



A Hero to Love

Gail Chianese

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A military police officer on the verge of a new beginning. A beautiful woman devoted to her career and her dream of putting down roots. The hardest thing they'll ever do is to take a chance on love . . .

Navy Chief Master at Arms Jackson "Jax" Faraday is at a crossroads. He has to decide whether to reenlist or get out while he's young enough to make a difference in the civilian world. Either choice could mean leaving behind his girl: his K-9 partner, Bella. But when she's injured during a training session, Jax's only concern is making sure she's okay.

As the Navy base veterinarian, town local Risa Reynolds is right where she belongs: close to her parents in a farmhouse full of animals—with room to grow. She's seen enough to put military men are on her "not happening" list, because they always leave.

But when a tall, hazel-eyed sailor arrives in her clinic with his dog in his arms, Risa finds herself falling hard. And all kinds of rules will get broken when Jax, a man who sticks to the straight and narrow, learns that there's no predicting the twists and turns of the heart . . .

A Hero to Love Details

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From Reader Review A Hero to Love for online ebook

Bec_BookMagicReviews says

Risa Reynolds has an easier time with animals than people. At least with animals they love unconditionally and wouldn't ever betray her. However, the moment she meets Jackson 'Jax' Faraday, she contemplates breaking her rule of not dating military men. Yet, the more time they spend together, the more Risa finds herself falling for a man that is determined to make a difference in the world, which means he could -- at any moment -- move on to bigger and better things when it comes to his career. Will Risa risk getting deeper involved with Jax, or will she end things before her heart gets broken beyond repair?

Ms. Chianese is a new-to-me author and after finishing this book, I want to read more of her stories, especially when it comes to this series, as the main and secondary were incredible; the dialogue was the perfect blend of intense moments due to someone out to get the heroine and playful banter between the hero and heroine as they grow closer; and the ending had me hoping that this couple would be able to overcome the tough obstacles they face to be together such as Risa being able to push past the fear of Jax leaving her and Jax hoping he can discover the person doing their best to drive Risa away. The way this story started had me loving the hero the moment he was introduced into this story, as he has a big decision to make when it comes to his career. However, it was from the moment the hero and heroine met that had me reading this story quickly, determined to discover whether Jax could win Risa over, especially considering her rule to not date military men.

The dialogue was well-written and had me hooked due to the main characters back stories, this couple's growing relationship, the trouble someone is causing to scare Risa and the ending that had me concerned for one of the main characters. Will Jax be able to protect Risa? Will Jax discover who is trying to scare Risa with their threats and vandalism? Furthermore, Risa was a wonderful heroine. She's strong, brave and I liked how determined she is to take a chance on Jax, despite her rule not to date military men. I also liked her adoration for animals and that she would do anything to help an animal in need, which is proven by the bond she shares with her own animals as well as the growing bond she shares with the hero's military K-9 partner. Yet, what I liked most of all about the heroine is her sassiness and the way she interacts with the hero that had me smiling at their banter.

While Jax, I was absolutely charmed by the hero and couldn't get enough of him. He's confident, know what he wants out of life, and I loved the bond he shared with his military K-9 partner. He would do anything to help her, especially since the dog seems to be having a hard time adjusting to a new handler. I also liked how protective the hero was of the heroine, which is proven by all he does for her, even if it means putting his job in jeopardy. Yet, what I liked most about the hero is how determined he was to make a difference in the world, which hopefully he'd be able to do by getting the job he wanted.

Overall, Ms. Chianese has delivered a wonderful and enthralling read in this book where the chemistry between this couple was intense, the romance nicely-detailed and full of passion; and the ending had me concerned for one of the main characters. Would they be all right? However, in saying that, I absolutely loved how things worked out for the hero and heroine, as what happens makes them both realize that love is worth fighting for. Yet, it was the epilogue that wrapped this story up perfectly due to the heroine's surprise for the hero. I would recommend A Hero to Love by Gail Chianese, if you love military heroes, sassy heroines or books by authors Nicole Helm, Joanne Rock, Kate Davies and Melanie Shawn.

