



Renegade

Lora Leigh

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As a bridal shop owner, Mikayla Martin helps make women's wedding dreams come true. Her own life, however, has become a nightmare since she witnessed a murder—and got an up-close-and-personal look at the killer. What's worse: She *knows* she knows him. But the police, after doing an alibi check, don't believe her. It's up to Mikayla to prove them wrong...and do whatever it takes to solve the murder by herself.

Elite Ops agent Nikolai Steele, code name Renegade, is asked to pay an old comrade a favor. This friend swears he's no killer—and Nik believes him—even though he's been mistaken as one by Mikayla. So Nik goes to set her straight...but the moment he lays eyes on the fiery and determined beauty, he knows he's in too deep. A woman this irresistible can only mean trouble and, sure enough, after sticking her nose in one too many places, someone wants Mikayla dead. Now Nik must find a way to keep her safe, clear his friend's name, *and* find the real killer, who remains on the loose...

Renegade Details

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From Reader Review Renegade for online ebook

Fanny says

Renegade es el quinto libro de la serie Elite Ops de Lora Leigh y tiene como protagonistas a Nik y Mikayla. Esta historia era la que mas ganas tenia de leer cuando descubri la serie, no se si porque Nik me llamo mas la atencion o si simplemente la sinopsis me parecio mas interesante que las demas, por lo que tenia unas altas expectativas cuando empece la lectura y aunque no cumplio todas mis expectativas, si que fue el libro que mas me ha gustado de la saga.

Aun no se muy bien que pensar de la autora, en algunas historias me gusta su forma de escribir pero en otras se me hace tan aburrida, supongo que depende de lo enganchada que este a la lectura. Otra cosa que me molesta mucho es lo poco que profundiza en la historia en sí, tengo la sensacion de que solo utiliza la parte de " suspense " para " justificar " que los protagonistas de sus libros esten todo el tiempo revolcandose en cualquier lugar.

3.5 Estrellas!

Katie(babs) says

Where oh where shall I begin about Renegade, the latest book by Lora Leigh? Here we have a tortured, beats his chest angsty hero and a twenty-six year old virgin heroine who waits with bated breath for her prince charming to come along and sweep her off her feet. Instead she gets a man who constantly puts her down because of her obsession with wearing a white wedding dress and a proud V-card carrying member.

Mikayla Martin lives in a small town where everyone seems to know your name. She comes from a family full of love and cheer, as well as being independent, up to a certain point because her parents and brothers feel the need to know her whereabouts every minute of the day. Mikayla, who will spit in your eye if you dare to call her Kayla, owns her own exclusive clothing shop called where she makes wedding dresses from hand. Mikayla is obsessed with having her own white wedding to the point that she will stay a virgin until she meets that perfect man who not only can pop her cherry with such precision, but can give her that white picket fence, the mini-van, 2.5 children and most likely a dog, cat, goldfish...the whole nine yards.

But Mikayla's dreams come crashing down when she goes to pick up her irresponsible, rascally brother from work. Mikayla's brother up and left, forgetting to tell her that he found a new ride home. And while she's waiting for him, she witnesses a shooting and swears it's Maddix Nelson, this big wig in town. But no one believes Mikayla, for Maddix has an alibi with witnesses and everything.

As Mikayla runs around trying to get everyone and their dog to believe what she saw was fact, Maddix calls in a favor and Nikolai Steele aka Renegade comes vrooming into town on his "wicked black Harley." Nik is ornery, mean and dark. Maddix has been framed and because he cares for Mikayla, (but not in a dirty old man way) he wants Nik to get to the bottom of this before Mikayla is hurt, marked for death, assassinated, or something unsettling on the horizon that gives Maddix the wiles.

Broody Nik, who's a dripping orgasm, thinks Mikayla is too little Miss Mary Sunshiney. How can she be so pure and innocent? How dare she not even have one parking ticket in her past? Nick will look further into

this pearl of a woman who is so not for him because she's the marrying kind and gasp- a virgin!

But then Nik and Mikayla chat and soon she's the victim of a few scary events such as a mugging that's really a warning for her to keep quiet. Nik will protect her because the lion inside of him, or perhaps his crouching tiger, hidden dragon, wants Mikayla as his mate and not even she can keep him away.

