



Rules of Engagement

Ann Bruce

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The Duquesnes, Book 1.5

WARNING: Contains graphic language and explicit sex scenes (M/F, anal sex, mild bondage).

LENGTH: Novella (20,400 words)

After being shot three times in the chest and left for dead by his last lover, Jake Duquesne decides the middle of nowhere is a good place to recuperate. And it's perfect, until someone tries to sneak up on him, gun drawn and cocked. Unfortunately for his would-be assailant, Jake is not one to wait around quietly while someone tries to kill him.

Waking up handcuffed to a strange bed is not part of Katarzyna Delaney's plans after being jilted at the altar for the third time. Looking at Jake, however, makes her realize plans should be flexible. With a few simple rules, she can have her long-awaited honeymoon--and without a battery-operated device.

Then people following no rules but their own join in.

EXCERPT

"You don't remember what happened last night?"

Confusion swamped her features. "Last night?"

Jake lifted a sardonic brow. "When you were attempting to enter this cabin," he reminded her dryly. Then, with emphasis, he added, "Illegally."

The confusion didn't disappear.

"As in, without the owner's consent."

"But..." Her voice trailed off as realization dawned. "Oh God." She squeezed her eyes shut and sucked in a breath. "That can't be right."

He mentally crossed out amnesia and drawled very sarcastically, "Oh, it's very right. I assure you, Katarzyna Delaney."

Her eyes flew open at his harsh, humorless tone, or maybe it was his pronunciation of her name. KAHT-ah-ZHEE-nah. Perhaps she wasn't used to people who didn't butcher her name on the first attempt. Luckily, he'd had plenty of practice with non-Anglicized names. All part and parcel of his previous job.

"My cabin has the bullet hole and the bullet from your weapon to prove it." Even with the faint Southern accent softening his words, they still had bite.

Rules of Engagement Details

Date : Published November 12th 2011 (first published February 1st 2008)

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Author : Ann Bruce

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From Reader Review Rules of Engagement for online ebook

Katherine says

This was a kindle freebie that I picked up.

My quick notes: good, hot, good action.

My only complaint: the heroine is a virgin at the age of 28 and has been engaged three times. Unlikely, but okay, I'll suspend my disbelief. Of course the hero has a magic wang that makes her first time incredible and she immediately becomes an insatiable sex fiend for his wang.

Lenore says

This novella was too ambitious. Lots of sex packed with lots of action. Sex, cops, sex, clandestine agents, sex, East-European mobsters, sex, near-death experiences, sex; all haphazardly thrown together.

And did I mention all the romance tropes floating around?

Meeeeeh!!!

Tami says

I thought this was a realy great story with some realy hot sex! It pushed a few boundries I've never crossed so I'm glad I have an open mind. Great short read for free! Perfect for a Friday afternoon (while I should be working).

Tori says

It was what it was.

MsRomanticReads says

After being shot and nearly dying during his last mission, Jake Duquesne is done with women and his job. Hiding out in his cousin's cabin up in the mountains seems like a good idea, until someone tries to sneak up on him, gun drawn. Jake tackles the intruder and is surprised to find a woman beneath him.

Katarzyna Delaney is 28, a cop, has been jilted three times and she's still a virgin. She regains consciousness handcuffed to a bed with a gorgeous male standing over her. A phone call clears up that the man before her is the cousin of her superior's wife, Ella. Apparently she thought it was a good idea to set the two up. Remembering a conversation Kat had with Ella, she knows that Jake's lifestyle isn't conducive to relationships. Would it be wrong to soothe her broken heart and maybe lose her virginity to this man who is

looking at her with need and desire burning in his eyes?

Fourteen days of no strings attached, hot and wild sex is how they decide to spend their "vacation", until someone from Jake's past shows up with the intent to finish him off once and for all. Unfortunately Kat gets caught in the crossfire.

This was my first read by this author, thanks to the free ebook offered by Amazon. Since this was a novella, I expected the hero and heroine to get down to brass tacks pretty quickly – and they certainly did. Ms Bruce sure knows how to write some very steamy scenes and they were surprisingly and thankfully not all the same. I wish this had been a longer story, mainly to develop the h/h further. Also, I never quite figured out what Jake actually did for a living - was he a mercenary? Spec Ops? I would have loved to find out what happened next for them. The suspense aspect of this story wasn't bad either, but I would have also liked more of that. She seems to have quite a few books out, so I will definitely be checking those out. Perhaps some of them will be full length novels that I can get lost in.