Bette Hansen says

I really enjoyed this one! But then with a character as yummy as Jax Farraday what's not to enjoy?? Jax has had a long career in the Navy as an MP but now he needs to make a decision. Put in his papers and go civilian or reenlist again. He knows what he wants but landing that perfect civilian job hasn't been as easy as he hoped. Then when his K9 partner Bella is hurt he meets the base vet Risa Reynolds. Getting involved now is a complication he doesn't need but sometimes the desires of the heart don't care about timing.

An excellent book and one I highly recommend.

Avid Reader says

A Hero to Love (Changing Tides #2) by Gail Chianese

4 stars

M/F Romance

Triggers: Unrequited love

I was given this book for an honest review by Wicked Reads.

This was a sweet story. There are some communication issues, but it's mostly because both Jax and Risa are scared of the feelings that they feel for each other.

Jax is at a crossroads with his career. I'm unsure why he is seen as being some kind of trouble, but his superiors believe that he needs to get his act together or be sent to a base that, apparently, nobody wants to be sent to. When his dog, Bella, is acting strange with her new handler, Jax needs to find a way to reach her.

Risa is doing her best to prove herself to the owner of the vet clinic that's on base. She has worked very hard to get where she is and loves it there. She has great friends and even though her best friend has questionable taste in men, she sticks by her.

When Jax and Bella are out playing and Bella is injured, Risa comes to the rescue. It's over Bella that Risa and Jax take a chance on each other. Their relationship is somewhat juvenile, but the relationship progresses quite naturally. I think that the animals helped create the story.

I can't wait to see what happens next.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

I loved the first book in Gail Chianese's Changing Tides series so it was a no brainer to request the second book, A Hero to Love, and I'm happy to say that it is every bit as good as the first. A Navy MP at a crossroads and a veterinarian meet when his K-9 partner is injured forming a friendship that turns into more despite their reservations about relationships. Smart, fun, and a whole lot of sexy A Hero to Love was an outstanding romance.

Jackson Faraday has enjoyed his time in the Navy even if an injury kept him out of the SEALs, but he's

ready for a change and time is running out; while he waits to hear back from NCIS, he's pursuing other avenues but most importantly he's trying to figure out what is going on with "his girl," Bella his K-9 partner. While trying to break her out of her funk, a freak accident has him more worried than ever, the one bright side the gorgeous, smart, and caring assistant veterinarian, Risa Reynolds.

This is one of those sneaky romances, where the couple meets and it isn't the right time for either one, but there is something there they can't ignore. They spend time together helping Bella, some threats to Risa keeps them close, and with each passing day they grow to respect each other more and more. Risa giving Jackson a chance despite him being military was difficult, but he showed her in so many ways that he was a man of his word, and despite her reservations she let him in to her life. She loved the way Jackson made her feel cared for and safe and the fact he understood her family issues and how important her animals were to her. There's something to be said for the slow burn and the build up that comes with it, and while this book is on the sweeter side of romance, it was extremely sensual and sexy.

Well written and intelligent, A Hero to Love is a highly satisfying romance.

Review copy provided for a voluntary review.

Kari Lemor says

Another great book from Gail Chianese. She has earned her way onto my list of 'must read' authors. Her stories always pull me in and keep me reading. This book was no different. I loved the characters and their conflicts are very real and easy to understand. The chemistry is well done and believable. This one had a pinch of suspense in it that had me wondering who... and loving the over-protectiveness of the hero. And it looks like one of the secondary characters will have her own book next. Looking forward to that! Well done!

Tami says

Awwwww this is a sweet military romance. He's a k-9 officer, she's the vet who loves them. Some suspense and a whole lotta sweet.

This review is based on the ARC provided by the author and/or the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

Cathleen says

Reading this book I felt like I was there with Jack and Risa. The details and storyline together made me want to race through but I paced myself and enjoyed each breathtaking step. Loved this book!!

Claire Robinson says

3.5 - "You always were too stubborn for your own good." Stars!

Gail Chianese is an author new to me, and although *A Hero to Love* is the second book in the *Changing Tides* series, it can easily be read as a standalone.

Jax and Risa's story was what I would call an easy-going romance. There is an aspect of suspense to it, but to be honest you would have to be blind to not pick out the villain straight off. It didn't affect my enjoyment though because I loved the whole story between the two of them, and Jax's service dog Bella.