Then we have scene upon scene of incredible foreplay where Nik puts his mouth, tongue and fingers to good use. He stops from going to far, even though Nik wants to lose himself and plunge his little Nick in Mikayla's body. He'll respect her wishes to wait for some phantom prince charming to marry her. Until then he'll make her ooh and ahh much like the fake orgasm scene in When Harry Met Sally and still be able to wave her V-card around.

After more than a few going downtown scenes where Mikayla is close to drowning in a messy river of passion, she comes to the conclusion that she'll gladly let Nik tear up her V-card because no other man makes he feel so... horny and complete; but still not the type who she'll marry. No sir, because as soon as Nik finds the villain responsible for trying to kill Mikayla, he's outtie on his wicked Harley. Just as Mikayla has her V-card status, Nik proudly has his own "I'm a loner baby card, and can only give you massive climaxes, but not my heart, soul and all that jazz where I would settle down into small town life because I was married once before and it didn't turn out well at all."

So, while Nik and Mikayla have enough sex to bring on some major chafing between the two, they figure out who is behind the murder and scary tactics against Mikayla. And let me tell you, it's a scene worthy right out of the old nighttime soaps of Dallas or Dynasty.

Renegade was ridiculously bad reading. Nik is a cringe worthy caricature of what a hero should be, and more than half the time I felt he should have gone to therapy. The man has enough resources and people on his phone, but why not a good therapist?

Mikayla kept pushing and pulling Nik every which way, and just as Nik was led around by his wee-wee, Mikayla was led around by her hoo-haa.

The love scenes border on purple prose and were written the same almost every time. Think of insert tab A into Tab B and there you go. But every so often there would be an outcry of emotion from Nik as he reflected on his lovemaking with Mikayla while in the middle of it with a deep thought such as:

"And he knew Mikayla. She would want children. She would hunger for children. And Nick knew he could never, ever allow himself to take that risk again."

Nik, why not just buy Mikayla a happy meal if she was so hungry?

Lora Leigh is insanely popular for reasons that escape me. With ho-hum love scenes that seem to be written identically each and every time, and with characters that are way too emotive and cartoonish, I can't help but wonder why.

This was my first book in a long time by Lora Leigh and after reading Renegade, I would have to say that she and I simple don't fit.

All she left me with was a bad craving for a McDonald Big Mac and plastic Happy Meal Toy.

Sammy says

2.5 stars. What to say..I was dissapointed. I was hoping after the last book this would be an improvement. Not so much. Which is too bad because I really enjoyed the first couple books in this series. First complaint that comes to mind is too repetitive. Nik constantly thought the same things over and over! We get it already! Ugh! I just felt this was same story different book. Hard ass Alpha who can't commit because his life is too dangerous. Good woman pining over a man she can't have. Lots of sex. Mediocre conclusion, the end. Next...

Mollie *scoutrmom* says

This was a fun read but not that well constructed ... Fast-paced, action-packed, and full of sexual tension. We don't see a lot of the protagonists' reasoning for the actions they take, and we are not shown how the villians came together. I did guess the surprise ending many chapters before it happened, but that didn't ruin it for me, as I didn't have any support for my guess until the climactic scene.

I liked the plot, loved the spunky heroine even though she should have llistened better, and I really liked the cast of supporting characters... the parents, brothers, friend.

Auntee's review made some points I don't agree with, for an alternative view of this book I suggest reading that one.

I'm putting this on the keeper shelf with the rest of the series, but I have not yet had the impulse to re-read the series as I do much of the author's other work.

jenjn79 says

What is it about Lora Leigh's books that keep us coming back for more even when they frustrate us so much? Not sure...something to ponder. Because like her other books, this one had quite a few things in it that were irritating, but it wasn't a terrible book.

Series Note:

Part of Leigh's long-runnin "Tempting SEALs/Elite Ops" series. This one has a pretty singular storyline so you could possibly read it as a stand-alone.