Jacquie Talento says

Very well written story. To the point on everything and intense. It held all things I look for in a book.

Holly says

Another free nook download.

Whoa...this book was a train wreck from beginning to end. It starts with the 28yo virgin cop heroine getting clipped by the hero and knocked out, then handcuffed to the bed. When she comes to she decides he's the man to give her virginity to. and it just goes downhill from there.

SheLove2Read says

Read the tweets by Book Binge and laughed/cringed. Like a train wreck, I read a few pages because I just HAD to. Wow. This was bad on a whole new level.

Ronna says

Mindless short story seemingly more the work of the author's fulfilling a fantasy than creating a real story. A meddling cousin pairs up her gun for hire cousin with her husband's subordinate on the police force at a remote mountain cabin. She thinks that they both could use the solitude of the cabin as well as a brief sexual encounter during their "vacations". After the initial misunderstanding, determining the cousin set them up and realizing they are in fact attracted to each other, things rapidly progress. We learn that Katarzyna is a 3 time loser at the altar and a 28 year old virgin. Jake, after taking her virginity unknowingly and seeing her passionate response, decides to take advantage of this and sets up a situation where he calls all the shots, no question asked. Feeling things she never dreamed she would have, Katarzyna agrees and Jake shows her all,

and I do mean all, of the ropes. They are truly enjoying each other when on their last night old enemies of Jake's come after him and things seem dire. Will they outlive the night and what will it mean for these two people from such different worlds if they do? This was just an okay story and a good filler between books if you are so inclined. Note: it's more erotica than romance.

Niina says

This short erotic romance is for all the romantic suspense lovers! You got yourself a black ops operative with great bedroom skills, a town cop with chips on her shoulder about men and intact virginity, well at least for the first 20 pages. And of course handcuffs and cast iron headboard. Can it get any better than that? Yeah though so - pretty damn hot!

This is almost bordering on erotica except the story is good and the characters are lovable and totally three dimensional. I loved the little plot, the revenge and pudding love story and of course all the damn hot dominating bedroom/kitchen/anywhere scenes. Can't beat an alpha male who knows what he wants in the bedroom and isn't afraid to be really open mouthed about it. ;)

This story needed a happy ending, and it got it, it would have been way too sad had it ended with a dud like erotica usually does (crash course: erotic romance has story and plot whole way through, erotica doesn't - erotic romance has romance and love, erotica doesn't - erotic romance has happy endings, erotica doesn't), for romance happy endings are essential! And these two really did have great chemistry and were a great match.

You'll love this is you like your romantic suspense with tons of great sex, some plot that is good and with an alpha male who's demanding in the bedroom and heroine who's in to learn few new tricks! ;)

Christina says

I didn't get it. Everything moved too fast, and I couldn't figure out why. It was basically a wham, bam, thank you m'aam type of story but then he comes to her at the end...and we're supposed to believe they have an HEA? I don't know, it'd probably be better if the characters and their relationship was more developed.

The sex is hot, though.

virgleen seay says

Good information all the various interactions with each other. W

I would recommend this book to women who like to Read romance novel s I would have liked a ending with more detailed.

Ellen says

Somewhat good storyline. Felt a little choppy in spots. Good characters

April says

I understand it's meant to be provocative but there's zero story line and many aspects that are hard to believe to say the least.

Julie Read Our Lips! Book Review Blog says

After being jilted at the altar, Kat looks for a place to crash and collect herself. A friend offers her log cabin in the middle of nowhere and Kat readily accepts. Too bad her friend's bother, Jake, is also using the cabin for some away time as well.

Jake, a mercenary-type, is hiding from some bad guys and mistakes Kat for an intruder. They both exchange names and sort out the confusion in bed with handcuffs. Kat, who's a cop, can't believe Jake subdued her so easily, but being interrogated in handcuffs with Jake above her in the bedroom sets her blood boiling hott!

While they promise to stay out of each other's way in the cabin, their agreement doesn't last and it's not long before these two get down hottt and heavy *fans self*

But just as Jake and Kat enjoy their paradise in the woods, Jake's past rears it's ugly head. Will they survive against the bad guys after Jake's head?

Rules Of Engagement features:

suspense
mystery
erotic themes
oral sex
bdsm
alpha male
law enforcement
hot read
quick read

<http://readourlipsblog.blogspot.com/2...>