She wanted to break all sorts of rules with Jaxon Faraday...

You are also given a great setting and a bunch of likeable secondary characters, which added depth to the story overall. Both commitment-phobes for their own reasons, there wasn't a massive amount new or unusual about the story, but the addition of Risa's many and varied pet's to the mix helped as did the fact that Jax was pure Southern Gentleman.

"The man has a way of getting past your defenses and leaving you wanting more..."

The last 15% annoyed me somewhat because Risa reverted back to a hormonal teen with her refusal to communicate with Jax, because if she had, I think the end would have been better with the villain being the main issue, and not her refusal to talk to him. It all felt a little rushed because of it.

"Love and hate... they walk a fine line."

That-said I enjoyed it enough to hop onto Amazon and buy book one, as well as all three books of the authors other Kensington series; *West Side Romance* doesn't hurt that they are all silly cheap on Amazon at the moment!

Being with Jax was like coming home... It simply felt right.

Disarmed by Love is due February 18, and I am looking forwards to reading Risa's BF and single-mother Fiona's story, you get to know her in this book, and I liked what I learned, and cannot wait for her to get her HEA.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

Mandi Schreiner says

The blurb to this one really drew me in:

Navy Chief Master at Arms Jackson "Jax" Faraday is at a crossroads. He has to decide whether to reenlist or get out while he's young enough to make a difference in the civilian world. Either choice could mean leaving behind his girl: his K-9 partner, Bella. But when she's injured during a training session, Jax's only concern is making sure she's okay.

As the Navy base veterinarian, town local Risa Reynolds is right where she belongs: close to her parents in a

farmhouse full of animals—with room to grow. She's seen enough to put military men are on her "not happening" list, because they always leave.

But when a tall, hazel-eyed sailor arrives in her clinic with his dog in his arms, Risa finds herself falling hard. And all kinds of rules will get broken when Jax, a man who sticks to the straight and narrow, learns that there's no predicting the twists and turns of the heart . . .

A military police hero with an injured K-9 meets the Navy Base's veterinarian?? Should have been a total meet cute, but the book fell flat for me.

Jax loves the german shephard, Bella, assigned to him for the past six years.

Bella had been more than his partner while deployed; she'd been his anchor, his pillar of strength, his confidant, and his hope when all seemed lost. She wasn't just his K-9 partner. She was his family, and the idea of leaving her was ripping him apart inside. Chances were she could sense his mood and the turmoil going on inside.

She is the love of his life, so when she gets injured, he gets very upset. On top of that, Bella has been showing signs of exhaustion and maybe even some doggie PTSD. When Bella falls playing frisbee, Jax rushes her in to see the vet on call, Risa, who tells Jax that Bella has a fractured hip.

Now let me say, I've had a dog who broke his front leg, and I have another dog who slipped a disc in her back and partially paralyzed her hind legs (I swear I'm a good dog owner). In both cases, my dogs had to have extremely strict kennel rest and took months to recover. I haven't experienced a dog with a broken hip, but I can only assume it's somewhat similar to my dogs injuries. In the book, Bella is taking car rides and walking around Risa's house in just a day or so. It's mentioned that she needs more rest and that she isn't healing as fast as she should. It just didn't make a lot of sense to me. At that point, I can only assume the dog would still be on very high pain medication and would need help walking with a sling.

Besides the unrealistic recovery, I never connected with Jax or Risa. Jax is unsure what his next direction in life is - maybe applying for NCIS or maybe adjusting to civilian life. He is worried he will be separated from Bella and this stresses him out. I feel like there is a lot more telling than showing in this book. We are told Jax is worried about Bella, and worried about his future, but I would have liked to experience it more through him.

Risa has her tires slashed early in the book and while Jax and the police try to figure out who did it, escalation with someone on the base ramps up. I didn't realize this book what have this minor suspense element and it didn't do a lot for me.

While there is a prominent romance, it lacked sexual tension and chemistry. I just didn't feel it between them and unfortunately, the dog didn't save the book for me.

This one is a miss.

Grade: D

Karen Roma says

A Hero to Love is a beautifully written, emotional and deeply romantic story.

