



Barrel Proof

Layla Reyne

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FBI agents Aidan "Irish" Talley and Jameson "Whiskey" Walker can't get a moment's peace. Their hunt for the terrorist Renaud seems to be nearing an end, until a fire allows him to slip through their fingers—and puts Jamie's life in danger. When Jamie is nearly killed, Aidan learns how many forms loss can take.

Aidan says *I love you* just moments before learning that Jamie's been keeping a devastating secret about Aidan's late husband. How quickly trust and love can go up in flames. When Aidan requests a solo undercover assignment, Jamie hopes Aidan will find a way to forgive him.

But the explosions are far from over. Aidan's cover lands him in the heart of the terrorist's conspiracy, and Jamie will have to put his life, his career and his freedom on the line to save the man who has become his entire world. Partners, always is a promise he intends to keep.

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Barrel Proof Details

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The *technobabble* was once again strong with this one. Those who have read my reviews for *Single Malt* and *Cask Strength* already know that I'm not a computer person. Every single time our technician at work is trying to explain to me what I did wrong so my computer ended up refusing any cooperation and sees my wide-eyed stare, he probably thinks that he is dealing with someone from the dark age bursting through a time warp into the 21st century... So, nooo, I didn't understand everything Aidan did during his undercover job, but I got the gist of it and it was once again enough for me.

I just loved the relationship development, but also the progress Aidan and Jamie made individually during the whole series despite everything they had to go through. How the author dealt with all the hurt/comfort and made this second chance love believable was top notch and their HEA was more than well-deserved

Aidan captured one of Jamie's hands, tangled their fingers, and brought their woven knuckles to his lips. "Partners, Whiskey, always."

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the end of this journey. On behalf of Reyne Airlines and the entire crew, I'd like to thank you for joining us on this trip and we are looking forward to seeing you on board again in the near future.

I know *I* would be so on board with that. Secretly I'm hoping - argh shucks, to hell with hoping - I'm *begging* for a book about the Bureau's best kidnap and rescue agent and a certain prosecutor who both grew on me during this series and of course I hope to see more of Jamie and Aidan as well in the future.

Highly recommended!

My reviews are posted on Dirty Books Obsession

Christelle says

****4 stars for this last piece of the puzzle and 4 stars for the whole series****

Not a standalone : this book has been cut into 3 pieces and this is the last part, so no spoiler at all.

To remember : Aiden is a seasoned FBI agent and one year ago, he lost his partner as well as his husband in a car accident. Back on the job, he is paired by his boss, actually his sister-in-law, with an unusual "rookie", Jamie, ex professional player and now an expert in cyber-crimes. They learn working together during several missions, and get intimately closer, even though Aidan tries to keep it casual.

But the murky circumstances around Aidan's husband come into play, messing around the relationship between Aidan and Jamie, as much as Aidan's fear of losing his heart again.

It's full of suspense, although a bit on the suspend-belief side for me, action, romance, very sexy times, with trust, reflexion and faith thrown in the mix.

What made it so good for me : Jamie. I loved this character : he's smart, caring, sweet, strong, and patient. And the conclusion felt so real and in par with the characters and the setting.

In overall, a very good suspense-romance, with enough to do a spin-off ??? I wouldn't mind at all.

***A special note to Dia : I really had a great time, thanks to you !!! ***

Mirjana **DTR - Down to Read says**

*****5 STARS*****

What a conclusion!! It says something when you can finish a series and immediately want to reread it!

Full review to come.

"You rescued me Jameson Walker. Today, seven months ago, and so many days in between."

Chris says

I loved this ... Whiskey & Irish what a pair ! This book continued with the same fast pace momentum and had me reading until way too late into the night. I suffered through a range of emotions that had me teary in the first 20%, anxious throughout and very happy near the end. I was worried that the storyline may have lost some interest by this book but I couldn't have been more wrong. This was cleverly written, attention grabbing and thrilling. Have already preordered book 4 ♥?? this is a fabulous series !

J *deep in the heart of Texas* says

4.5 Stars!

Overall this was definitely a 5 star series for me. With my only complaint being Aidan's reluctance to move on and allow himself to be with Jamie.

But together, Aidan and Jamie had great chemistry and they're definitely one of my favorite couples.

The suspense/mystery throughout the three books was entertaining and kept me guessing.

I am really hoping some of the secondary characters will get books as well.

Recommended series! Looks like I've got a new auto-buy author to add to the list!

Ariana says

Book 2 left us on quite a cliffhanger. With everyone heading after the main baddie and Jamie on the verge of telling Aiden his secret, the beginning of book 3 was bound to be explosive. And it was – ‘literally’.

No, my kindle did not go up in flames *g*, but the action was certainly full on! And it never stopped until the end.

Tbh, at times the plot felt almost a little ‘crammed’.

As for Jamie finally spilling the beans – it went like you would expect. I admit I anticipated a massive fall out and tons of angst, but none of that happened, and I can’t make up my mind whether this was a good thing or not.

