



Secret Games

Suzanne Rock

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Event planner Zoe Burkhart's biggest event—the upcoming celebrity wedding of the year—is going to kill her. Nothing is ready—including the chapel. So she heads to the local bar and ends up venting her frustrations to a handsome stranger. The more they talk, the sexier he becomes, and it isn't long before her Screaming Orgasm cocktail turns into the real thing. But in the morning, she learns that it's his construction company that's put her job on the line.

Playboy turned construction boss, Tate Carrington, is going crazy trying to please the diva bride-to-be. But he's sure attracted to wedding planner. One night with her isn't nearly enough. When she offers him a sexy deal—one he knows will land her back in his bed—he believes it's a win-win situation.

That is, until he starts wanting more than just her body. Now he wants her heart, and everyone knows that whatever Tate Carrington wants, he gets...

Each book in the Tropical Temptation series is a standalone story that can be enjoyed out of order.

Series Order:

Book #1 Bonding Games

Book #2 Secret Games

Book #3 Bachelor Games

Secret Games Details

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From Reader Review Secret Games for online ebook

Anita Byars says

Sexy!

Zoe Burkhart had taken a job as an Event Planner at a tropical resort to help pay for her mother's medical bills while doing something she loved " Planning Parties." But with her newest client, famous country singer, Sadie Harris, sucking all the fun out of her life with all her Diva demands, as well as demanding a wedding chapel be built to her specifications for her ceremony, that was at the end of the month. She had commissioned Carrington Construction to build the chapel, but it was still just a hole in the ground. If she didn't pull this Wedding off, Zoe was sure that she would lose her job and her health insurance, then her mother wouldn't be able to stay at the health facility she desperately needed. Zoe was already struggling to pay for the place and was several payments behind. She decided she needed a distraction to help alleviate the stress of her job so she wandered over to the bar.

Tate Carrington came to the bar hoping for a little sensual distraction. And as luck would have it, he found a gorgeous blonde practically throwing herself at him. He loved a challenge where women were concerned and as they talked he

found out that she was angry at him and his construction company. A problem, but not one he couldn't overcome. The last month had been a dream doing what he loved, working with his hands during the days, and his nights with lonely singles looking for no strings attached fun while on vacation. He barely had time to think about his troubles back home, and his father's demands to stop the construction nonsense and come back home and run the family oil company. He didn't want any part of that life, it would suffocate him, and he didn't want any part of the family fortune, not if it came with all the conditions.

So, with wanting to continue with his carefree existence, Tate purposefully kept his name a secret so she would sleep with him. Zoe carefree attitude made her more alluring to Tate and they had an amazing night. But the next morning when they officially met, Zoe's angry side came out, knowing he had lied to her. They were going to be working closely together and their chemistry would definitely be hard to control. But Tate was not about to lose Zoe, he had never met a woman who was so enthusiastic and so responsive to him. But when the resort enforces a strict policy of no fraternization between employees or resort customers will this steamy relationship come to a grinding halt? Or will they continue their steamy nights together off the resort? Will Zoe and Tate pull off the Big Wedding so Zoey doesn't lose her job? Will Tate and Zoey go their separate ways when his job is done? You will need to read to find out. Don't miss this steamy, sexy and fun romance.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book.

Susan says

I give Secret Games 4 stars for providing fun in the antics of a bridezilla, steamy sex scenes, and a love story that manages to heal old wounds.

Suzanne Rock is a new author to me and I enjoyed her story. It was a fun short story that was well written and flowed quite well.

When a sexy stranger sits beside Zoe at the bar she spontaneously sets out to have a one-night stand. When Tate asked if the seat was taken he hadn't set out to find a gorgeous blonde practically throwing herself at

himself. When she mentioned about being angry at her contractor and his company, he figured he'd deal with it tomorrow. What will she do when she discovers he's her contractor?

Zoe Burkhart is an event planner and is currently planning the upcoming celebrity wedding of the year. If she didn't need this job to help pay her mother's medical bills she would probably pack it in due to bridezilla. She only hoped that Tate Carrington, her contractor, would get the message because there was lots to do to get this place ready for the big wedding. Will it all come together on time?

Tate Carrington, heir to Carrington Oil, loved a good challenge, especially where women were concerned. He was a roamer and a drifter, and lived in the moment. He did not want to live his father's structured life and rules. He wanted no part of the family fortune in Texas, especially the suffocating conditions his father was placing on him. Would Tate get out from under his father's thumb?

Secret Games is a standalone romance that involves second chances and following your heart, wherever that may lead.

I enjoyed this quick, easy read.