Believable characters who encounter the expected struggles and dilemmas that come with real life experiences, make this story even more enjoyable and a must read by all who love their books with just a touch of suspense, a protective hero and some intense chemistry too!

I'm so excited to see where the series goes with the secondary characters and what the author has in store for future books.

Tonya Peterson says

Jax is a k9 cop that has to decide to stay or go in a few months. While totally confused he was still holding out for one job to come through. Then one day his k9 got hurt while doing their exercise so he hurried her to the doc with tears in his eyes. Risa is not just any vet she has a house full of animals and loves everyone the two started helping his k9 and found love instead but what happens when risa gets threats and Jax has to leave? This book is super exciting and you just can't the book down.

Heather andrews says

Jax is one caring man, "like heck if I'm just going to sit here and let you walk away when you're shaking like a victim in shock. What's going on?" Jax doesn't appreciate when his woman doubts him, "he shot her a look over his shoulder— eyes narrow, mouth scrunched up in a fake frown. "You doubt my mad culinary skills? Prepare to be wowed." I liked this book, Jax was loving and protective.

Gloria Brzny says

This was a prize book from goodreads. I am so glad because I could have missed a wonderful, beautiful love story. Yes, it also had a mystery but that was secondary to Risa and Jax love story. It was well written. The way things really are in romance. All the up and downs , needing each other then being so upset at the other person. I can not wait to see if this series continues. I hope so.

Jennifer says

This book has been on my Amazon wishlist after reading the first book in the series (uh, submarine romance, big check!) so I jumped at the chance to read it when I found it on Netgalley. It's not often that one can say the second book in the series is even better than the first, but I definitely can in this case!

Jax is a Navy MP who is contemplating leaving the Navy, and his dream job is to work for the NCIS. One

important factor is his K-9 partner Belladonna, a German shepherd who has been at his side during his last two tours of duty. He is especially worried as she has been ignoring commands and in the midst of a session, she falls and injures herself. He rushes her to the base vet's office where they meet Risa.

Risa diagnoses Bella with a hip fracture and a more worrisome diagnosis of possible PTSD which could threaten her career as a MWD. She and Jax work together to help Bella heal both physically and emotionally, while growing closer together themselves. At the same time, Risa is dealing with multiple personal issues involving a possible stalker and her beloved parents moving away, plus a houseful of critters of her own.

This book has everything in a perfect package-cute animals! Suspense! Treehouse sex! Mention of Gibbs' rules and head slaps! I loved everything about it, but most especially Jax...I'm going to have to expand my book BF list to 6 to include him!! The guy loves animals-not only Bella, but Risa's assorted menagerie of dogs, a cat, bunnies and goats. He's willing to risk a career he's wanted forever to keep Risa. Plus his decorating choice for a door is the best!

This is one of those books that I wish I could read again for the first time because I love it so much, and I've already put the next book in the series on my Amazon wishlist...even though it doesn't come out until next year, ugh! (Penguin...Netgalley? Soon?? Please!!!) I will also be purchasing this one when it's available in paperback which for me is the true mark of greatness!

Sarah says

I was given a copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads.

The only thing better than a man and his dog has to be a military hero and his K9 partner. At the end of his naval career, Jax is devastated when his K9 partner, Bella, is injured during training. Risa is the vet who cares for Bella and sparks immediately fly between Jax and Risa.

It is impossible not to fall for Jax. The man would do anything for his dog, even spending his nights at Bella's kennel when she's injured. Where Risa is settled in her home and her job, Jax is conflicted and struggling to secure a life beyond the navy. He is an Alpha protector for Risa but he is also able to accept her help and care.

Risa is a fantastic female lead. She is passionate about her work as a vet, she lives with a menagerie of rescued pets and at times she struggles with her human relationships. I love well developed women in romance and Risa is pretty amazing.

As much as this is a very sweet romance, there is also a suspense angle to this story when Risa finds herself the target of vandalism and stalking. Jax helps Risa stay safe as he tries to identify the person who wants to harm her. There are some quite frightening scenes as Jax and Risa evade her stalker.

I really enjoyed this story but I do have to complain about the cover - the story fits best in a romantic suspense category and I'm not sure we ever see these two frolicking on the beach with a dog. The story has quite a bit more grit than the sunny cover suggests.
