



Altered States

L.E. Harner

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Official Description: New Orleans Police Detective Sam Garrett can't believe his bad luck when he's assigned to investigate a string of gay-bashings turned deadly in the French Quarter. Especially when he realizes Travis Boudreaux, his new, hot, and most-likely-straight partner, plans to use him as bait. The worst part? They've got no back-up because the rest of the city is preoccupied by another series of killings — the victims drained of blood.

Original Prompt:

Dear Author,

This son of a bitch has been underneath my skin ever since he transferred into the department. Word has it that he's one of the best damn homicide detectives in the city, but the fact of the matter is that he's a Grade A arrogant asshole. Pretty much every time he opens his mouth, I want to slug him – or stick my tongue down his throat, I'm not always really sure which, or even if I want to choose one. My libido doesn't seem to give a tinker's damn that I'm pretty sure he's straight, and while jerking off in the shower is starting to get pretty damn old, I foresee a lot more of it in my future – because the Chief just paired us up to work a new case...

Photo Description: Handsome man, dressed in a suit, could be a business professional, with just a touch of a smirk as an expression.

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love is Always Write**" event. Group members were asked to write a story prompt inspired by a photo of their choice. Authors of the group selected a photo and prompt that spoke to them and wrote a short story.

Download the story, read it online or find it in Love Is Always Write: Volume 1.

Altered States Details

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Author : L.E. Harner

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From Reader Review Altered States for online ebook

Macky says

Read this a while back so nice to see it's still being offered free. Laura Harner sets the scene for a new series with a twist (too much of a spoiler to say what)that is more fully fleshed out in the next installment but in *Altered States* appears at the end of the story in a cliffhanger style ending that you won't expect and cleverly grabs you hook line and sinker! I succumbed and have just finished *Deep Blues Goodbye* the next (longer) book and I can highly Reccomend it. I think this is going to be a series that's going to get better and better as it progresses, with a really good story - there's a fair bit of action - and some hot sexy guys to sweeten the deal. There's some sizzling ST going on in both books aswell! Another freebie I would have been quite happy to pay for. If you don't like it, nothing lost..... but I'd be surprised if it doesn't wet a lot of whistles!

Exina says

Sam Garrett, New Orleans Police Detective is assigned to investigate a string of gay bashings. Much to his annoyance, he is paired with a new partner, the unbelievably hot and most likely straight Travis Boudreaux.

I didn't read any reviews before, so I was pretty shocked by how their investigation ended. Thankfully, the story takes a surprising twist at the end, so it's all good.

Altered States is an awesome and intriguing prequel to *Deep Blues Goodbye*, first book of the *Altered States* series.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

I think that this book was a great intro to a new series. It was short but it felt pretty well developed for only 35 pages. I love sexy cops and this is like sexy cops with a twist. And a non-white MC? Very cool. I'm not into that cover but I'll let it slide. I'm certainly moving forward and reading what's up next!

Grammy 1 says

What a wonderful idea L.E. Harner envisioned. Vampires in America, here and now in New Orleans LA. The prequel is a must-read to meet Sam Garrett and Travis Boudreaux from the beginning. To see who they were, to feel the chemistry, the heat between them, and see what fate had in store for them.

The addition of T.A. Webb for *Deep Blues Goodbye*, Book 1, has added a measure of tough darkness to the storyline. Characters come alive and the story is crisp and exciting.

4.5****'Stars - Altered States

Sam Garrett, Cop, Black and Gay, a detective with the NOPD, is the 6th or 7th officer to be partnered with Travis Boudreaux. They are looking into a specific style murder appearing to be serial. The black, gay community has had a rash of rape, torture, murders. Since Garrett fits the bill as a target, he will be used as a decoy. Sam is attracted to Trav, but assumes he loves the nightlife and the women.

During that very same time, the NOPD has arrested another perp for another series of crimes, and during his walk from the police station to the car for court, he disappears the instant he hits the sunlight...now revealing to the human world the existence of Vampires. The newsrooms all over the country focus on this, and all sources that the police have are trying to keep peace in this fair city.

