



Risking it All

Tessa Bailey

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NYPD detective Seraphia Newsom will avenge her brother's death at any cost. Even if it means insinuating herself into a rough, Brooklyn street gang and going so far undercover, she's not sure she'll be able to get out. Every minute she spends in their midst means the clock ticking down on her life, especially when she overhears something that could get her killed.

Bowen Driscoll is the heir to a crime enterprise. He never asked for the job, but with his father behind bars, he has no choice but to step in and keep the operation running. But when the NYPD blackmails him with a piece of damning information in exchange for aiding an undercover cop, he finds himself on the other side of the law for the first time in his life.

Bowen knows the danger Sera is in, and keeping her safe trumps saving his own ass. The problem? She can't know he's on her side. And there's the matter of the seriously inconvenient heat sparking between them that's incinerating his resistance. But Sera only sees Bowen's past, and men like him are the reason her brother is dead. If they're to get out alive, he'll have to risk exposing the man beneath, and hope to hell he doesn't blow the whole operation in the process.

Risking it All Details

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From Reader Review Risking it All for online ebook

Alp says

I wasn't quite sure what to expect when I first started reading this book because I've never read any book by Tessa Bailey before. But it turned out to be my different reading experience. I fell in love with her writing style. The story grabbed me from the first chapter and kept me engaged right up until the end. And the sex scenes were so damn hot, I had to fan myself! LOL

The hero, Bowen, was a complex character. He was the heir to South Brooklyn criminal operation. He became the leader when his father was sent to prison, yet he was unhappy with this position. The author created such a swoon-worthy alpha hero! I always have a soft spot for the heroes with a protective streak and Bowen was very protective, possessive, and devoted to the heroine. What a complete package this guy! I couldn't have asked for more!

Sera was an undercover cop who tried to find out the truth about her brother's death. When Bowen was sent to protect her, they were immediately attracted to each other. The sexual tension between them was so strong, so much so that I wondered how they could manage to keep their hands off each other.

The intense situations, especially when Bowen was set up to be killed at the dock, kept me on the edge of my seat!

There were just a few things that bothered me. It was far too easy for Sera to find and steal the ledger, and there were no surveillance cameras in the building!? That seemed a bit unreal and impossible.

Overall, it was a pleasure to read this book. There was a well-balanced mix of romance, suspense, and drama, that all capped off with a blissfully happy ending!

Lana ✨Dirty Girl Romance✨ says

Quite possibly Tessa's dirtiest dirty talker to date.

I'm not sure your ovaries will survive Bowen, but what a way to go :)

Review to come closer to release date...

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[~Ami~]♥Sexy Dexy♥ says

4 stars

TB always delivers off the charts sexy time. I liked the whole storyline of an undercover cop and gang leader. Sera was kind of meh and it was kind of insta attraction but I guess it didn't bug me much this time because I enjoy TBs writing style and IT WAS SO HOT!!!

Recommend if you enjoy

Tessa Bailey books

Smut

Dirty talking hero

A bit of suspense

Claire Robinson says

4.5 - **"You Catholic girls and your filthy minds."** Stars!

Tessa Bailey has a formula and it works. You cannot dispute that, and I wouldn't want to. Her heroes are strong, alpha, dirty talking guys, who happily back up their words with knee trembling results.

"We both know it's only a matter of time before I'm pounding the purity right out of you."

Her heroines are on-the-surface confident, spunky and take-no-shit from the men pursuing them. The storyline may change, but the people involved generally have the basic characteristics every-time. I think this is in part (along with her frigging awesome writing skills) the reason her books work, you know what you are getting, and you get given it good and hard, sometimes fast but always fully satisfied at the end.

"Fighting was in his blood. He did it often and he did it well."

Bowen Driscoll is not an unknown name to Bailey aficionados, the guy appears heavily in *His Risk to Take* and *Riskier Business* as someone who is extremely important to Ruby Elliott. But this is Bowen's book, you get Bowen's story in all its dirty talking, hard fighting, and unashamedly sexy Technicolor glory!

