



The Long Con

Lori Toland

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British Agent Nathaniel Bradley is tasked with bringing home a stolen heirloom. After tracking the Faberge egg all the way to a group of criminals in New York, Bradley infiltrates a ring of con artists and gets sucked into the role of a high priced prostitute.

While hoping for a chance to take back what is rightfully his, Bradley's sole mission becomes to seduce Tony Terranova, Jr, the heir to a notorious mafia dynasty. Though Tony is strikingly handsome, the usually dominant Bradley is hesitant to submit to the sexual whims of a dangerous Mafioso.

What Bradley doesn't expect is for Tony to fall to his knees so eagerly for him, leaving him blindsided by how intensely their dark tastes complement each other. Now Bradley is caught up in a deadly game of lies and desire, where what he truly wants may not be what duty requires.

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A year ago, Tony Terranova followed his heart and left behind everything he knew in the States for a chance to build a life with Nathaniel Bradley. When an old flame of Bradley's pops back into the picture, Tony has to face Bradley's past. They have loved and lived a year together but is their relationship strong enough to weather the darkest of nights?

The Long Con Details

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From Reader Review The Long Con for online ebook

Lasha says

The Long Con from the blurb sounded like a delightfully wicked novel with Agent Bradley pulling an undercover job on a very dangerous criminal. Unfortunately, the novel became so convoluted with whom was conning whom that it lost some of its charm and mystery, as I kept trying to keep track of who was the good guy and who was the bad guy.

Nathaniel Bradley is an agent with a organized task force in England. When his step-grandmother's priceless Faberge egg is stolen, he makes it his mission to recover it even if that means going to New York and posing as a prostitute for a gang of con artists who think they are selling a fake Faberge egg to known mobster, Anthony "Tony" Terranova. Bradley is the bait to lure Tony into their scheme, but both men have other secrets, ones that could place everyone in danger.

I love a good undercover sting operation in a book and was hoping that Agent Bradley seducing Mafia guy Tony would be interesting. I think if that had just been the plot it could have worked, but when you threw in the gang of con artists, who didn't even know they had a real Faberge egg in their hands, the plot fell apart. Plus, who in their right mind would try and con a Mafia Don's son out of eight million dollars? That just did not make sense and could easily get you a pair of cement shoes. Add in Tony's secret job, his ex-girlfriend, the BDSM overtones – which did not work in this storyline in my estimation – and finally the Insta-Love connection and it seemed like every trope in a romance novel but the kitchen sink was used, and not very well.

I really wish I could recommend this book as I love a good episode of Leverage or Remington Steele, but The Long Con was a huge disappointment all around.

Dark Divas Reviews

MLE says

Shallow plot with wooden characters who meet at a party, and have bathroom sex. Our main character talks to the mafia heir for something like 5 minutes before he knows the heir is a bottom, and starts calling him things like "little bitch", "whore", and "cock slut". The writing is awkward, and I felt disconnected from the characters and events. I would have preferred more development of the mystery, and characters, but it seems like that was all a front for some "kinky" sex which felt forced, and stiff rather than sexy and hot. I tried, but I didn't have it in me to try to finish this.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

****2.5 stars****

I went on an interesting journey with this book. I started out hating it. The writing is on the simple side and is just flat out bad at times so when the book began I immediately wanted to put it down. I thought to myself,

"okay, just stick with it, I'm sure things will improve." When Bradley and Tony first meet there was a very strange leap out of nowhere into BDSM that just didn't work for me... but I decided to forage ahead. And honestly, I'm glad that I did.

The main issue with this book is the make-no-sense plot. It was muddled and unnecessarily confusing. Everyone is pretending to be someone that they aren't, and while a killer author can pull that off, Lori Toland isn't quite there. It was so confusing that I just decided to ignore the plot altogether. Also, another annoying aspect for me was the over the top insta-love. It just veered straight into sappy too fast and too hard for my liking (odd for a BDSM book but still). In the end, I just read this book for the chemistry between the main characters. And that leads me to the highlight of the book: The chemistry. Bradley and Tony were very very hot together and though I am SICK of BDSM books, in this book, I'll admit that it worked. It added to the story rather than detracted from it. The sex was delicious and kinky. I'd like to say that this book benefited from the Abigail Roux effect: The plot is nonsensical at times but the chemistry between the two men pull it off.