Ayekah says

I'm in a place I don't like to be with a book and that's the middle of the road. The plot was ok, I really had a rough time relating to the characters and while I love a steamy, hot book this one was a tad much. It seemed like it was filler and didn't need to be. That said....

Zoe is an event planner at a resort on an island and is dealing with a celeb bride from hell. The woman is driving her nuts, so in a free moment one evening at the bar a friendly, handsome gentleman sits next to her and they start chatting and the two of them decide to blow off some steam.

Wow do they ever. Little does she know, he's the man in charge of building the wedding chapel that is still a hole in the ground and threatens her mental health and her job. She needs the job to maintain her benefits to care for her mother who is in a special needs facility. So imagine her surprise the next day when she meets her one nighter at the meeting with the building contractor!!

Tate comes from money, there's a big backstory there you have to read to appreciate and he's trying and doing pretty well to make it on his own. He's having trouble on this job because it's an island, the wood the bride requested is rare and has to be shipped in, etc and on and on.... so he does his best to appease Zoe, while also bedding her. I use the word bedding loosely.

These two are not without their falling out either. There are things that Zoe hasn't been privy too, that she should have and well..... read the book and see for yourself.

3.5 stars

****arc from NetGalley and Entangled in exchange for a fair review****

Laura Nelson (Tangents and Tissues) says

I'm becoming a bit hooked on these Entangled Brazen titles, and the authors that write them. Secret Games was the first work I've read by this author, and was full of heart and heat. What more can a gal ask for? – I say!

Who knew event planning could be so stressful? Organising the 'Wedding of the Year' for the latest celebrity 'IT' couple is starting to take its toll on Zoe Buckhart. Added to which, is the heavy weight of her own personal responsibilities resting on her shoulders. There is more than just cachet for the resort riding on her pulling of this event. What this girl needs is to let loose and unwind for the evening. Oh, and look what we have here, I think the perfect 'release' for her just walked into the bar *smirks*

Tate Carrington is a man bearing the weight of his own responsibilities as well. It's hard when your family have certain expectations, and it's not a path you wish to travel. Tate wants to be his own man! Indulging in the female delights on the island while he finishes his latest contract proves to be a welcome distraction.

And Zoe may be just the tittle to go down smoothly tonight... *snorts* Whaaa? Sorry, sorry – I couldn't help myself.

But one night will never be enough for these two, and in order for this wedding to go off without a hitch, they will have to work (very!) closely together. Watch those emotional barriers crumble to dust, peeps.

I really enjoyed this story and the writing. It was the right side of spicy, but was more than a bit of 'fluff' – if you know what I mean? It makes you think about what we're willing to do for our loved ones, and that just because you have money, happiness isn't always guaranteed.

"Money isn't a whole hell of a lot if it comes at a price."

Lastly, please tell me it's not just me that hears the Dynasty theme tune when they see the name Carrington? Someone, anyone. No? *shrugs* Guess I must be showing my age. No comment from the gallery please...

Note: Copy kindly received from publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Bec_BookMagicReviews says

Zoe Burkhart is a woman with a mission, and that's to make certain everything goes off without a hitch for an upcoming celebrity wedding. However, with things not going to plan, she's not sure what to do, other than head to the local bar. Yet, the moment she meets Tate Carrington, she finds her mood lifting, especially since he knows just the way to get her to forget her problems. But when Zoe discovers the truth about Tate and his family connections, will she be able to forgive him or will she walk away from the man she's falling in love with?

This is the first book I've read by this author and it was a riveting read that had me enjoying both the main and secondary characters because of their back stories and had me completely entertained by the dialogue because the hero isn't about to give up the heroine so easily, especially when she discovers what he's hiding

about his family that makes her decide she can't trust him. The way this story started had me sympathizing with the heroine, as her job is hectic and making her stressed, but she can't quit because she needs a way to help her ill mother. Luckily, the hero offers her the kind of distraction she needs to take the edge off. Really, the hero is good stress relief for the heroine.

Both the main characters were fascinating and I absolutely loved the hero's back story, because he needed to get away from his dad's plans for him and live his own life. Moreover, the hero is confident, driven and I liked how determined he was to win the heroine over because he needs her in his life. I also liked the hero's back story because losing his brother made him realize that he couldn't live his life the way his father wanted him to. I also liked how willing the hero was to help Zoe when it came to her mother, While the heroine, she's resilient, courageous, independent and I liked how determined she was to do her job to the best of her ability, even if the soon-to-be bride is a bridezilla of epic proportions.