His Bible had been a notebook filled with debts.

Sera Newsom is out for revenge, because of that emotions have somewhat clouded her judgment, when it comes to investigating the man who potentially had a hand in killing her brother. She is undercover, and finds herself in a position that ultimately puts her life on the line, if her real identity is discovered. Bowen adds to the danger, but in a completely different, and totally unexplored way for Sera.

The romance and suspense flow along at a really steady clip in *Risking in All*. Sera and Bowen's coming together, the building of the relationship between them, and the breaking down of the barriers they both have around their hearts and emotions offers the reader an exciting and really emotive read. Bowen is a complex character, and Tessa went a step further with this book in relation to the Alpha-Male she delivered up for the reader's enjoyment.

I think *Risking it All* is possibly one of Tessa's finest books to date. But to be fair all of her books are seriously good so it would be difficult to pick an out an out favorite if put on the spot. You won't regret

reading this one, you will fall in love with Bowen and you will love the direction in which the series is being taken!

"I'm fucked for life over you."

ARC generously provided by Entangled, it was my absolute pleasure to provide the above honest review.

Catarina says

4 Risky Stars.

Sera, a detective decides to go rogue (otherwise known as going undercover with no authorization) to revenge her brother's death. And she is willing to get herself way into the criminal world of Brooklyn. Bowen, the heir to that world without ever having asked for it is contacted by NYPD to keep an eye on her. So when their worlds collide, they realize that there's something to be said about a relationship between a detective and a criminal boss. Sera can't know that Bowen's in fact helping her, Bowen can't tell her that he's more than a criminal. But when lies and secrets beginning to be unravel... they are risking a hell of a crash. And neither of them knows if will make it out alive.

When I want to read a book with hot badass alpha-males, kickass heroines and with enough action to keep me entertained, Tessa Bailey's books are always a great bet. Add the dirty talker quality and ladies, you have yourself a winner. This was no exception to the formula, (despite this guy being technically in the wrong side of the law), and it was exactly what Tessa's got us used to and with her signature engaging writing style. I loved it!

Rating: 4 Stars.

Characters Development: Bowen was your sexy, dangerous and broody badass alpha-male. In other words, impossible not to love. Sera was great, she was sassy, and strong and didn't let anybody stomp over her. She was pretty good! It was pretty nice to see more of the previous characters!

Steam: Hot.

Sensible Subjects: (view spoiler)

Love Triangle: (view spoiler)

Cheating: (view spoiler)

HEA: (view spoiler)

Alba and Her Secrets..♥ says

4.5 'Take it' Stars!

I can't get enough of Tessa Bailey's dirty heroes! Bowen is just.. YUM! My last read of 2016 was pretty great ;) I am SO ready for 2017!

Denisa says

1.5 DNFed not because it was a bad read, but because it was so very boring!

The characters were a bit annoying and the female MC was an idiot.

Oh, and let's not forget about Bowen! He's got that typical personality, he's the person who gets handed an empire but he doesn't like it. He's a bad guy who's actually good. He has to kill people but he feels sorry for it.

So yes, the good little virgin meets the big bad killer with a golden heart and they fall in love.

Nope, it's not the kind of story I want to read. Too typical, too boring, too many idiots and definitely way too long.

Kelli C ~ Jack Sawyer's Heart says

If you like a dirty talker...a filthy, sexy bad boy then you will LOVE Bowen!

With a hard life spent fighting his way to the top of the street crime world he is just a good man at heart that wants better but knows nothing else.

Tasked to work with the NYPD when an undercover beauty goes rogue he is unprepared for the changes he is about to experience. He is rocked by a sassy yet sweet catholic girl who has landed herself in the middle of a deadly game.