After nights of fishing at the local bars, Sam and Travis find they are on their own, and think they have hooked the gang. They decide to make a plan, the electricity between them is hot and Sam finds out truths about Travis Boudreaux, truths they both wish to explore. Travis is not all he seemed, and the steamy meeting with them gives Sam hope of exploring a happily ever after with Travis. They go out with no backup and things go down that they do not expect. Fade to black!

Kat says

Go grab a bag of M&M's and a glass of tomato juice and enjoy the ride that's Altered States!

Huh, you say? Tomato juice, you say?

Yeah, well, I'll explain later. First, let's talk about that cover for a bit. If you're anything like me, you always firmly tell yourself not to judge a book by its cover and then end up sneakily avoiding it because of it anyway. And boy, does this cover give me MC Hammer flashbacks! It's definitely not a good idea to write off *Altered States* because of this though. For this short prequel - it's only 35 pages long - to the second book in the series, *Deep Blues Goodbye*, is fast paced, action packed, sexy pulpy fun! And if that isn't enough; it's also free and comes with a main character who is a tough, *café au lait* colored gay cop with pierced nipples.

But I get carried away a little. So what's *Altered States*, that was originally written as part of the Love is Always Write event for the M/M Romance Group on Goodreads, all about?

New Orleans Police Detective Sam Garrett's assigned a case to investigate gay-bashings in the French Quarter. A group of sick bastards is hunting black gay men down to sexually abuse and murder them. Sam realizes that trying to lure this group in is probably going to be a pain in the ass. Then his arrogant, by-the-book and probably as straight as they come new partner, Travis Boudreaux, comes up with an interesting little plan of his own...

Boudreaux looked at me, then lowered his eyes. I thought he was staring at my feet. Embarrassed because I was naked, maybe? Then very slowly, very deliberately, his gaze raked up my body, lingered for a moment on my now slightly interested dick, then up my chest to my face. His mouth twitched into an unmistakable smirk. That was the look that made me want to slug him. "Get dressed, Garrett. You're perfect for what I have in mind." It wasn't until the door swung shut behind him that I realized what he was thinking. The straight prick figured to use me as bait.

That's right! And before Sam can get used to that unnerving idea, his partner is pressing into him in one of the local gay clubs, pretending to have the hots for him. But either Travis is a great actor, fucking with Sam's head, or there's something he's not telling. And what if the predators take the bait, zero in on them, but their back up fails to show up?

When *Altered States* was originally published and it was not yet clear that this would actually be a teaser for a paranormal romance (PNR) series, the major twist towards the end threw some people off. No wonder. If you're expecting a crime story with tough cops trying to solve hate crimes, it can be a somewhat confusing experience to suddenly bump into mythical creatures. Something else that you might want to take into account, is that there's not much character-depth or build up to the climax (of both the case and Sam's love life). *Altered States* is altogether too short for that.

Anyway, definitely make sure to give this prequel to *Deep Blues Goodbye* a shot. The well-written bumping and grinding will almost make you forget that these guys are supposed to be working on a rather grim case. And also because this short will give you a great, free (!) impression of a juicy and sexy new PNR series.

And finally, although the twist may now no longer be considered a spoiler, I still won't give anything away other than that I hope you enjoyed your tomato juice...

Sunne says

I'm torn between like and dislike - it started sooo good. I loved the slow built of tension, the short relief and then the peak - all well done. Both MCs were believable. But then...dang...suddenly the whole focus changed. It is not a complete story but the beginning to a new series and it ends with a cliffhanger. When you download your book to your ereader you'll get a sneak peak into the coming book which disappointed me. Why? Because where is Sam?

Bubbles Hunty Honest & Direct Opinions says

What kept this from being a five star read for me was I was a little (okay a lot) confused in the beginning. I couldn't figure out who was who. So with bent confused it took me a bit to get into the story, but once I did wow. Wasn't expecting it to be like it was at all...

And the ending... WTF when is the next one? Better be soon I want more now.

Lena♥Ribka says

What a pleasant surprise!

