



One Marine, Hero

E.M. Lynley

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He's a hero to everyone but himself.

Marine helicopter pilot Captain Jake Woodley struggles after receiving the Medal of Honor for a mission where he didn't bring every man back alive. Being called a hero and having his photo plastered across the news makes him hate himself more. He despises his cushy job flying with the Marine One squadron, carrying the president and other officials, when he'd rather risk something, even death. He gets his wish when he's ordered to fly a series of classified trips.

Matt "Beau" Beaumont has been relegated to covering the fashion beat after getting downsized from a hard-news position. But an unexpected invitation to a White House dinner might be the boost his career needs. Offering a hot marine an after-dinner blowjob wasn't on Beau's agenda, but when Jake takes him up on the proposition, some phenomenal casual sex soon blossoms into a relationship both of them crave.

When Beau's extracurricular research uncovers defense department funding anomalies, he soon discovers the trouble goes higher than he imagined. Just as events start to make sense, the investigation puts Beau and Jake in deadly danger. It takes a daring play by Jake—risking everything he loves—to uncover the truth.

One Marine, Hero Details

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From Reader Review One Marine, Hero for online ebook

Lisa says

I loved the relationship between Beau and Jake. I liked how it had ups and downs but not too much angst between the ups and downs.

What was a little strange was the 'mystery'. It started near the beginning of the book and then all went quiet. The eventual solving of it seemed a little like an after thought.

Gigi says

4.5 stars rounded up because DAISY!

Two gay, handsome, available men walk into the White House Correspondents' Dinner. One man says to the other,

Would you be interested in a blow job?

And there you have it. The slutty, delicious beginning of a passionate, loving, romantic relationship.

Captain Jake Woodley is a helicopter pilot training in Quantico, VA to fly The President in *Marine One*. He is a decorated Marine war hero after having saved several soldiers in Afghanistan where he piloted rescue missions and personal drops. During one mission, his helicopter is shot down and many soldiers lost their lives. Because of this, Jake doesn't see himself as a hero but rather a killer since so many men died on his watch. He is miserable and uses alcohol to numb his pain and help him sleep. His constant drinking is also getting him into hot water with his CO's and he has been warned to shape up or ship out. At the beginning of the book, he doesn't even care if he lives or dies. His only reason to choose live is because of his 3-legged Golden Retriever Daisy.

Matt "Beau" Beaumont is also a bit miserable at this point in his life too. He has recently been demoted from writing at the New York Times to a fashion beat at a smaller news organization. He likes his co-worker and friend Laney well enough, but serious, hard-hitting news journalism is what he craves.

When Jake and Beau meet at the Correspondence Dinner and after several blow jobs and a "one night stand" they can't seem to get each other out of their heads. Both normally go for anonymous sex, no strings attached, but they see something in each other and agree to date. Dating leads to a relationship and the relationship leads to love.

While the young relationship finds it's feet, Jake is still working on getting certified to fly Marine One and Beau is looking for a juicy story to bump him up the news reporting ladder. Jake is involved in some top-secret missions and Beau latches on to this and looks for a story. He finds one, starts to question his trust in Jake and the result gets them both into a whole mess of trouble.

Now, I really did enjoy this book, but there were a few downfalls for me.

1. A lot of the sex in this book was fade-to-black. Yes, we did get some full-on scenes, but they were few and far between. That is my preference so my dislike will not affect my rating.
2. While this wasn't "insta-love" it was pretty darn close. About as close as you can get without calling it insta-love.
3. My biggest complaint with the book was the lack of trust and jealousy between Jake and Beau. Beau is very vocal about Jake's drinking and lays down an ultimatum pretty early in the relationship. Yes, his heart is in the right place, but it felt like blackmail the way it was written. Also, when an old boyfriend of Jake's turns up at a function Jake and Beau are attending, Beau goes a little crazy and turns into a green-eyed monster. There are several more examples, including the whole reason their lives' were in danger, but I'll let you read and decide on your own.

But **MARINES! HELICOPTERS! MOTORCYCLES! HAVING SEX IN UNIFORM! HOSPITAL STAYS WITH BEDSIDE CONFESSIONALS!** There was a whole lotta good in here folks.

If you've a uniform/military/alpha male slut like me, you will *need* to read this book.

Recommended.

This review has been crossed posted to Jessewave

Teri says

2.5 stars

I don't know, this didn't really work for me. I liked Beau quite a bit and Jake, though quite a douchebag initially, did grow on me. Their relationship was odd, and there were times when I found Beau too forgiving, but I was glad the times he just said okay, I'm done and took the time he needed.

Jake bothered me for several reasons. I don't understand how the drinking issue didn't get more attention as it was so heavy in the first half. I understand that he went to AA, but he had issues and while support and having people that care about you is so important in recovery and such, I felt like it just kind of went away when other things became more tense. His reaction to the motorcycle ride also was...well, Beau is a better man than me, because I wouldn't have forgiven that reaction.

The political part was...blah for me, not really my thing, and I didn't really care who was guilty.

I could have done without that whole Brett thing and I don't even think that was necessary.

There were some very sweet moments, I wish some of the more intimate scenes hadn't been fade to black. I liked the characters together most of the time, but there were just moments of drama and weirdness that didn't work for me.

Would read more from this author and would recommend Dirty Dining

Mtsnow13 says

I had the pleasure of reading this without a cover, so I already had in mind what my Hero and his love interest would look like, and for me it was nothing like the final cover that was revealed, but that's okay, as I get to keep my vision in my memory :)

This story had quite a different approach than most typical military plot lines in that the MCs were not what would be considered in the middle of military warfare, even though there were some allusions to black ops that the Marine MC had to take part in.