Sera is looking to avenge her cop brother's death but her attempts to get close to his killer has her captive in a world of crime. When she comes face to face with the notorious Bowen she has immediate interest that is half fear half desire. Good thing for her he seems to feel the same way!

So quite predictable in the good girl vs bad boy kinda way. But let me say...there would be no better way to be corrupted than by Bowen! Wowza! This read is Tessa Bailey hot. It is chalk full of passionate please, dirty pushy intimacy and full throttle alpha appeal. My only gripe would be the naive Sera! This undercover cop...well she had some learning to do! Quite soft and unbelievable to be the law. Smart? yes...but just did not feel like the right fit for a cop...well at least not til the end!

Overall though...I'm a fan! I know exactly what I'll get with this author. I like her heat. I like the push pull of the contrasting characters. I especially like the sense of urgency and danger with this new series! I for one and really looking forward to Connor's tale !

Wendy's Thoughts says

4 My Addiction to Tessa Bailey Stars * * * *

I have an addiction to Tessa Bailey. She writes books which just hit all the pleasure points I have.

Do I like a plot, Yup.

Do I like a Manly Guy...not metro sexual, Yup.

Do I like it when said manly guy is confident in his manliness and everyone knows it, Yup.

And do I like a dirty talker... not cheesy but just one who knows exactly what to say at exactly the right time to cause my brain to react in just the right way....Damn Straight, Yup.

And then on top of all this yummy goodness.... do you want to have a heroine who can hold her own with this sexual magnet, yes please. I have to live through someone in order to get that expert dirty talking...He can't do it in a vacuum...

So, I know when I read Tessa Bailey she will give me three dimensional characters mostly involved in an intricate plot...and this one was involving criminals, cops, undercover activity and secrets. She brought in past characters from other books but we didn't need to have read them to understand this book. This also was the first book of a new series which led to the need for more... more set up, more intensity and more layering. Most of the time it was fine...but there were a few periods when I could have done with less...

Because I wanted more Bowen... he is a very complex character; locked into a world not of his choosing... his father made those choices. He has his relationship of his half sister, Ruby, at stake... she means everything to him. This puts him in a position where he has to be something alien...He has to look out for an undercover cop who has gone rogue on her own...and once he sees this picture of this woman... so fresh, seemingly pure and innocent...he just knows he will figure out a way to protect her.

The object of this interest is Seraphia Newsom...she was a nurse...her brother was a cop and then while on the job was murdered by the North Brooklyn Crime boss Hogan. Seraphia left nursing; became a cop with the only goal of bringing down Hogan. She has gotten herself in... there is a ledger with all the evidence she needs to bring this scum down...she just needs to figure out when to nab it and get out.

Bowen Driscoll is now the head of the South Brooklyn Crime family; he doesn't wish to be... but it is what it is...This leads him to be able to interact with Hogan as they have a deal pending. At the bar where Seraphia is "working as Sera", Bowen makes himself know...visually tags Sera and the story takes off from there.

Bailey sets all of this up with very steamy interaction between these two...the build up is insane.... they are frothing at the mouth in how much each of them want each other...and so is the reader...This part of the story works full blast.

There were a lot of moving parts. It is important to pay attention to all of them... I did see a key player and I knew exactly what was about to happen... however it did not deter...The only downside for me was a bit of the pacing in the last quarter or so of the book.

This addiction to these types of stories is not a bad thing... in my book. I am fortunate because Ms. Bailey has created the next book and it will be equally as good.... for it takes place in Chicago.... and one of the characters we get to have another taste of is....

The original Dirty Talker himself, the fantastic Derek Tyler!

Yes, my man from His Risk to Take will be in the next book...not the main character but any amount of him is delicious and oh so fulfilling. I can breathe easier...I know my next fix is not far away.

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J *deep in the heart of Texas* says

This was between a 3.5 and 4 star for read for me. But I'll go ahead and round up for Bowen and his filthy mouth!

"Ah, sweetheart, I don't fuck around with virgins."