Why still such a low rating? Well, I can't get over how difficult it was for me to wade through the plot. Frustratingly, the author could have easily simplified it and eliminated so many issues. Also, I honestly didn't altogether enjoy the reading experience. I would give this author another go though because I think she writes a mean sex scene.

****Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review****

Pjm12 says

This was too 'porny' for me. There were too many declarations of love, too many 'let's fuck for the last time', too many events that fell into place too easily. It was just all too much really.

I felt besieged by cliché, melodrama and unrealistic angst.

Ami says

The story is pretty over-the-top, a British SOCA (Serious Organised Crime Agency) agent, Nathaniel Bradley, suddenly posed as prostitute to help a group of con artists (I don't think a group of established con artists suddenly believe a stranger, from Britain, that quick to be part of their conning plan that quick, yes?!) to seduce a mafia son.

There is insta-love with a number of sex scenes with a touch of D/s (the sex scenes bore me after awhile, though, because it's just slightly tad too much for my taste and current mood). There's twist offered, **BIG SPOILER** ((view spoiler)), which is nice.

It's an okay read to lose few hours to, I guess.

Angela Bee Bee says

Loved this one. Its a bit short but very sweet and sexy. I could feel the intensity between them in the sex scenes, it was emotional and interesting. One thing, don't promise me a silver cock ring and not deliver. They talk alot about bdsm, but dont actually do much more than a spanking and a little bondage with his tie.it's ok though, i was comfortable with the kink level.

Loved the way they took turns caring for each other, being dominant. Love It when a man ties a tie for another.

I liked how B thought he was gorgeous instantly and in every way sexy, all the time, totally distracting him from his task.

Experiment BL626 says

The Long Con had smut, and I love smut. I liked its BDSM-lightness, meaning there was one BDSM-y sex scene. I liked the dirty talk; it's a small shame there wasn't more of it. I liked how insatiable of a bottom Tony was and how eager Nate was to satisfy Tony. On top of the yummy smut, the book actually had a decent plot and a good twist so it wasn't just a PWP. I should have been a happy camper, but I wasn't. I couldn't bring myself to fully enjoy the story, and I felt annoyingly nitpicky.

When it comes to smut, I can tolerate insta-love a great deal, a very great deal. However, I couldn't tolerated it in this book. I was okay with the fact that the couple lusted for each other on first sight. Nothing about that was unrealistic. I was not okay with how that lust magically developed into love, and it bugged me.

My issue was that the couple got too intimate too quickly to be believable considering who they were, especially who they were. Nate was an undercover agent, one that is on an unofficial international mission. Tony was a Mafia kid, and not just any kid but the heir to a major Mafia family. They should have been on their guard. Instead, they slept together overnight and ended up cohabiting for the length of Nate's mission.

During the cohabitation period, neither of them was carrying a gun or throwing looks of suspicion at each other or anything that openly suggested distrust. They acted more like they were a regular, lovey-dovey couple instead of the dangerous, suspicious people that they were supposed to be. The insta-love brought on an unnatural level of trust between the couple, which made the romance surreal.

I expected a high level of anxiety as both try to come to term with their love against who they were and what they were supposed to be doing; I didn't get that. Don't get me wrong; I don't want angst. I just thought the characters were not believable in their role. Because of that, piling on the emotions being rather subdued, I couldn't connect to the romance.

In Conclusion

I rate *The Long Con* 2-stars for it was okay. Trust was a theme in this book, and it was not properly played. The issue eclipsed the smut. Ay. I want to slap my brain.

For what it's worth, I liked the twist about Tony. I think it would have been a better story if it was told from

his POV instead of exclusively from Nate's 1st person POV. Nate wasn't boring per se; Tony was just way more interesting.

Allison says

I won this from The Sweet Spot monthly contest and Ms. Toland was very sweet and prompt in getting me the e-book. I am sorry to say that this one just didn't work for me.

The concept was great but I think this book needs a good editor. I often found myself confused about what was going on and who was involved. Plus the con was hardly part of the story; it would come and go from the book, not a good thing for a book called The Long Con.