My first of Laura Harner, and be sure, my friends, not the last one!

I belong to the readers who read Acknowledgements. You too? No? You have to start to do it!

It is where I FIRST saw the name of **Laura Harner**.

I had a very good memory, I can keep in mind names and events that nobody need, me inclusive.

I don't do it on purpose, I just remember a lot of unnecessary things.

But sometimes it helps.

My last book was The Bible Boys of Dan Skinner and he spoke his special thanks to Laura Harner in the Acknowledgements. It is WHY when I browsed through Amazon and came across the book by the author Laura Harner I HAD to add it.

Besides it was for FREE!!!

A great start for an interesting series, I'm hooked.

It could be a wonderful start for a new affection-I really enjoyed her writing!

And you know what? It is still free on Amazon!!!

<http://www.amazon.com/Altered-States-...>

So, don't hesitate, because if I LIKED A PARANORMAL NOVEL...it has to have something...and it has. Period.

Ami says

To be honest, I am mainly in state of confusion. Until the last chapter. Because that twist in the end is awesome. ALTHOUGH, I have a feeling that it is made intentionally like that, so when there's a sequel coming in August, we have to pay for it (this one is free) *snicker*. Good marketing plan, though!!

Sandra says

Offered for FREE from the M/M Romance Group, Love Is Always Write: Volume One.

First off I just need to vent. I think the guy in the pic looks like an uber-sleeze. OK. Moving on.

3.5 stars After finishing this story, I scrolled back up to the top of the page, saw the title out of the corner of my eye and thought, "OH, now I get it!" So yeah, I actually thought the ending was kind of cool and it redeemed a lot for me. I was starting to get annoyed when Sam was in the hospital and talking a lot about that separate murder case (view spoiler) but then it all came together and I actually thought it was a cute little twist.

The story itself was good. Jumpy at first to give you enough background on Sam and the situation but once the case started it was pretty straight forward. The Lieutenant and her decision did piss me off though and I

wish we'd gotten a little resolution on that (view spoiler)

This is prequel to Deep Blues Goodbye.

Bev says

[beaten up then bitten by a vamp and left for dead (hide spoiler)]

Julesmarie says

[In this case, as soon as Sam mentioned seeing the news report about the vampire, I ant

Sadie Forsythe says

I can't believe I almost missed out on this one. The cover doesn't do much for me so I never even bothered to read the description. But when I saw the sequel on Amazon's KDP free list my interest was piqued and I grabbed this short prequel at the same time. So glad I did. It, Deep Blues Goodbye, and Deadly Shades of Gold really are just one big story...or not even really that big. I read all three in a day. And Holy hell are they hot!

Keeping this review solely to this actual story, the reader is introduced to the two main characters, Sam and Travis. They are both fabulous. Sam makes for a wonderful narrator. He's a gay, black, New Orleans Police detective. I wish like crazy that wasn't worth mentioning, but well spoken gay black men in fiction are few and far between. He was a joy - smart, sarcastic, sexy, and honest in his lustiness. Travis was the consummate straight-man, practically Boy Scout material...or so you're initially led to believe.

There was an unexpected twist in the end. I'd read enough reviews to know what was coming, so it didn't hit me as such a WTF moment as it did others. It really was a genre changer though. I think when viewed as the first 35 or so pages of a larger story it makes perfect sense and has good timing. If I had stopped at the end of this short story, without continuing on I would have found it completely obnoxious and uncalled for.

Nic says

Part of Love is Always Write - Volume 1

Read the story without reading the blurb. Started as a good cop story then had me bamboozled with the vampire murders and the strange ending! It all makes sense now as I found out this short story is a cliffhanger lead into a paranormal series.

MsMiz (Tina) says

I was completely into this story and was surprised it is only 35 pages. Thought it was a pure 'cop' mystery

type and what? what is that at the end? Cool, I think....hell I will keep reading this to find out where it is going....uhhhhhh....dammit a LiaW cliffie..hee

I look forward to finding out how our sexy bad boy is sitting up at the end;))
