



Risk the Night

Anne Stuart

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Reporter Maddy Banks doesn't realize what she's getting into when she makes arrangements to have an anonymous interview with an assassin. Her life in Paris was safe, with a devoted if slightly smug boyfriend and a career that was slowly taking off. When she first meets the man calling himself Constantine she can't see him and his voice is disguised. Even so, she feels a distinct, erotic pull that horrifies her.

Con has no use for relationships, particularly with a reporter. But he can't get Maddy Banks out of his mind, and when he runs into her later that evening he can't resist playing with fire. Neither of them had any idea how brightly it would burn.

Risk the Night Details

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Author : Anne Stuart

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From Reader Review Risk the Night for online ebook

Kathleen says

Anne Stuart is apparently branching into erotica or romantica, but surely she can do better than this? I'd say she's playing to her *Ice Series* fans, but *Risk the Night* is a pale imitation of Black Ice, even though the hero is hot and dark and some scenes are captivating. In my view, it's under-developed and poorly edited. With only ~50 pages, a dozen typos is too many.

Plot: Set in Paris, *Risk the Night* involves **Madison Banks**, a well-connected reporter, and **Constantine (aka D'Angelo)**, an assassin who agrees to give Maddy a scoop (as a favor to his friend) as long as her interview takes place in the dark, and blindfolded. During the interview, there in the small dark room, they immediately feel an intense attraction. The story goes from there, with POVs from the H and h.

My Take:

Even with a shorter story, and even with erotica, I want a sense of developing relationship and emotional intimacy. Including trust. Especially trust. That was lacking. I could accept the instant attraction, the torrid sex, but not the grand all-for-love gesture at the end. But, hey! The sex scenes were HOT! D'Angelo knows his way around a woman. And his dramatic appearance...nicely done!

Towards the end, a stupid murder / suicide is suddenly tacked on, as if to provide the Stuart stamp of authenticity, but the H / h didn't seem very interested. That struck a jarring note.

Maddy, our supposedly discerning and intelligent heroine, does something absurdly foolish. Also, she cheats on her near-fiancé. The hero is cheating on his girl, too, but they had a loose relationship.

For a few shining, spine-chilling pages I wondered what Stuart was up to. That bit felt like *Ice Blue*, in terms of suspense.

The final HEA conclusion is totally improbable. Yet I sorta liked it. Go figure. (I liked his line, "...I may as well keep you.")

Trivia: Stuart names one character Thomas Lambert, which may be concocted from Thomas Killian and Isobel Lambert, H/h in *Ice Storm*, book 4 of the *Ice* series.

Small potatoes, but I don't like it when authors allude to a character from literature or film, and then turn around and explain the reference. That ruins the effect, and smacks of condescension.

For erotica with an edge of romantic suspense, I prefer Lisa Marie Rice. I really enjoyed *Dangerous Passion*. She also writes as Elizabeth Jennings.

Debbie "Buried in Her TBR Pile" says

4 solid stars

Re-read material.

Alp says

[Cheating (hide spoiler)]

Elizabeth (Liz) says

No one can top this author's ability to write gamma heroes! Risk the Night is classic Anne Stuart, in short-story form!!

A mercenary assassin falls for a somewhat naive journalist and manages to crawl up under her skin while he's at it. An instant connection is made. But, she also has a taped interview of him he's determined to get back. A night of hedonistic pleasure stuns them both with the fierceness of their passion and connection. Was it simply a means to an end...or, could it have been more?

I admit up front that I am, and have long been, an Anne Stuart fangirl! Her writing continues to amaze me, even after all of these years. There is simply no one that can come close to touching her when it comes to stories like these. She writes with such an edge! Her stories are gutsy. They're unique. They're intense. They are blunt and seductive. If an Anne Stuart story doesn't hold your attention....I can't even finish that sentence as I am unable to fathom how that could ever, ever happen!

Read this. Now. You won't be sorry.

Booklover, Indianapolis says

(Feb) This was a down and dirty quick Anne Stuart story. Constantine is an unapologetic hit man, who is forced to do a favor for a friend - sit down, in a dark room, with a reporter who will ask questions about his job. During the interview, he gets...I don't know, a sense, maybe...of the woman reporter, and somehow a sexual spark is lit, sight unseen, anonymous though the interview is. Constantine might be able to forget her, but later that night, in the guise of a indolent playboy at a high end party, he sees a woman and knows it is his mystery reporter. Maddy, our reporter, has a boyfriend, but she too felt the sexual frisson between her and her secret interviewee, but does not make the connection when a sexy playboy with an accent approaches her at the embassy party. He gives her a lift home, and she goes home, feeling out of sorts, thinking about her boyfriend, and feeling uncomfortably aroused. She is unprepared yet not really surprised when the playboy shows up at her place, sexes her up all night - until she somehow (women's intuition?!?) realizes that sexy playboy = dangerous sexy mystery hitman. As with most vintage AS gamma hero books, you don't really see the love, yet you don't really doubt it, and you believe that they will ride off into their HEA - assuming the hero does not kill her along the way!

KC says

Whew! Anne Stuart knows how to write romance—the steamy, passionate, toe-curling kind—and in novella form to boot. This is a challenging format to master, yet I find Anne's evocative but sparse writing style (she uses minimal words to evoke atmosphere) and vivid characterizations pair nicely with this format.