Summary:

Clothing designer Mikayla Martin goes to her brother's job at a construction site one day to pick him up and stumbles upon a murder in progress. She recognizes the shooter and tells the police. But the killer seems to have an air-tight alibi. No on is sure what to believe.

Elite-Ops Agent Nik Steele owes a favor to a local builder and when that man is accused of murder (by Mikayla) he calls in his favor to Nik. The man wants Nik to find out what's up with Mikayla...he knows she's not the type to lie, but he also knows he's not a murderer. So Nik inserts himself into Mikayla's life.

The chemistry between good-girl Mikayla and the morose special agent is instantaneous. But whose side is Nik on? Mikayla doesn't know but she can't resist Nik. And as their digging into the murder goes deeper,

Mikayla's life becomes in danger. Nik is there to save her at every step. Unfortunately, because of the life he leads, his stay is only temporary...at least that's what Nik tells himself.

Review:

Initially I was enjoying this book quite a bit. It's got a lot of romance, a nice mystery and some hot sex. But after a short while everything started to get rather repetitive. To the point that I began skimming scenes because they weren't really adding anything to the story.

At the most basic, I liked the romance. Mikayla is a good girl who works hard, doesn't swear, is a virgin and is liked by everyone. Nik is a dark special agent, part of the Elite Ops - a team of men who are dead men with new identities as bad guys. It's a total clash of images. Over used and trite maybe, but still sexy. The two have great chemistry together.

But the way LL portrayed these two, especially together, was frustrating. Much is made of Mikayla's stature. The way LL describes her makes her seem like an 80lb, 4ft tall little person when in reality she's just a little below average - 5'4" I believe, with a normal weight. But all throughout the book Nik is constantly referring to her as a little fairy, the smallest woman he's been with, etc etc etc and good grief it got really old really really fast. It was so overblown it was ridiculous and it cast an annoying vibe over the whole romance.

Plus - and this issue has bothered me in previous books - but I hate all the secret keeping re: Nik's identity and job. By the time the book ends Mikayla still has no idea who Nik really is, what he does, how he ended up that way, etc. Personally, that's a lousy way to build a relationship and it doesn't really work for me.

The suspense plot was okay...I thought I would like it a lot more, but it seemed really underdeveloped. There never seemed to be enough focus on the case, the investigating, the possibilities. It seemed like all the investigating got done behind the scenes by other characters then relayed to Nik. I just wanted more out of this plot. And the bad guy, though you wouldn't be able to name him by name at the end, it was obvious which way the story was going.

One other thing I didn't like about the book was how separate it seemed from all the other books and characters. You didn't get the Elite Ops vibe - the teamwork, the danger - and all that. I missed it.

Oh, one other thing - the editing issue LL is prone too. It was nowhere near as bad as that one book, but there were still noticeable problems. Like Nik pulling up somewhere in a hummer, but then leaving on his Harley, or a character being called a wrong name. Stuff like that. Distracting, but it wasn't too bad.

So...hmmm...it was an okay book. The diehard LL fans will probably like it, the LL critics will find the same issues as they find in other books, and the ones in the middle will still probably be in the middle.

WARNING, this book contains: explicit sex and language, a little ass play, but overall it's fairly tame for an LL book.

? **BookAddict** ✍ **La Crimson Femme** says

Finally I read this story. Not sure why it took me so long. Nik aka Renegade is the latest in the Elite Ops to fall for a woman. And what a woman... now we know this is a fantasy. Because she is:

1. Good and wholesome
2. Honest with impeccable integrity

3. 26 and owns her own business
4. 26 AND a virgin
5. Still goes out and dates men w/o putting out or spreading her legs

Who is this woman? Mikayla is a sweet female who definitely lives in a place that suits her best. She is in a small enough town where everyone knows her and vice versa. She is a gentle woman with compassion and smile for everyone. When she witnesses a crime and it puts her opposite of a powerful and decent man, tensions start to run high.

I read this book in one sitting because I wanted to know how it happened. I had a little guess but wasn't sure because there were not enough clues to point in the direction I was going. The ending is not too far off as I anticipated. It was the only possible answer in my head.