Overall, Ms. Rock has penned a wonderful read in this book where the chemistry between this couple was strong; the romance red hot and had me wondering if my kindle would spontaneously combust because of the heat between Zoe and Tate; and the ending had me totally hooked because Tate will do anything to win back the heroine after things go awry with their relationship. Will Zoe forgive Tate for lying to her about his life and keeping things from her when it comes to his past? However, what I really liked about the end is what happens at the wedding that has Tate's friend, Gavin, making a prediction about their future; and how Zoe helped Tate with his father and how she brought them closer together than they've ever been. I would recommend Secret Games by Suzanne Rock, if you enjoy the opposites attract trope or books by authors Elizabeth Otto, Amy Andrews, Rebecca Brooks and Daire St. Denis.

Kiss And Tell Book Blog says

Book Boyfriend: ???

Strong Female Lead: ???

Plot: ???

Steamy Factor: ???

Overall:???

Full review on the blog at <https://kissandtellbookblog.wordpress...>

Jennifer Pierson says

Zoe Burkhart is an event planner that works way too many hours, but she has no choice, as she's trying to make sure that her mother gets the medical help that she needs. She rarely takes any time off, so when she has one of those elusive nights off, she meets a hot man that she decides that she will need to blow some steam off with. That night is super hot, but little does she know that the next day, she's going to come face to face with him, as the man who is putting her job into jeopardy. Tate Carrington comes from a well to do family, and he has no desire to take over the family's oil business, as his heart lies in building things. He

hooks up with the woman who is essentially his boss, knowing that she's going to be upset when she finds out, but he also knows that one night isn't going to be enough. Will Zoe and Tate figure things out all the while trying to please a diva bride who can make or break their careers? Secret Games was a fast paced story that I enjoyed a great deal. I loved Zoe, and Tate, especially together, as their chemistry shot sparks out of my kindle, and their sexy times were so hot that no panties are safe. And the colorful cast of secondaries added to the story with some humorous moments. I found that Suzanne Rock has a talent writing style that instantly claimed my attention, as the story was fast paced without lagging. Now on the flip side of the fast paced storyline, and this is only MY OPINION, it made the ending too rushed for me. With all of that being said, I will be reading more of this talented author, and HIGHLY RECOMMEND!

Scarlett Ian says

Zoe and Tate could not be from more different worlds and yet they had such a connection that they couldn't stay away. From their very first meeting they are drawn to each other, and even though the resort policy states there can't be relationships on resort property they quickly decide that they can't stay away from each other. But how lasting is a relationship if only one side is open and honest? Zoe shares so many family stories and history with Tate but he never seems to share anything. He's keeping a lot of secrets from Zoe, what is he going to do when she finds out?

This was my first book by Suzanne Rock. I was very excited to read based on the synopsis. The characters were relatable and as you were reading you just wanted to be in the story with them. Tate was frustrating in the beginning because Zoe's character was so open with him and got nothing in return. I liked how the author brought them together and how she handled the struggles of their relationship. The story was told in third person, and it wasn't a very long book. The story really just grabs the readers attention and you end up reading through it rather quickly. If you haven't read this, I highly recommend it – it's got steamy love, sweet moments and just enough drama to keep the reader on his/her toes.

****4.5 Stars - I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader copy of this book***

Tanja Kezmic says

It's really hard to write this review...I can't say it was great, but I also can't say it's terrible...this story leaves you somewhere in between.

Zoe and Tate start their relationship as a one night of fun, which turns into spending a lot of nights of fun. They both have their reasons why they don't want to open up to each other

"We're not so different, you and I." "How so?"

"You say that all of your life you have been running from your family responsibilities, but I have also been running from mine. I used the excuse of this job to keep from visiting with my mom. Seeing her is painful, almost too painful sometimes."

When truths are discovered Zoe has difficult time with trusting Tate. But he is determined not to let her go. **Never had Tate felt so complete or so connected to another person. He didn't know how or when it happened, but Zoe had come to mean the world to him, and he was never letting her go.**

This whole story is good in it's content but the delivery is a bit lacking. I can't say what was missing - I guess I wish it to be a bit more angsty. Maybe that would persuade me to give it more stars. But now I can give it only 3.5*

Review copy requested and reviewed on behalf of OMGReads Blog

Irene says

3.5 stars

Tami says

3.5

This was a nice book. It was well written. Bridezilla brought them two together. Wow a usefulness of a bridezilla...

This review is based on the ARC provided by the author and/or the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

Liz ~ Liz's Reading Life says

Zoe Burkhart is a woman on a mission... pull of the wedding of a dive client and provide for her mother's medical bills.

Tate Carrington is attempting to live a life of his own choosing, not one of his father's.

These two meet one night and things quickly heat up. But in the light of day things turn complicated.

Will these two be able to make a go at a real relationship when all the dust settles? Or this just a fling that burns hot and quickly dies?