The connection (insta-love) between the MCs was too quick and not well explained. Things were often repeated for no apparent reason. There were too many different storylines and they never meshed up with each other in a reasonable way. For example, I never understood why Bradley was thought to be a prostitute; he was English but seldom used English terms; and he had to find this Faberge egg for his "grandmother" (quotes because it was pointed out a lot that she wasn't his blood relative) but then suddenly at the end it was pointed out he disliked his grandfather, his main connection to his grandmother. Tony was supposedly from a crime family but that never rang true either but he had crazy money. And this drove me nuts, they went to get a suit made for Bradley, supposedly from the Spring line of a designer, I forget who. The pants were finished! I don't buy my husband suits from designers often but we've bought enough suits from regular stores to KNOW that the pants are never finished, they have to be hemmed. That is the kind of thing that makes me nuts because it's so very easy to find out. And any time the story started going somewhere everything stopped so they could have sex, it was just odd. And I hate to say it but the sex was just as disjointed as the rest of the book. I finally just started skimming toward the end because I wanted to move on.

I do think this book has potential but it needs more work.

Ayanna says

The exposition was so skirted over that I am entirely uncertain what exactly was happening. Who was working for whom for what against which side? Hey, you! Yeah, I know you want to skip to the sex, but can't you just pause one moment to expl-

Fine. Fine. Just keep fucking. *throws hands up in the air in exasperation*

And of course, random sex is magical best sex he's ever had.

Laaaaame.

snickers That's already been done before.

I'm just highly annoyed that I have no idea what's going on. Of course, I *could* go back and reread in hopes of deciphering *some* details from this huge clusterfuck, but I'm not yet at the point where I'm so hopelessly lost I'd need to. So I do what I always do - plough on.

And I was right. A little explainy-explainy session a bit later on with this Anne chick clears up a lot of stuff.

I don't quite know if I buy into the whole instant-chick-and-dick magnet thing that seems pivotal to the story, but whatever. It's fiction.

Actually, you know what? The main character reminds me of a gay Gaston...and Beast, now that I think of it, all in one.

Something that bothers me is that I see no basis of the MC's declaration that he's a dom (Not Dom - just dom). I mean, I see that he's pretty much a consummate top, but dom?

Actually, a bit later, there's some stuff that can be construed as light D/s, I guess...

I think the MC just enjoys being an asshole.

(view spoiler)

Eh. The kink in here annoys me because it seems like obligatory kink.

It's not a bad story. It's just a story I can't see ever happening irl. It's also really, really sex-centric when it would have benefited more from being more plot-driven, especially with the whole intrigue element it was trying to embrace.

It was weird. I think I actually quite liked it, regardless of all the weirdness and kitschiness and whatnot.

(view spoiler)

Something like that.

It's a weird mix of the absurd and realistic.

I actually could see this as a chick flick. Well, sans the explicit sex in movie.

It's so unapologetically kooky that I find myself giving it some grudging respect.

I think weirdly enough I actually kind of liked it.

Mary says

This was so fun and you read and enjoy it and hope there's a sequel because the two of them, Bradley and Tony, could have so many more adventures together. The faith at the end, the yes, let's jump in together, is my favorite kind.

Chris says

3.5 stars. Good m/m romantic suspense about a British agent who tracks a stolen Faberge egg to New York City, where he's mistaken for a prostitute and uses that to his investigative advantage. This book had a somewhat over-the-top old-school romance feel to it; while that's not usually my forte, it mostly worked here and I got sucked into the story.

Tracey says

Just what I needed some m/m loving this didn't dissappoint - it was hot.

The is a story about a missing Russian heirloom, which soca agent Bradley is investigating (the egg was his grandmothers), he has to get in with a terranova, a family known for being in the mafia. Did I mention both Bradley and Tony are gorgeous male specimens any women would jump!!

Bradley has to seduce Tony to get in with him, which he has no problem with as hs instantly attracted to him. Strange things happen when ?ou get close to some one, and these to get close pretty often!!! Yes there lots of sex, it was wasn't always drawn out but it was darn hot.

I would guess half the book is story, the other half is passionate love making ****swoon****, Did I mention bdsm yes there is light bdsm in this book too, whats not to love.

The story keeps the sex together well, but expect twists and turns and an epilogue that made me so happy.

