots. This third installment has perhaps the most interesting setting and character/relationship set-up, but is the weakest so far on delivering a compelling story to heighten the heat. There are a couple of explicitly smutty scenes, and the character/relationship set-up adds a little to the sizzle, but despite its potential, it does not deliver on the romance/relationship end as much as the earlier books in the series.

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### **Maureen Feeney says**

Taken from book description

Valentine Westridge and Kurt Schillig are lovers, and have been since the Peninsular War when lonely young officer Valentine let himself be seduced by the equally lonely Kurt. Now they're back from the war and intent on beginning the future they dreamed of together, one that includes a quiet country estate, horses, dogs, children, and each other. Their plan, however, also requires a wife. At the suggestion of a mutual friend, Valentine and Kurt believe the financial security they can offer to impoverished widow Leah Marleston will help her accept the unusual sexual relationship they are suggesting.

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Short ebook, but it didn't feel short. I loved it. I can honestly say I don't remember Valentine and Kurt from the first 2 books?. The sex as usual is extra hot and this series is getting better and better.

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### **Julie (jjmachshev) says**

"Love's Strategy" is Samantha Kane's 3rd story from her 'Brothers in Arms' series and is currently only available in e-book. It's a short story at only a little over 50 pages but contains all the heat I've come to expect from Kane's menage series.

Leah is a widow and at her wits end. After the suspicious death of her husband, her abusive brother-in-law stated she would be his wife and he would help 'train' her to his standards. She's managed to hold him off for three years, but the situation is becoming grimmer by the day. Now he's threatening to take her children. Then from nowhere, two gentlemen appear to ask for her hand in marriage. But she's not expected to choose between them, rather she's expected to marry BOTH of them!

Valentine and Kurt became lovers during the Peninsular wars and after returning to England have no plans other than to reside in comfort at a country estate. Then Kurt urges Valentine to marry as he knows Val wants the British country life with wife and children. Unfortunately, so far they haven't been able to find THE woman who can accept both of them and their love for each other. Then a friend gives them Leah's name and it doesn't take long for them to realize she's a woman they can both love.

Interesting premise set against a logical background, and addressing many of the stilted morals of Regency England. The overwhelming love and courage displayed by the three main characters is touching and the heat generated in the love scenes will leave readers mopping their brows. The short length of the tale means it moves at a rapid pace, but I still enjoyed it very much and look forward to the next full-length novel in this series. **WARNING:** Contains graphic descriptions of oral, anal, and vaginal sex with one, two and three participants including M/M and M/M/F, M/F/M.

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### **jenjn79 says**

This was a short novella (56 ebook pages), so my review will be on the short side. For a short story, though, this is still one hot book. It follows in the tradition of the previous two Brothers in Arms books with a bisexual m/f/m menage HEA.

Valentine and Kurt have been lovers since they turned to each other for comfort during the Peninsular War. Now they are looking toward their future and what is lacking in their lives...which is a wife to complete them, give them children, and just be a part of their lives. But finding someone who will accept their lifestyle hasn't been easy. So they turn to widowed Leah, who is destitute and in desperate need of protection. They ask her to marry them, to be both their lovers while they are lovers themselves, and offer her a stable financial future. Leah considers her options, which aren't good, so on that alone she may accept. What she hadn't counted on was her attraction to the two, or the wild passion that unleashed within her.

Short, sweet, and super hot...this novella has quite a punch considering its length. Not all authors can write a good short story, but Kane does well with this one. It was a nice edition to the series. Good characters, an interesting (if abbreviated) storyline, and some smoking hot sex make it an easy book to read.

I still find it a little hard to suspend disbelief on historical accuracy while reading these Brothers in Arms books because of Kane's Utopian vision. I read something and think, okay, that would just NEVER happen so outwardly. But I keep trying to remind myself that Kane is purposely writing about a more accepting society that was real.

Regardless, this was an enjoyable novel. I love historical erotic romance and this was a pretty good one. For those of you who like historical erotic romances, or bisexual menage HEAs, then I'd recommend trying out this series.

**WARNING, this book contains: explicit sex, explicit language, a bisexual m/f/m menage**

**relationship...which means m/m sex, anal sex, oral sex, masturbation, and some light violence**

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**Kathryn says**

The author took a sidestep and leaned deeper into her characters in this 3rd in the series. The characters as just as great, but she taught us there is more in these relationships she's building than just the hot sex. Love, companionship, trust and family all come to play here. The vileness of someone who thought they deserved shows up, and again, love will conquer, and this family will become stronger for it.

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**Tal says**

Loved Leah, Kurt and Valentine.

On top of the really hot sex scenes, the story was lovely and you fall instantly in love with the 3 protagonists.

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**A??ela W. says**

Although this book was shorter than the rest it was good. Leah Marleston is widowed with two kids and a lot of debt due to her late husbands gambling problem. Valentine Westridge and Kurt Schillig are lovers, and looking for a wife, at a suggestion of from a friend they are led to Leah. This was a short quick read that I wished was longer it was well written like the rest of the books in this series. Leah has a lot of baggage with her husbands debt she has an overbearing abusive brother in law who will stop at nothing to have her. I love this series and I can't wait to start the next book.

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**Jamie C says**

I love this series!! I only wish it could've been longer

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