"But I'll get down on my knees and eat that untouched pussy like a motherfucker."

Okay, I had two problems with this one....

(1) the **INSTA-LOVE**

Literally this book spans over a week tops. It started as insta-lust when Bowen saw a picture of Sera and quickly became insta-love.

and (2) **Virgin Sera**

I definitely could have done without Sera being a virgin. Rarely can that be pulled off in books.

Those two issues aside, this was a pretty good read. There was a bit of suspense with the whole under-cover cop/gang leader storyline. Very little drama and plenty of steam!

If you're a fan of Tessa Bailey, I'd definitely recommend this one!

~ **Stéphanie** ~ **Tied up in Romance** ~ says

It's official! Tessa Bailey is now a new fav' author for me. From now on, I'll be directly one-clicking all books she will release in the future. Not that I had a doubt about it because after I read "His risk to take", I bought all her books and all I have to find is time to read them all.

Even if "Risking it all" is a stand-alone, I suggest you to read "His risk to take" and "Riskier business". You meet Bowen Driscrol several times in them and you get to know him a little better before fully diving in this one.

Seraphina Newsom is someone determined, and also a little reckless. Without warning anybody, she decide

to go undercover to discover the truth and get evidences about the death of her brother. She knows the criminal who did it and when she sees an opportunity to enter his world, she takes it. What she never expect was to meet another criminal, Bowen Driscoll.

Bowen is in charge of a district in Brooklyn since his father has been arrested. Not that he wanted the position, but what else could he do? Moreover he feels a little guilty about it because he somehow helped a little.

But things are about to change the day the police is going to make a deal with him. Because how is he supposed to resist once he saw the look of a young innocent girl who weaks in him protective feelings. From the start, their attractation is strong. The sexual tension kept growing and growing! Sera doesn't really know what to do, she's a virgin after all! And Bown is catch off-guard between his desire for her and what he knows about her.

"The physical attraction he felt with her couldn't be faked, but the idea of her using it against him made him undeniably angry.

I have to admit I was surprised that Sera had no experience. I wondered how the author was going to manage to spice things up and at the same time make sure that everything happens without being forced. After all, all her men are demanding, sexual and she is also know for her sex scenes, right? I should have know better! It was schorching hot. During the first half of the book, the "non-sex" scenes were what I love the most!

There are so many things to discover about Bowen that I couldn't put the book down. The moments between both our Mc are moments of revelations, of truth (most of the time) and I've learnt so much. Bowen has a good heart and doesn't really want to stay stuck where he's in life. He wants something better and since Sera appeared in his life, he starts to hope.

"You are my home, Sera. The only one I've ever had. I want to be yours, too. Let me

Sera spent her life doing what she's been told. She is sick and tired to be passive. She wants to make her own choice and her choice... it's Bowen!

If you loved books that get under you skin with a possessive yet protective man and with just the dirty talk you need, with all the hotness in bed. And if you are looking for an heroine who doesn't make it easy, who's strong but can let it go when in the arms of someone she can trust ---> READ THIS BOOK!

I guarantee you you will continually ask for more and that at the end, you will have a smile on your face.

Tessa Bailey, thank you for writing book just like I love them with men like I want. You're the best in your genre.

Elle Kennedy says

super sexy romantic suspense, just the way I like it :) This hero is awesome!

Allison ♥?Will Never Conquer Her TBR♥? says

4.5 "King of All Dirty Talkers" Stars!

Holy hotness, Batman! Bowen Driscoll is gonna light your ~~panties~~ Kindle on fire! I knew Tessa Bailey was the queen of dirty talking alpha heroes, but she's outdone herself here. Anywho, on to my review...

Serafina is a woman out for revenge...revenge for her brother's murder. Previously a nurse, she changed her career to law enforcement to go undercover seeking the proof to put the mafia thug that killed him behind bars. Until she suddenly goes off the grid.