****i received this book from the publisher via netgalley for an honest review****

Don Bradshaw says

Reviewed on Hearts On Fire... <http://heartsonfirereviews.com/>

There's something for everyone in this clever romantic suspense story. Nathaniel Bradley is a gorgeous British agent who's grandmother was just robbed. The only thing taken in the robbery was one of the lost Faberge eggs so it is thought to be an art theft. Bradley travels to the U.S. and infiltrates a ring of con men by posing as a hustler. The con is supposed to be an easy one with Bradley seducing the heir apparent of a mafia family, Tony Terranova, while the others sell Tony what they believe to be a phony Faberge egg. The seduction goes off beautifully and Bradley is firmly ensconced in Tony's apartment. What Bradley doesn't count on is that Tony is the perfect Sub to compliment Bradley's Dom needs. The sex is wild and everything both men want but quickly matters of the heart take over and Bradley doesn't want to see Tony conned or hurt. Bradley knows the egg is his grandmother's real egg so comes up with his own plan to just steal the egg but leave his love behind. The web of lies and deception grows as the angst over Bradley having to leave the only man he has ever loved grows. I loved Tony and Bradley as a couple and their personalities are well fleshed out. The plot twists and turns that Ms Toland wove into this fun book kept me guessing just how she was going to pull off a HEA. Bradley and Tony may well be in love but it is all based on lies hidden by both men. The way the end of the story unfolded was magical and romantic but I won't spoil it for the next reader which should be just about everyone in my opinion.

Monique says

Enjoyable if you are looking for an easy read some D/s kink throw in...

Nathaniel Brady is an agent for the Serious Organised Crime Agency and when his Grandmother's priceless Faberge egg is stolen he vows to find the thieves. His search takes him to New York where he is recruited by a con team to play the lure in an elaborate sting to sell a fake Faberge egg, which is in fact the real egg. The mark is the very dangerous Anthony Terranova the son of a mafia boss... only Bradley is not prepared for how gorgeous the man is and just how much his body is craving the sub he sees hidden behind those blue eyes, dark with lust.

There is a plot which revolves around Bradley infiltrating the gang and getting his hands on the stolen egg he is desperate to return his Grandmother but this is more about the relationship between the two MC's and Bradley's conflicting emotions, Tony was a murderer, a killer and the son of a mafia boss... yet his gut was telling him different! There is a lot of very hot, panty melting D/s play and with Bradley being a Dom his body is crying out to do all kinds of naughty's with Tony, who as a sub can't get enough! These two are insatiable, they are like magnets, drawn to each other both physically and emotionally and Bradley is way over his head and his heart is leading him down a path that can only end in his world falling apart... such is the connection between these two!

For me this was an easy read and I enjoyed it but no great shakes, the plot is predictable and it was slightly OTT on the insta love, with no real angst or action. However there is plenty of sex... which was HOT and there is definitely great chemistry between Bradley and Tony, the BDSM element is very light and is more of a D/s relationship and there is a twist to the story but it wasn't one that surprised me.

JustJen "Miss Conduct" says

3.5 stars

This first quarter of this book was very confusing for me. I really had to concentrate on following who was who, who was conning who, and what the cons all even were. Everyone seemed to be conning someone else, and even the conmen were being conned. I decided to not worry about it and just wait for things to become clearer later on, which they pretty much did.

Everything centers around this Faberge Egg, which belonged to but was stolen from Nathaniel Bradley's aunt. Nathaniel is a UK citizen who normally works with a unit that takes down organized crime in the UK. He has become involved with the egg retrieval in the US by becoming one of the conmen involved in conning Anthony Terranova, son of a Mafia crime boss, who it seems is attempting to buy the stolen egg.

Nathaniel (conname Bradley) and Tony hit it off, and Bradley strays from the original con plan to serve his own agenda, which is the egg retrieval. These two are smoking hot together. I had a bit of a hard time picturing a hard ass Mafia guy as the super sexy sweet submissive Tony, but he ends up having a bit of a split personality where the tough guy is concerned. There isn't anything too hardcore here, but the d/s that quickly comes into play is hot stuff.

I was a bit disappointed in the instalove that happens over a matter of a few days and a lot of sex, especially knowing everyone is lying to everyone else. There are a few twists and turns, but nothing earthshattering or overly shocking. I did enjoy this in the end, but I believe most of that comes from the chemistry between Tony and Bradley than the confusing and somewhat unbelievable con plot. I'm glad I stuck with it though, and am looking forward to the next book.