Now the rest of the story... the romance piece. This I confess, I just zipped through. The sex scenes didn't do it for me at all. I loved Ms. Leigh's early kinky series, bound hearts. These romantic suspense ones could really do w/o the sex. The sex in here are not on par with her other work and for me, detract from the plot. Each sexual interlude between the sexy bad ass alpha male and the wholesome sweet virgin was wince-worthy for me. Then again, I'm a bit jaded. For those who enjoy this series and like the suspense part, this story is fine. For those are all about the romance, this may or may not tickle your fancy.

SheLove2Read says

If I could give this book awards, I would. Like:

The "For the love of all that's holy" award for most virginal heroine!

The "I need a Tylenol" award for the exaggerated use of the phrase "destroy me"!

The "Buy that woman a dictionary" award for extreme usage of the word "soul"!

and last but not least

The "Queen of Contemporary Purple Prose" award to the author, for making me roll my eyes, actually gag reading the hero's thoughts and kick my own ass for spending 8 bucks on this book.

D-

Amanda says

The ending really almost ruined the book for me. I don't want to go into details, but the identity of the killer was very contrived and not what I would have expected from a Lora Leigh book.

I liked the book, but I would have to say that it is my least favorite of the series so far. I really liked Mikayla and how strong she was (although she was a little too perfect - the perfect sister/daughter, popular with everyone in the world it seemed, the list goes on). We finally learn more about Nik, who I have loved since the beginning. I think Mikayla is more than a match for him!

All in all, I was a little disappointed in this book. I love Lora Leigh and this series, so maybe my

expectations were too high, but this book just didn't have that special something that Leigh's books generally have. Everything was a little too pat and sudden, and a little contrived.

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

Spoilers

I am so annoyed right now . So I am not going to even bother with writing a real review for Renegade , because The author didn't really bother to write a real book! If she didn't bother why should I? WTH? seriously this was all filler, where's the beef? This book was so damn repetitious and tedious I had to slam My head into a wall to stay awake!!! Her innocence , little fairy, amethyst eyes, fire in his arms, Her innocence , little fairy, amethyst eyes, fire in his arms. Okay already we get it she has amethyst eyes, she is innocence, she looks like a fucking fairy she is short and she is like fire in your arms no need to say it page after flippin page all through the damn book. Then there was the whole I can't stay with her, but I can't leave her , I can't stay , I can't leave. Blah blah blah . Oh and lets not forget a virgin here , a virgin there , here a virgin there a virgin everywhere a virgin.... Really another heroine who is a virgin saving herself yet just gives it away to the hero almost as soon as they meet, even though he can't stay!

This is a book of sex after sex after sex with minimal character or relationship development. I am so over this series , I wish to God I could walk away and not read the last book Live Wire, Damn my OCD!!!!

<http://jessicasoverthetopbookobsessio...>

marlene says

If ever she looked like a fairy it was now. If ever she looked like a fairy it was now. If ever she looked like a fairy it was now. If ever she looked like a fairy it was now. No now. No, now. Wait. Right now.

Her amethyst eyes... Her amethyst eyes blah blah. Her amethyst Ok! Enough please. We get it. Really, we do.

Oh Lora Leigh. Really? Quality over quantity honey. This book was just, well, terrible. The plot was as repetitive as the over use of key phrases. We have been there done that. Only the names have changed. The editing was just as bad as ever. I love when characters get called wrong names. This time at least you could identify the mistake. It was a little less random than usual.

I think its just time to slow down. Sit back, or go on vacation, whatever. Start up again once your creative

mojo gives you something fresh.

Auntee says

sigh I wished I could have loved this. I barely liked it. Maybe I need a long break from LL books. I read her **Breeds, Nauti, Men of August, Bound Hearts, Tempting SEALs, and Elite Ops** series, and maybe that's just too much Lora Leigh for me. Everything just seems the same: the characters, the plots, the dialogue, the physical descriptions, the emotions, the 'being with you is going to be the death of me', the sex scenes...everything just seems 'been there, done that' to me.

