

Let Me In

Callie Croix

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On leave for Thanksgiving, the last thing marine lieutenant Talia Barnett expects to find is Liam Brodie waiting for her at the airport. He's had a starring role in her fantasies for the past two years, and although she'd love to make them a reality, she has a dark secret that prevents her from taking things further.

A former marine, Liam's specialty is planning tactical operations, and that's just what he plans to do to win Talia. The woman has kept him at arm's length for too long, and this time he's finally going to claim her—body and heart.

What begins as comfort quickly turns hot. When Liam shows Talia a hint of the dominant nature inside him, the submissive part of her flares to life. Though she desires him, she's going back on deployment and doesn't want to dump all her drama on him. Will he find a way to break through the protective walls around her heart and convince her they have a future that goes far beyond the bedroom?

Let Me In Details

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Genre: Romance, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Bdsm, Erotic Romance



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From Reader Review Let Me In for online ebook

Dee says

Let me start by saying that this is flagged as a BDSM and it isn't which may disappoint some readers.

Talia is a Marine and is home on leave but she expects to have a quiet and lonely Thanksgiving as she really doesn't want to see her mother. When she arrived at the airport she was very surprised to see her best friend Angie with her very sexy and unsettling brother whom Talia had spent the last few years trying to avoid as she was attracted and started having feelings for him. It would seem that he shared that attraction but Talia was very insecure and ashamed, and could not allow herself to trust anyone with the truth of what her childhood was like and the condition that her mother suffers with.

I really liked Liam a lot. He also felt the attraction and although he had tried to persue a relationship with Talia over the last few years he respected that she didn't want to change the nature of their friendship. However his feelings for her had developed and he knew that he had to try and form a relationship with her or move on with his life. Although I understood why Talia was like she was it did begin to annoy me towards the end and when she did finally open up to Liam I instantly thought about time too!

Overall a very good read!

ARC provided by Carina Press via Netgalley

Anna (Bobs Her Hair) says

Let Me In is an enjoyable novella with a hero who has more than sex appeal. Liam Brodie, former Marine and military contractor, has an ideal combination of qualities to satiate contemporary erotic romance fans.

The Story

Marine Lieutenant Talia Barnett arrives home for Thanksgiving, which should be a happy occasion, but Talia's home has issues attached. Fortunately, she has become an unofficial member of her best friend's family. The Brodie family is happy, stable, and everything she has ever wanted. Her attraction to Liam Brodie is an unwanted complication. She will not risk losing this family for a relationship that will surely break like all her others. In Talia's experience, deployments and a mentally ill mother are too much for boyfriends to accept.

Liam Brodie has been attracted to Talia since the first day he met her. He appreciates her inner strength and independence. She keeps her distance, but he catches her longing glances. Now, he's going to push for more and hope she lets him into her life.

My Thoughts

Talia has a mother with suffering from major depression expressed in a severe case of hoarding, which is a first I've seen in a romance. Talia feels helpless, ashamed, angry, and enjoys the escape military life provides. I felt sympathy for her character as her secret spills out for Liam to see. Eventually, my sympathy waned as her character repeatedly hit the same roadblock.

It was Liam Brodie who really shined in this short story. He's capable of putting his need and wants aside to comfort Talia. He displays a chivalry that is not always common in BDSM alpha heroes. I really loved that! He tries to solve their relationship issues with meaningful dialogue rather than hot steamy sex.

Let Me In is the first book I have read by Callie Croix and I will be reading her work again. There is a book that precedes this novella, but this book can stand alone. (The previous book's hero and heroine from No Holds Barred is referred to once.) This story is tight and the hero engaging. The heroine was the weakest link, which may depend on the reader. The BDSM is light and may appeal to contemporary romance fans who appreciate explicit love scenes.

Final Score: 3.5 out of 5 stars

Release date: May 21, 2012

ARC generously provided by Carina Press via Netgalley

Wendy says

Sexy little read with an alpha hero to die for. Love it!

Debbie says

Posted on Talk Supe

First, I just have to say this novella started up my unadulterated weekend of smutty reads that left my head stuck in a cloud of dirty thoughts. I was so glad I was able to pick this up from NetGalley because I ended up loving this little short story which packed some heat and emotional baggage. Since Let Me In is a novella (less than forty thousand words) I can't tell you too much of what happens without giving up the whole story. A lot happen within a short period of time and the author dives in to some very emotional family drama. It's this conflict that had me loving the story because although Talia's abandonment issues aren't all that uncommon it's the reasons behind it that makes if different from everything else that I've read in the past.