On the one hand, I think Aiden’s reaction was sensible and realistic – he does love Jamie – but on the other hand there could have been more angst, easily. This is about Aden’s weakest spot, after all. But everything was resolved relatively quickly and easily. (Ok, you know me, angst queen and the rest, I did hope for more trouble...)

Although I really enjoyed the conclusion to this very commendable series, I did have some minor issues with it.

.) the plot was going a bit haywire – expect to suspend your belief.

.) the phrase “I can’t lose you/him/her” was heavily overused (mainly by Aiden) and eventually made me uneasy every time it came up. Not that I don’t understand the sentiment, but Aiden IS an FBI agent, trained and used to danger and the possible consequences.

I didn’t quite expect him to fall apart every time one of his loved ones was threatened. To me it felt like overreacting (and yes, I do get why, but still ...).

However,

... the ending is wonderful. I did anticipate some bits about it, and loved it all, apart from one thing that made me grumble a bit. (view spoiler)

However, all in all, I was very happy with the final instalment of this very well written, very imaginative and hot series!

Recommended!

Jewel says

I feel better, now. Book 2 left us with quite the cliffie and I have been eagerly awaiting the release of this one, along with time to actually read it! I loved it -- Aidan and Jamie are wonderful together. *happy sigh*

Like the first two books in the series, *Barrel Proof* is action packed, and no sooner than they get a tiny rest,

the excitement starts up again. I like how the story arc wrapped up and our guys finally get their well-earned HEA.

~Mindy Lynn~ says

5 Stars!

This one starts off with a bang that leaves our men on rocky ground. Jamie is broken hearted and Aidan is just broken. All Aiden is feeling right now is anger which he is consumed with because of the betrayal he feels by those he considered the closest to him. He's feeling hurt by the lies he was told by the people he trusted more than anyone in the world. To say more would give things away and I don't wanna be THAT person who ruins a book for someone. So, moving on.

I want to express how much I loved the character that is Lauren. She was really funny and had no filter for the things that came out of her mouth. I can relate to that. I'm good on page because there is a delete button, but in real life I piss people off more than I like to admit or make them laugh. It honestly can go either way. But I honestly am not a mean person I just have a hard time not speaking truth. *shrugs shoulders* But back to Lauren. I really liked this character and would totally read a book if she was given one.

There are two men I would love to read about as well and would love if they got coupled up. Dominic and Cam. Can this please happen? Anyone else feeling like something could be there?

Dolls, this book is non-stop action. When you think finally! a break for these men and it might be over **BAM!** something else happens and we're back in the field where the stakes are high and the adrenaline is pumping. It was such a great read and I loved the twists and how it played out.

The ending was lovely and made me smile the creepy joker smile. Well, that's what I was told anyway. Whatever! But that ending definitely feels like it could be open for another book. Maybe if enough of us stalked (in a nice way if you can stalk in a nice way) and left the author some notes on why this would be awesome of her to do it would happen. WOW! That sounded better in my head and less creepy. I could hit the delete button, but nah. LOL

Although it is bittersweet to say goodbye to these men, I am happy they got their happy.

If you haven't picked this series up I totally recommend you do.

Happy reading dolls! xx

Diana says

4 1/2 stars

Full review now posted 8/7/17

Barrel of Proof starts right where *Cask Strength* left off. Aiden, Jamie and Danny are on their way to Cuba to find Mel. With Jamie keeping a big secret, he is putting his relationship with his partner at risk. Maybe Aiden will forgive him, after all, Jamie was trying to protect Aiden's heart.

" I love you too, I know your kiss, and I know what goodbye tastes like"~Jamie

Aidan is struggling and completely lost after he finds out the truth about his late husband and partner. Hoping space will help mend his heart, he sets off on a new solo assignment. Of course, trouble follows and both Jamie and Aidan have to fight for each other as well as people that matter most

"I told you I would do whatever it takes. I won't let you lose someone else you love"~Jamie

I really enjoyed this series and I don't want to say goodbye to Irish and Whiskey!!! You can definitely tell the author did her homework with IT and financial wording. At times I was confused by it all, but I stuck with it.

Loved it!!! I am sure going to miss these guys!!

ARC provided by NetGalley/Carina Press is exchange for an honest review.

Dia says

4,5 stars rounded up because I ? Jamie

I must start by saying this third book is my favorite in the series. This story got better and better with each book and I am happy I discovered Layla Reyne, because I'm sure she will become a very successful writer. I was glued to the pages for three books having the same main characters. This doesn't happen a lot. I actually try not to start series with the same MC, but Irish and Whiskey were amazing together. Super hot in bed and great partners on the field.

I really want to keep this review spoiler free because I hate it when I read unwanted details while I peek into other reviews.

I think it's safe to say this book is full of action just like the other two previous books. **I sat on the edge of my seat while reading the second part of the book.** It was super intense and full of unexpected turns. Amazing plot developing!!! We get many surprises and a lot of suspense. And in the end, Aidan and Jamie got their well deserved HEA!