Bowen Driscoll is the head of a notorious crime family. Thrown into this role when his father gets incarcerated, he plays the part of ruthless crime lord, even though it goes against everything he stands for. He hates this part of himself but has no way out... until the police approach him to find a cop that's gone missing. He's used to the street ways and can find her...protect her. Get her home where she belongs.

I'm not a huge fan of insta-love but, fortunately, at least this starts out with insta-lust. The love follows quite a bit later...like 48 hours, maybe? But I digress. This book sizzled. The chemistry between these two characters was scorching! Unfortunately for Bowen, he promises himself her will not *go there* with this sweet (view spoiler) he's being contracted to protect. Even if it kills him.... But they can play, right?

One issue I had with this book is the lack of character introduction where Sera is concerned. As we read along, we find out she's been raised in an all-girl Catholic boarding school. What confused me is how Bowen knew (view spoiler). There were several instances where she also started reciting the Our Father's or Hail Mary's and it just didn't fit for me in the story line. I guess if we got more background to her being raised so devout Catholic but it wasn't really explained early on.

This book is a bit different from most of Tessa Bailey's other reads in that he's a bit of an anti-hero. Bowen is not entirely good. He *wants* to be but life is forcing him to go in the other direction. Can this sweet Seraphina, who brings out the alpha protective instinct within Bowen, finally be what it takes to break him

away from the life of crime he was thrown into?

Read it and find out...

Favorite Dirty Talking Quotes-

"Ah, sweetheart, I don't fuck around with (view spoiler) His head dipped, teeth closing around her ear and tugging. "But I'll get down on my knees and eat that (view spoiler) pussy like a motherfucker."

"You could take me to Mass every day for the rest of my life and I'd still be the kind of guy who would finger you in the back row."

"It has to be this way, Sera. Otherwise you'll end up with your ankles behind my neck, screaming while I pound you. And that's just how it'll start. When I feel myself coming, I'd hold it back. I'd flip you onto your hands and knees and start all over." (...)"On second thought, maybe you'd like that. Catholic girls spend a lot of time kneeling already, don't they?"

***One little addendum...call me a picky beech but the above quotes scream hot alpha dirty talking antihero, right? Well, why, oh why, did he have to choose "Ladybug" as his endearment for Sera? WHY? It totally blew it for me... "Babe" would've sufficed. Anywho...

Mo says

I had high hopes for this one but it sort of ended on a fizzle and not a bang. I can usually suspend the disbelief while reading books but this one was a bit too much to take. Bowen, holding hands in church ... having such strong feeling for her straight away. I mean, this was supposed to be a tough guy! Not saying the tough guys can't fall hard but it wasn't working for me.

The heroine came across as a bit immature. What age was she supposed to be? She had been a nurse and then cop so she must at least have been in her mid to late twenties.

Sex scenes were hot enough I suppose. But if I pay almost 7 bucks for a book I need it to be a bit better than this.

Jeanne says

3.5 stars

I have to admit, I really did enjoy this one. Tessa Bailey is one of my top favorite authors for a reason!

The book wasn't perfect, I definitely think the virginal Catholic school girl type of heroine is played out. It wasn't especially believable that she was a New York City cop either. The story line had lots of holes in it, imo. The thing with Tessa Bailey though is that she is able to distract me with her hot, possessive alpha men to the point where I don't even care. She mesmerizes me from the beginning, and Bowen was a 5 star, dirty talkin' hottie,

He says things like this,

"It has to be this way, Sera. Otherwise you'll end up with your ankles behind my neck, screaming while I pound you." His teeth sank into his bottom lip. "And that's just how it'll start. When I feel myself coming, I'd hold it back. I'd flip you on your hands and knees and start all over." He ran his hands up her rib cage to grasp her breasts. "On second thought, maybe you'd like that. Catholic girls spend a lot of time kneeling already, don't they?"

Then I'm like,

If your wondering if I'm continuing with the series, the answer is a big hell yes. I'm pretty excited about Connor!! :)