Talia was a great lead and I found myself really relating to her. She's a Marine (Oorah!) and is great at what she does. Being a Marine, she's strong, independent and loyal but underneath her tough exterior she's also vulnerable and insecure. She's been crushing on her best friend's brother, Liam, for over two years. Too scared to put her friendship with Liam and close relationship with his family at risk, she keeps her feelings to herself. Her reasons for keeping her feelings at bay is palpable and probably something I'd do myself.

"What are you going to do?"

What I've wanted to do to you for almost two years. "Shhh. Let me in"

Liam is a very drool worthy character. As a former Marine, he's a pure 100% Alpha male. It's hinted that he's had an illustrious sexual past and likes to delve into a little BDSM in the boudoir. Since meeting Talia he's harbored feelings for her but never really pursued it because Talia had always kept him at arm's length. No longer able to keep his feelings and desire for Talia at bay, Liam makes his intentions known and at the same time forces Talia to confess the same desires she's felt for him. Although the author didn't spend too much time with Liam's past the time spent with him makes the reader desire him.

The only complaint I had with Let Me In was that I wished it were a little longer. Croix writes some very sexy love scenes and had me wishing we could gotten even more action in the bedroom. Liam displayed his dominant nature and Talia's submissive parts came out and I would have loved to explore that aspect a little more. Call me a horny thirty something but I really wanted to see Liam showing Talia the kind of kinky activities he's into.

Let Me In was a very enjoyable read and Croix leaves the reader with a satisfying and viable ending. Her characters were both believable and relatable. I also loved that Talia was of Asian decent because let's be honest, we don't see very many Asian characters in books, television or movies. After reading Let Me In, it had me craving more of Croix's work especially No Holds Barred which tells the story of Liam's threesome with his best friend and his fiance (this is pre Talia of course!) So if you're pressed for time but craving a good steamy but emotional romance read then I wold highly recommend picking up Let Me In.

▼Rachel**▼** says

Let Me In is an awesome short story. It's only 103 pages but I loved it!

Talia has just come home on leave from the marines. Unfortunately for her it's Thanksgiving and holidays are not something she looks forward to. Her only family that she has is her mother and she is definitely not the June Cleaver type. She has major issues. A pang of sadness goes through her when she sees all the families welcoming home her fellow serviceman with no one to greet her. To her utter shock, she finds Angie and Liam Brodie, waiting for her. Angie has been her best friend for the past two years and Liam is the brother that Talia has secretly lusted over all that time. Their family is picture perfect and has treated her like a daughter since Angie and she have become friends. This is why Talia doesn't want to start anything with Liam, even though he's made it clear in the past he's interested. She can't bear to lose the love the Brodie's show her if something goes wrong with Liam. She feels certain if Liam found out the secret of her mother's problems he couldn't bear to stay with her. No other man has.

Liam has wanted Talia for quite some time. Now that she's back stateside, he plans on making her let him in. He knows her family life hasn't been the greatest and that's the reason she puts up walls but he's determined to get inside. He won't take no for an answer:

"You know, I'm really sick of you shutting me out," he said in a low voice, tracing his thumbs over her cheekbones. Trapped by his stare, she gazed up at him, her mind wiped blank. It took her a moment to find her voice. "I haven't--" "Yeah, you have. But not anymore, because that shit ends right here and now."

Liam's had a wild side had his share of women but Talia is someone he could see himself getting serious with. He admires her service in the marines and her strong character.

This story as I said before is really short but don't let that fool you. It packs a punch. The spice in this is done really well, feeling right for the story line. I don't know if I'd even call it spice, it's more of a scorcher! If you want a sweet story with a high level of HOT this is the one for you!

Thank you Netgalley and Carina Press for allowing me to read this.

Jess says

I knew I loved you Liam, more than I love Nate.

This was a great story. Talia pissed me off....a lot! I just really felt that Liam didn't deserve her. I realise she was going through a lot, but Liam was offering to help and be there for her, and she just constantly pushed her away.

Liam was wonderful, incredibly sweet and a powerful alpha all rolled into one. I really liked everything about him.

Let Me In, was a perfect and quick read. It will get you a little hot under the collar, but hey, that's what these books are there for :)

Thoroughly enjoyed this book and I look forward to reading more by Callie Croix.