When I started reading Single Malt, I didn't know it was a debut book and that was a nice surprise. I dived right into Cask Strength and for me this one was even better. I enjoyed the suspense and read it in one standing. The only thing that annoyed me was Aidan pushing Jamie away and playing the "keep it casual" card. Uh, at one point I really thought he didn't deserve Jamie's sweet heart and loyalty. But In Barrel Proof they finally learn to forgive and trust each other. **It was great following their roller coaster story and all I can say is that it wasn't an easy ride.**

In the end I must add I got to love **Mel** - the feisty SAC and all the other secondary characters, Danny - Aidan's brother, Nic - the great prosecutor and little Katie. I'd love to stick into their world, maybe with Nic's story. Hope the author will give us his story someday. He was an intriguing character.

I'm looking forward to read more from this author.

ARC kindly provided by the Publisher - Carina Press, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest and unbiased review.

Volha says

This is the last book in the series I renamed " The Hot Geek and the Hotter Agent". I knew it would be good, but oh my giddy aunts, that was spectacular! It was a roller coaster ride from start to finish. Every question I had was answered, every villain slain, every lover well loved.

Here we get not only Jamie, Aidan, Mel and Danny but two new members - Nic aka Aidan's roadblock and Lauren aka Jamie's mini-me. Together they make up a Suicide Squad because what they manage to achieve is almost impossible and extremely dangerous but they all survive with their parts intact.

This story clearly shows how easy it is to frame, blackmail or eliminate people who've outgrown their usefulness. Irish and Whiskey are racing against the clock to stop a terrorist from completing his agenda and when the truth comes out in the end there is only sadness that one lonely man who was wronged turned into a despicable monster beyond redemption. Through all the tribulations Aidan and Jamie stay true to themselves and their love for each other and when the fight is over and the smoke is cleared the threat is gone, the life as they know it is over and the circle of life begins anew.

It was a very enjoyable and thoroughly satisfying read! I highly recommend it!

Mo says

If it takes me too long to read a book, my attention wanes a little bit. Started this on April 3rd but between Easter, work, holiday, I did not get a chance to get much reading done. It was another good read. Like both characters.

Caipi says

Irish and Whiskey, welcome to my favorite-couples-shelf! :)

**Aidan captured one of Jamie's hands, tangled their fingers, and brought their woven knuckles to his lips. "Partners, Whiskey, always."
Jamie smiled as he repeated the vow back to him. "Partners, Irish, always."**

I love these two! The chemistry and dynamic between them is awesome.

Add all the adrenaline-filled moments and this series is a great entertainment which gets a happy 5 stars rating from me!

Jaime says

"I can't stay away." Jamie's heart swelled, pounding his ribs. He framed Aidan's face with his hands. "You don't have to." Aidan opened his eyes on a big, relieved breath. They were bright with the same love and hope coursing through Jamie, filling his heart. "Kiss me, Irish."

Barrel Proof is book three in the *Agent's Irish and Whisky* series from author Layla Reyne. These books are going to be best enjoyed, reading them in order - and are **NOT** standalones. *Barrel Proof* starts right where *Cask Strength* ended.

Aiden and Jamie's worlds have been put to the test, both on the job and off, and the wild ride with hard truths, deceptions, and emotional turmoil has brought these two almost full circle. There were certain points of the story that I wondered if Aiden was going to break. How much could one man take? When would all of the revelations be too much and how would he cope with his new realities? Never fear though, book three does see them finally getting their happy ending...but it's not all cake walk to get there!

"Because as much as I love you, I'm angry as hell. At you, at Mel, at Gabe. I need to get away from everything for a while."

"Including me?" Jamie realized he'd voiced the sentiment when Aidan framed his face in both hands.

"Because I want to be able to come home to you," he said. "If I stay, my anger will ruin this."

Reyne has written an amazing series. On top of the continuing suspense and plot twists, there is this slow-burn romance that captivates you! You will find yourself flipping pages in this story just as fast as you can, because of the need to see Jamie and Aiden safe, happy, and together! It's quite the emotional ride, and one I loved! Every. Word.

He closed the space between them and framed Aidan's face in his hands. "I'll be your partner, Irish, always, badge or not."

Aidan nuzzled one of the big, warm palms. "Partner, always."... "Damn straight."

This is the book that brings it all to a head. All is revealed and the fall out is something you won't forget! I fell in love with these characters and was so sad to see these books end. I did however find a new amazing author, Layla Reyne has become an auto-buy for me!

If you enjoy suspense, angst, romance, witty and fun characters, and hot as hell sexytimes ... this story is a must read!

5 stars!! ?????

~~~~~??~

Check out this blog post at Alpha Book Club for some great extra content from Aidan

Then....

What Jaime loves About Aidan.....

Alpha Book Club

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### **Natalia says**

Sad to see these two go :(

Lovely series!!

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