Anyway, I loved the sexy and dangerous hero; liked the heroine; and absorbed the hot sex and romantic ending with warm, fuzzy feelings. Constantine's and Maddy's interactions weren't as extensive as they would be in a full-length novel, but the chemistry between them was compelling enough to suggest their whirlwind romance would last.

Short and sexy, this is a keeper!

♥? Dorsey aka Wrath Lover Reviews ♥? says

Only Anne Stuart can write a hero who is flawed, immoral, and ruthless...yet we still fall in love with him because there is *always* some type of tenderness that shines through. This was a (too) short novella reminiscent of BlackIce. Her hero's are defiantly a guilty pleasure and they are definitely not your average hero!!

A. Bookzilla. says

[There was cheating. You'll get over it. Especially if you're familiar with her books, morality sometimes takes backstage. (hide spoiler)]

Karla says

4 1/2 Super Über Bad Boy Stars!! I'm still picking my chin up off the floor! I think I need to go back for seconds!

Review to follow...I think...maybe...not quite sure...I need to process. In the meantime...I'll be waiting Constantine/D'Angelo/Thomas or whatever the hell your name is. I'll take some of what you have to offer...

Thanks to Bama for the loan! It was a wild ride!!

Yvonne says

Damn, I so needed an Anne Stuart fix.

This was a short read but it was packed with everything I love in a romantic suspense: gorgeous over the top Alpha, a clever heroine, great dialogue and sexual tension for miles! Constantine and Maddy were fabulous together and I enjoyed every minute of this novella.

5+ Stars - Keeper Shelf!

Alex is The Romance Fox says

This is why I am a fan of Anne Stuart. No one writes sexy suspense and romantic stories like she does. Risk the Night is a novella and 7th in her Ice Series.

A naive journalist and a cold-blooded assassin with an instant connection!!!

50 pages packed with suspense, romance, sexual tension, a dark, dangerous and lethal...and yes, sexy sexy hero who redeems himself in end and a naïve but strong heroine and hot & sizzling sex.....

“Let go,” he said, his voice a mere whisper. “Don’t fight it. Take it. Take me.” He bit her earlobe again, hard, and she cried out, sliding to a darker level of hell, shuddering in the final, building response that made no sense, she had come already, too many times, she didn’t want this, she was afraid ...

And then the last barrier fell, and she tried to scream, but no sound came out as she tumbled into the darkness, free falling, her entire body shaking apart. She clawed for something to hold onto, but he fell with her, his silent, choked gasp echoing in her ears as everything went black.

An electrifying game of danger and desire.

This was such a great quick read and the only disappointment....that it was so short...that it ended so quickly....I would love to get a full novel of Constantine & Madison.

If you’re fan of Anne Stuart and you loved her Ice Series as much as I did – then get this little gem!!!

Crista says

Holy Moly!! What in the world kind of ride did the goddess of dangerous men, Anne Stuart, just take me on?

I will tell you this... as soon as I finished this novella, I immediately turned back to the first page and read the whole thing again!

Now that I am done with the gush...I will begin with my warnings. First off, if you haven't read Anne Stuart and have never been introduced to the assassins that she calls "heroes", I would NOT suggest starting with this book. Her ICE series would be a great place to start and get your feet wet. Unless you can tolerate and, dare I say, fall for Bastian from Black Ice, Peter from Cold As Ice, Taka from Ice Blue, Serafin from Ice Storm, and Reno from Fire And Ice. You **are. not. ready.** for Constantine.

Second of all, these heroes are not for everyone. They are not nice men and do not act the way that nice men do. You have to see beyond their words and thoughts. Many times with these "heroes", what makes you realize that they love the heroine is that they **can not kill them!** . This is hard for many readers to swallow, but for me...I can not get enough of them!

This book is crazy! It is set in Paris and will lead you through a night that could only be possible within the pages of a brilliantly written Anne Stuart book. I read somewhere that this novella was supposed to be an addition to the ICE series, and it certainly belongs there. Constantine is an ice cold legitimate killer who is starting to show signs of humanity. It is clear that he is growing weary of all the killing and one incredibly hot night with Maddy is enough to make me believe that even the darkest of souls can get their HEA.

This book's sensuality is off the charts. Not erotica. Not kink. Pure sensuality in its truest form. I have read just about everything, and Anne Stuart can hit buttons inside me that no whips, chains, or ropes could ever touch. I need a cold shower and a fan after this story that is amazingly only 50 pages long!

WOW!

Glamdring says

If you are a fan of Anne Stuart yummy gamma heroes this novella won't disappoint you. Con is hot and more than delivers.

I really liked the story but it was too short, the end rushed.

Melanie says

3.5 stars

Not quite "Ice" calibre for me, but still a great little story from the Queen of Gamma Heroes, Anne Stuart.

This "happy-for-now" novella was super sexy, but a bit too short to impart any lasting impression of the characters IMO. I was missing that special moment AS is so good at where the badass guy has the epiphany that no matter how much the heroine threatens his identity he can't kill her - she is *the one*... thereby redeeming him as worthy of hero status. It's there to some extent, but not as believable as it is her 'Ice' books.

Still, it was great to get a taste of Anne Stuart's brand of romantic suspense and I hope she puts a out full length novel in the near future... Maybe 'Ice' the next generation??!!

Jae says

This was one CRAZY HOT read. The hero, Constantine was a *Termination Specialist* for crying out loud. And an Alpha to boot. Are all AS's heroes this alpha?

I read this in one sitting and cannot devour it fast enough. Must read more books by AS.