Note: I received a copy of this from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Gigi says

Reread October 2016 Didn't care for this one the second time around as much as the first. Dropped a star.

I think I'm about done with my hetero fix for awhile. This was another good one. I love my military men! This one had some great sex and angst. Now I'm all ready to get back to M/M romance and man-on-man action.

Amy says

Quick Rundown: Marine Lieutenant, Talia Barnett has arrived home, on leave from Kandahar for Thanksgiving. She fantasizes about have family at the airport waiting to great her but knows that is just a dream. Once outside the main gates, she heads out to hail a cab and much to her surprise is greeted by her

best friend Angela and Angela's brother, Liam. Angela and Liam's family have opened their door and hearts to Talia for the past couple of years. Liam, also a Marine, has always had a strong attraction for Talia ever since she and his sister became best friends. Both Liam and Talia have flirted with the other but have never pursued anything more but this Thanksgiving Liam is determined to not let Talia give him an easy brush off.

First Impression: The sexual tension was immediate and you were fully aware that both Liam and Talia had a mutual attraction that both wanted to pursue. Both have military jobs where they are stationed in different locations overseas so the attraction has remained a fantasy for both until now. With Liam's alpha nature, I expected it would take little convincing of Talia to succumb to his honesty and charm but that was not the case.

The heroine: Talia is a complex woman. She has no fear when on duty as a marine, but when faced with the lack of a real family and her mother's mental illness, she resorts back to a scared child that longs for her problems to go away. She is ashamed of her mother's behavior to the point that she shuts herself off from pursuing a relationship and refuses help from Liam and his family when it comes to dealing with her mother's mental illness.

The hero: Liam is the typical alpha male that knows what he wants but has enough control and patience in order to go about getting it. He presents a strong alpha demeanor and is gentleman with a caring heart and a desire to make the lives of those he cares about a little easier with his help. Liam has wanted to pursue a relationship with Talia for the past two years but has not pushed her even though it is obvious she has mutual feelings for him that she is scared to pursue. Now that she is home on leave, he is no longer allowing her to call all the shots. He is determined to make Talia face the sexual tension and desire they have suppressed for too long.

What worked: I thought the author did well in grazing the surface with mental illness and hoarding without allowing it to form a heaviness over the entire story. The chemistry and sexual tension between Liam and Talia was prominent and you knew that they would eventually get together for a one time release or for something deeper.

What didn't work: Talia's character was exhausting for me throughout most of the story. She is an independent woman, fierce in the battlefield but fragile when it comes to dealing with her mother's mental health issues and bearing the burden of trying to fix the complicated situation. At times I felt antsy and irritable while reading the story because that was the impression I had of the heroine. She was always on edge and could never breathe and just "be". I also did not like her constant indecision in regard to her feelings for Liam. Her pride and insecurities played a tug of war with Liam's emotions that became so repetitive and annoying that I began to question what the attraction was that caused Liam to continue his pursuit.

Final Conclusion: The ending was wrapped a little too nice and perfect in my opinion given the issues with Talia and her mom. I believe it would have been more realistic if her mother's illness would have remained unresolved while in pursuit of recovery. Finally, this story is categorized as BDSM and it is not. If you go in hoping to read a dominant/submissive relationship, you will be disappointed. Liam's alpha male personality is all you will get in the form of control.

Favorite Quote:

"He dragged his tongue across the captive nipple, sucking firmly, loving the wild little moans she gave and the feel of her arms holding him close. She was finally accepting her need for him, at least in this way, even

if she refused to voice it aloud. Her body knew the truth, and he had no qualms about reinforcing that message."

Originally posted at http://www.fictionvixen.com/2012/05/l...

Baba says

2.5 to 3 stars.

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Let Me In by Callie Croix is a short, very sexy story about allowing those you love to love you back, and learning to trust that they do, unconditionally.

Marine lieutenant Talia Barnett is home on leave for the Thanksgiving holiday, and the last thing she expected was to be met at the airport by Liam Brodie, her secret crush. Talia has had it bad for Liam almost since the first time she laid eyes on him, but skeletons in her closet, fears that her mother's illness will scare him off, has had Talia keeping him at arm's length, unwilling to risk their friendship should he learn the truth.

Liam knows that Talia's hiding something. He doesn't know what, but he's done being pushed away. When he discovers her secret and learns the reasons for Talia's emotional distance and having only a few days to work with, he pulls out all the stops and goes after the woman he's wanted since the first time he met her.