In this one, you have Nik Steele (code name 'Renegade'), big, (6'6") blond, (long, white blond hair) and super buff and wearing black leather riding in to Hagerstown, Maryland on his Harley. He's here to return a favor to a friend (construction company owner Maddix Nelson) who has been (wrongfully?) accused of murder. It's up to him to prove that the young woman who claims she saw him murder his construction foreman is lying. The only problem is that the young woman in question, 26-year-old bridal shop owner/dress designer/girl-next-door Mikayla Martin has a spotless reputation and that she *never* lies.

Nik gets a look at Mikayla, and is transfixed by her wheat-blond hair, her amethyst eyes, her petite (under 5'4"), curvy figure, her fairy-like quality, and her whole air of innocence. Of course loner Nik, who has a past filled with pain, misery, and incredible loss, has closed off his heart to love. But not to lust. He *wants* the innocent Mikayla, even though no good will come of it. Even though Mikayla dreams of Mr. Right, marriage, and children, Nik *can never* give her that. All he can give her is his incredible body, which seems to be okay for Mikayla (she has serious lust for him)...until she wants more.

Since the police seem to have no interest in solving this murder (Maddix has an airtight alibi) it's up to Nik to figure out who is lying (neither?) and why, and to protect Mikayla (someone is determined to see her dead). Of course while protecting Mikayla they end up having a sexual affair, even though Nik knows he's going to hurt Mikayla and break her heart when he has to leave her. Nik doesn't do 'forever'.

Okay, the good: it started out all right, as Mikayla's character is described and we're given some background about her character, she witnesses a murder, and barely escapes with her own life. Nik comes riding into town in all his studly glory, and you know the virginal Mikayla is going to give it up to him. The plot seems pretty easy to follow--either Mikayla is mistaken (since she NEVER lies), or Maddix is lying (but why would he bring Nik in to prove he was lying?). Nik will get to the bottom of it, since the police have no intention of doing it. Why? But once Nik starts trying to put the pieces together, while arguing with Mikayla about how she needs to stay out of it so he can protect her, I started to get bored. LL starts throwing a bunch of suspects names around, and I lost interest. And got confused. Nik desperately tries not to feel anything for Mikayla, and I lost interest. This happens all..the...time. LL kept mentioning Mikayla's *amethyst* eyes, and I lost interest. Nik kept thinking of Mikayla as a *fairy*, and I *really* lost interest.

"One more time, little fairy, complete me."

Not even the sex scenes could save this one for me. First of all, I was a bit put off by their height differences--Nik was six and a half feet tall, and Mikayla was possibly only 5 feet tall. Many times LL described Mikayla wearing 4 inch heels and only coming up to Nik's chest. That just seemed a little "man vs. girl" to me, especially when Nik kept thinking of her as his "innocent fairy".

Second, Nik was constantly picking Mikayla up, and placing her on a table, on top of a chair back (so he could better access her without breaking his back or wrenching his neck?)...it got a little distracting to me.

Maybe because I didn't really connect with these characters, but I didn't feel that there was anything particularly hot about their lovemaking either--not a whole lot of dialogue or anything unusual. And strangely enough for LL--no actual anal scene (except for a little fingering)!

The mildly suspenseful ending was out of left field. I actually laughed a little. That's all I'm going to say about that.

The epilogue? Too short, and rushed. It felt tacked on. Maybe because by that point the book was already over 400 pages?

This book could actually be read as a stand alone. I skipped the previous one Black Jack, and I don't think it mattered. Maybe I'm just burned out by LL, and someone who only reads this series will enjoy "Renegade". So if you're a die-hard fan, you'll probably want to read this one. Right now I'm on the fence with this series. I'm going to have to hear some good stuff about the next one, Live Wire, before I continue with this series. 3 stars