Secret Games is an entertaining, sexy, swoony read that will take the reader on a tropical escape filled with heat and romance.

Zoe is a strong, independent woman that isn't afraid to speak her mind. She's smart, talented, friendly, loyal, and compassionate. She loves her job, just not this over demanding client. But Zoe loves her mother and will whatever it takes to take care of her. Even when she thinks she out, she is able to pull it all together and pull out on top, I love that about her.

Tate is tall, rugged, handsome... a tall drink of water. He's what he does and embraces the life he is leading, but he's hiding from something. His former life is vastly different from what he's doing now, but after meeting Zoe he knows what he has to do. She makes him see life in a whole new light. The way he decides to take care of her needs, both in the bedroom and out, is endearing.

I greatly enjoyed this sultry little read from cover to cover. The hero and heroine are easily relatable and witnessing the journey is fascinating. And the passion... off the charts hot, hot, hot.

So if you are looking for a quick, seductive read with heart and soul, then I highly recommend you pick up Secret Games.

Rhi says

3.5 stars:

In Secret Games by Suzanne Rock, what begins as a one night stand – a means of blowing off some stress – becomes something more. Zoe is an event planner for a tropical resort; the bride for an upcoming wedding brings her nothing but stress with outrageous demands that seem impossible to fill. With time running out, Zoe needs everything to work out – the money from this wedding will go a long way to help her. Tate Carrington is happy to help her relieve some stress but after one night, he knows it will not be enough. But with secrets abounding, can they actually make something out of this?

As with many a Brazen novel, there is a lot of sex; Zoe and Tate have a lot of fun with each other and the scenes are different enough to not make the reader feel like they're reading the same thing over and over. Nonetheless, I wish there had been less sex and more character development. I found it difficult to sympathize with Tate, especially when he willfully keeps Zoe in the dark about who he is. The end felt rushed, leaving me wondering how and why everything worked out – not just between Zoe and Tate, but also with regards to the bride and her diva leanings. I won't state my biggest peeve with it so as not to spoil it, but I found the message implied by the resolution to everything to be disturbing. In the end, there is nothing truly objectionable with this novel.

3.5 stars

Deborah says

Oooh! What a juicy story this is!! Set on a tropical island, Zoe is planning a celebrity wedding that is sure to be the answer to all her money problems. That is if she can stand the constant changes and impossible requests the bride keeps placing on her! And to make matters worse, the chapel that is being constructed for the event, hasn't even started! At this rate, she will be glad to keep her job!!

On a particularly bad day, Zoe heads to the resort bar to unwind. There she meets a handsome and unattached stranger, Tate. And after a couple of drinks, Zoe ends up voicing her frustrations. Tate wants her to relax and they decide on a one night stand. Za Za Zing!! The next morning, her meeting with the construction boss ends up being Tate! Tate knows he omitted who he was to Zoe, but after a night like they had, he wants more! Zoe is pissed off, but she needs to get that chapel built, and Tate is the only way to get that done. They strike a deal. You know where this is going.....

I loved reading this spicy tale!! Zoe was so beaten down. I felt bad for her! Tate really was a nice guy and I thought the two of them made a good couple! Yes there was a lot of family stuff to work through, and outside pressures, like their jobs, kept getting in the way. They really seemed to have each other's backs! I knew how this was going to end, but I really enjoyed the journey they took to get there!

4 Stars/4 Flames

This book was gifted to me by the Jeep Diva for a voluntary review. The review and ratings are solely my opinions.

Valeen Robertson says

Secret Games is sexy and has a hot, sweet hero. Zoe is in the middle of dealing with the wedding from hell with the bridezilla from hell. She needs to blow off some steam so she decides to indulge in a hot one night stand with the gorgeous guy she picks up in at the resort's bar. But what will she do the next day when she shows up at the construction site of her bridezilla's wedding site and the construction company owner whom she's mad at for being behind schedule is her sexy ONS?!

Thankfully Zoe and Tate are easily able to move past Tate's little omission and start indulging in a steamy affair. But, there will be more obstacles in their way, including the resort's new no fraternization policy, Zoe's desperate need for money to pay for her mom's health care, and the secret Tate's been keeping regarding his family.

I wanted a stronger emotional connection between Tate and Zoe, and I didn't really like Zoe. There's something a bit generic about her and I felt a disconnect with her. I like Tate, a lot, though, and wish he had been paired with a heroine as interesting and likable as he is. The sexy times are hot, though, and I like the ending and Tate's repair of his family issues. If Zoe had been up to par, I definitely could have seen my way to 4 stars, but the way *Secret Games*, or more accurately, Zoe, is written, I can't justify more than 3 stars.

I received an ARC via NetGalley for an honest review.