I absolutely adored Liam in *No Holds Barred* where he helped his best friend Nathan give his fiancé, Caitlin, her threesome fantasy. When the weekened was over, Liam walked away and ever since then, I've been desperately hoping he would get a story of his own. Honestly, I can't even begin to tell you how thrilled I was when I found his book on netgalley! Just as I fell for him then, I've fallen even harder now for this super sexy, devoted, romantic, grounded, dominant man - Liam really is the perfect hero.

Talia's story is unique – or I should say, her *mother's* story is unique. The depression and the way it manifested itself is heartbreaking and seeing how deeply it affected Talia made it tragic. Early on I was drawn to Talia and her devotion to her mother, but there came a point where her insecurities became annoying and just... too much. That said, the epilogue was very sweet and left me feeling contented with this *happily ever after* ending.

The bottom line - As always, Callie Croix delivers a sexually charged story with the perfect amount of romance. From the first page to the last, I sighed, smiled, fanned myself and just couldn't put this book down. I'm so looking forward to more by this author!

Note: I feel I should mention that this story is labeled BDSM and while it's hinted at, it never happens.

Talltree says

This book exemplifies why I hate this trope.

H is h's best friends brother. H has always liked h platonically but she had a crush on him for years

H is a manho, has flings, affairs, threesomes(even one with his friends fiance) etc. all over the place. He propositioned h 2 yrs back - but since h knew H didn't do commitment - she passed. She still pines for him though. When h says no, H is not heartbroken by any means, he just takes h's refusal in stride - no hard feelings - and continues on to next woman, manho-ing away!!

When they meet in this book, H is 35 yrs old. He is tired of his ways and wants to settle down, he's looking for a 'loyal dependable woman', and lo' the h is around, so he thinks why not?,he was always attracted to her. And so the wooing starts...

And at that point I DNF-ed. I just hate books like these.

Frankly do not like manho H's, but I do read some of them - the ones where the said manho sees the h and his world up-ends - where H is all in for h and no other woman would do and where he goes all out to get her.

But this, this isn't what I consider romance:(

Ruth says

This one, provided by netgalley, was OK. I picked it up, hoping for some seriously smutty smut, you know, two-Marines-get-it-on-on-leave-and-cause-my-kindle-to-explode type smut. I even filed it under my steamy-dirty-smut bookshelf, thinking this would have some knock-your-socks off sexy bits. Well, it did. Kinda. But I had to downgrade it to my slightly-smutty-beach-fluff shelf instead, because I just felt it wasn't quite hot enough.

Now, it wasn't because there wasn't a fair amount of hide-the-sausage, because there was. In fact, it did seem to take up a decent amount of word count. But, it was just that I felt, for me personally, it would have been better with one really smokin' hot scene (you know, having-to-fan-myself-with-my-ticket-on-the-train-home-from-the-office type hot), and then more words spent on really getting inside the head of the hero and/or heroine. Instead, there were two or three quite hot scenes, but I just felt that it was just a bit lacking.

So, what did I like?

- I liked both the hero and heroine. I thought they were both pretty great characters, and for a novella, we were able to get to know the heroine in quite a lot of detail. Her issues were very real and I liked that she was a very private, self-reliant person, really quite different from the usual characters that inhabit Romancelandia. The hero we got to know a bit less well, and I honestly would have preferred a bit more word count on him.

- I liked that the hero and heroine were both in the military, we were given enough information to form a sketch of what they do, but that the author didn't dwell on pointless details. We're told why the heroine likes intelligence work, and then it's left at that.
- I fundamentally liked the plot. Two people who've known each other for two years, fancy the pants off each other, but have jobs that take them away for long periods of time, and also have barriers to actually getting it on... It's a plot that worked for me.

What I didn't like so much..