It's Me - Yvette says

I was disappointed with this one. I didn't buy the instalove between Nik and his fairy Mikayla. He was drawn to her from the very first time he saw a picture of her, and was immediately having sexual fantasies about her. This was also very repetitive. I felt like all Nik thought about was his "need" for her, his "hunger" for her. It was on every other page it seemed, so that's when I started skimming. I even skimmed some of the sexy times. For a virgin, Mikayla sure caught on quickly. Maybe that's what happens when you're a virgin at 20 lots... you know what to do, but just haven't actually done it previously. She'd been holding on to her virginity for so long, and Nik was able to be intimate with her entirely too quickly -- again, just not believable for me. The plot behind the killing was decent, but I admit, I did guess what the outcome could have been -- I didn't guess everything 100% correctly, but I was close. I just couldn't think of another explanation. And the ending, after an entire book of Nik's thoughts about all the reasons he had to walk away from her, in the end, it didn't make much sense that he would stay - not to this reader. I don't know how many books are left in this series, so I hope this one was the only "dud" as I have genuinely enjoyed the previous books in this series. You know what they say "every book can't be a blockbuster" and this is definitely not a blockbuster, unfortunately.

Cindi says

For those who read and love Lora Leigh, Renegade was nothing new. This is Nik's story, in the Elite One group. I foolishly expected something a bit different, tho, as Nikolai Steele is Russian and an assassin. The opportunity was passed up, however, and reading about Nik was exactly like reading about any of the others in this series (he says he's from Texas, of all places!!! I guarantee I have not seen a hunky, 6'5" white/blonde Viking with ice blue eyes around here! I would notice as I am TEAM ERIC!). He's an alpha male, gorgeous, wears leather jeans (yum!) and has lived his life in the shadows since his wife and child were killed 10 years ago. Of course, EO has his written commitment for 12 years, of which he still has two more to go on his contract. Nik goes off on a side job to repay a favor garnered in the last book; of course he eventually requests EO backup and the team is reunited to help. Along the way, Nik meets Mikayla, they have hot sex, they fall for each other but the big, bad Russian/Texan tells her he can't be with her, yada, yada, yada. Same as all other EO guys. This part of the series needs to get a new groove, as the same old, same old is getting old. But it is a LL book and I'll continue to read her - even tho I much preferred her SEAL series - because

she's still better than lots of authors out there.

Margaret Gaiottina says

Lora Leigh non mi convince più come una volta. Mykaila da vergine inesperta si trasforma in donna fatale e anche investigatrice. Nick è un gran bel manzo dal cuore prima infranto e poi indurito. Bah, niente per cui strapparsi i capelli.

LynnMarie says

Christy's Review

Let me just start out by saying this book is smoking hot. Lora Leigh is my favorite author in the erotic/romance world. Her books are amazing. I'm not sure if I have ever read one that I didn't like. Renegade is part of the Elite Ops series. The Elite Ops agents are strong, sexy and overall good guys. They all come with baggage from their pre-Elite Ops days.

Mikayla Martin is a sweet independent daughter, sister and great friend. She owns her own dress shop where she designs and makes custom bridal gowns and formal dresses. She witnesses a murder while visiting a construction site to pick up her younger brother. She gets an up-close look at the killer and it's someone she knows. She knows what she saw but the police don't believe her. I really liked her character. She's strong, secure in her own skin and an overall nice girl. She's also a virgin who's saving herself for a white knight. She believes in true love and wants to give her innocence to the man of her dreams.

Elite Ops agent Nikolai Steele aka Nik whose code name is Renegade is asked by a friend to find out why Mikayla is lying about seeing him committing the murder. Nik lost his wife and daughter to a horrible tragedy before he became a member of the Elite Ops. He's battling strong emotions where they are concerned. He's a strong, dominate male and doesn't take kindly to being lied to.

Nik gets close to Mikayla by moving in next door to her. He's determined to find out why she is lying about who she saw. As the attraction between the two ignites things heat up quite nicely. There is a lot of sexual tension from the beginning. As things progress they find it harder and harder to stay away from each other. The sexual scenes are some of the best I have read. I experienced butterflies in my stomach each time Mikayla and Nik got close to each other. Things were that good.

There are many twists and turns throughout the story that kept me turning pages to find out what happened next. The characters are believable as is the setting. Throughout the book, I was drawn to the emotions the characters were having and could relate to some of the aspects.

I would definitely recommend Renegade to those of you who love romantic suspense, bad boys, and strong sexual heat. You'll be drawn into Mikayla and Nik's world from page one. Be sure to check out the other books in the Elite Ops series.

5 Tea Cups and a Recommended Read!