- I honestly felt that the hero was a bit short-changed in the character-building department. I got the feeling he was a really nice guy, but came across as a bit of a KnowItAll jerk with an incredibly overactive libido (OK, so there's nothing wrong with that second bit..). He just "knew" what the heroine needed and I found that incredibly condescending. The heroine is a Lieutenant in the frikkin' Marines, for Christ's sake! She works in Intelligence and the work she does in the office can have incredibly important ramifications for her colleagues in the field. She's not an idiot and even if she doesn't know her own mind, she's entitled to not know her own mind. She's also entitled to not actually just take as read that the hero loves her, without him telling her that, and she's also entitled to be a tad unsure when the hero states that he'll never leave her, even though every other person she's ever been remotely close to has upped and left her. Now, I really felt that with a bit more character development, the hero would have come across as a really fascinating person. There was hints of the nice guy with dominant traits, but I didn't really want hints, I wanted evidence.
- The book is set up with the hero as the dom hoping that the heroine is his dream submissive, and I really hoped that it could have convincingly lead me to agree, but the dom-submissive stuff was almost completely left out, except for a couple of references that the heroine likes the idea of being tied up. I'm not really into the BDSM stuff, but there was so little I felt short-changed.
- The ending was way, way too bloody perfect for me. It was so saccharine-sweet perfect that I almost felt myself reaching for the trash can to vomit into, whilst keeping one eye out for The Secret Baby to come crawling out of the heroine's duffel bag. Why does a novella have to tie up all the loose ends? It doesn't! Just leave the issues with the Mom unresolved! Just leave the hero's perfect family out of the ending! Life is messy and most romance readers can handle that, particularly in 37,000 words.

So, 3 stars. I quite enjoyed it. Published May 21.

Nikki says

3 stars.

Novellas are such a detriment to themselves because there's only so much content and depth that can be covered in such a small amount of words. I always seem to rate them quite low because of this.

Talia and Liam's story was hot, there's no denying that. The sexing was my favourite part. The plot was a little random though and I had to force myself to keep interested. I feel bad saying that about a book that was written by my favourite RS author (Kaylea Cross writing as her erotica pen name Callie Croix); but unfortunately it's true. Talia's mother's mental health issue was something that struck close to my heart, but it was just not a subject that I gloried in reading about in a novella length book. There wasn't enough time or

space to allow the author to sink her teeth into that story arc so it fell a little flat for me.

Talia's martyr act drove me a little bonkers but I understood her self-preservation to a point. Liam was definitely hot and sexy and made this worth reading. Not too bad for what it was.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Slick's review posted on Guilty Pleasures

I enjoy reading books about military heroes, so I was excited to read about a military heroine! Luckily our hero is ex-military and understands the stress and dedication it takes to live the military life.

Several words describe Talia Barnett; Marine, daughter, friend, submissive...what? That's exactly what she thinks when she realizes she enjoys being dominated by her friend's older brother. Liam Brodie is an ex-Marine, government contractor, and one hot, dominant alpha male. But can he convince Talia he's exactly what she needs?

The story begins as Talia arrives in Colorado right before the Thanksgiving holiday. She's not sure why she came "home" because she hasn't really had a home for a long time. Although her Mother is still alive, they have a volatile relationship because her Mother has some severe issues. The last thing she expects is to be met at the airport by her friend Angie and Angie's brother, Liam who has starred in her fantasies for the past two years.

Liam has wanted Talia since he met her, he made that known early on but she rejected him. Liam has a reputation for quick romances and Talia doesn't want to loose her connection to his family. A family that she has deemed perfect and one she would very much like to call her own.

During her visit Liam helps Talia with an incident involving her Mother and comforts her afterwards. Comfort leads to much more. They combust once together and when Liam goes all dominant on Talia, she realizes he's exactly what she needs. Liam (bless his heart) tries to break through to Talia because he knows they are right for each other. Talia's fears make her push Liam away to the point where he decides to give her the space she wants.

Although this is a very short novella, there is a lot of emotion and content. I think most women would love a Liam in their life. I'm not sure there are too many men whose egos would have put up with Talia. I would have liked a little more time with this couple especially at the end. Overall, I very much enjoyed this book and was equally happy when I got to the end and found out Liam had a small role in an earlier book which I immediately purchased and read!

? Sassy ~ Amy ? says

3.5 - good

A lady marine is on leave. Leaving the plane she is surprised to be greeted by her best friend and her best

friends brother whom she has always had the hots for, but finds him out of her league. She believes herself to be a pity case, having a horder mother who she has no relationship with. And his family is so close & have accepted her in as one of their own, making a possible relationship awkward.

I have definitely read better, but this was a pretty good novella. It jumped on the hording band wagon & the psychology of one in this book, paralell to all the shows now out about it.

I wasn't very convinced with the reaction of the daughter & her need to let someone else be in control. I think they would swing more into the OCD have to be in control mode, but thats just me.

Novellas rarely fall into the 4 or 5 star range for me because they are rarely epic novels.