With a much more political vent, there was quite a bit on the preparations and qualifications a Marine Corps pilot required for consideration as one of the privileged few to fly the President of the United States in Marine One, the presidential helicopter that takes him to Camp David and other manifested locations as needed.

I enjoyed the twists and turns and humanity that was portrayed with these characters, even though some of the actions and lack of questioning some of the shady orders frustrated me. I could very much tell the author had done quite a bit of research, and it showed in the level of detail that unfolded throughout. I especially appreciated the glimpse into flight training using virtual reality-type simulators. Very interesting. And the mystery ending surprised me, which was good, even if it made me sad.

As for the romantic element, it was plausible, but I was more empathetic for the non-military MC than the officer. I also felt more frustration at the actions of the fellow officers, and through most of the story, I personally did not feel much chemistry between the MCs.

Overall an enjoyable read with a story about a slightly effeminate public relations/fashion reporter that had a history of being capable of writing hard news falling for a very machismo Marine helicopter pilot that didn't know from one day to the next where his career was heading. It was definitely more escapism than plausible with much of the unprofessionalism portrayed by the military personnel, but I was able to let it go to just enjoy the story.

Recommended for military m/m fans, and those that enjoy EM Lynley's other stories.

Becky Condit says

You had me at sexy heroes in uniform. Then I got into the book and was well and truly hooked on the story and characters.

Jake is a pilot in training to fly Marine One, the President's own helicopter. It is also used to ferry other dignitaries around and then we get into the strange, secret missions Jake is asked to fly in the Washington area. Unfortunately, Jake is suffering from PTSD and self-medicating with alcohol. Too much alcohol. Way too much alcohol. Jake is trying to get in enough hours of training and flights to earn the right to fly the President himself, but he keeps sabotaging himself.

Beau is a reporter who has lost his position writing "real" news stories at the New York Times to writing fashion at a lesser paper. He also is frequently mixed up with another reporter with a similar name. Beau is trying to climb the ladder back to the top of the political and national news chain. He needs the right story to get him there.

When Jake and Beau meet sparks fly. There is no relationship initially, just sex, and we get to watch both men try to get their stuff in order personally and professionally, let alone together. This is one of the best, no it is The Best story I've ever read by EM Lynley. I enjoy her style of writing but the research behind this one and the presentation of the plot, the character development, shows tremendous growth as a writer and elevates her to rock star level for me. I recommend One Marine, Hero highly and look forward to whatever comes next from Ms Lynley.

~☆~Dαni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

E.M. Lynley is a good writer, and I loved

However, I had a hard time getting into this story. It's my fault for requesting a book that revolves around political intrigue (which I typically dislike), but I can never resist a good hurt/comfort theme and men in uniform.

It took a while for the MCs to meet, and almost all the sex scenes (including the first one) were fade to black, which totally calls for my favorite HELL NO gif.

The story focused more on politics and the mystery than the relationship.

Many of the scenes dragged, particularly the first few chapters and long stretches of the second half. I admit I skimmed some of the exposition.

Daisy, the dog, was a sweetheart, and I liked Beau. Jake had issues and was a jerk initially, but he did evolve as the story progress.

If you like mysteries and don't need a lot of steam in your books, you might enjoy this one. I found it rather lackluster.

Avid Reader says

One Marine, Hero - EM Lynley

5 stars

Possible trigger - Alcoholic tendencies

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

Beau and Jake are kind of a conundrum. I really enjoyed their story. It was a well planned, well executed romance with an awesome mystery. I am normally one who can see the mystery come to conclusion in

advance, but this book had me stumped until almost the very end.

I was impressed with how Lynley was able to create Jake's character who was seen as such a hero in the eyes of his fellow servicemen and countrymen, but for himself, it was his daily struggle. So often, heroes are the hardest critics of themselves and I think that Lynley did a great job at helping Jake through those issues. Of course, with the help of Beau, he made it through much more comprehensively. While this story was about Jake more so than Beau, without Beau's love, the story would have been flat.

Then you have Beau. I loved his outlook on life. You are only given a brief hint that his past contains something painful, but I think that was OK and helped create an aura of something more around his character. While he wants to help Jake, he knows that it's up to Jake to want that help that Beau offers. His boldness complements his character and Jake's so well. Plus, they are hot together in bed. I can just picture Jake's hard body and Beau's lean one together in a heap of yumminess.

Finally, my favorite piece of the story, the mystery. LOVED the mystery aspect. I think it gave this story just something extra - so rather than this being solely about the romance between Beau and Jake, it was also about their ability to keep each other safe - their willingness to sacrifice for each other.

I would definitely read more books by Lynley in the future.

Sarah says

This is a brilliant story! Lynley has taken two fascinating, original characters, wrapped a chilling suspense story around them and sprinkled a little romance on top. Perfect.

Beau is a fantastic character. The fashion reporter accidentally invited to a White House party for journalists, he has only one thing to say to the handsome Marine pilot he meets at the dinner, "Would you be interested in a blowjob?" Honestly, I loved him from that moment on. Beau's easy humour and camp affectations are a brilliant contrast to Jake, the serious, closeted Marine.

Jake is a national hero battling PTSD and alcoholism. He has been trained to obey orders - but what happens when he doesn't trust his orders? Can he sacrifice his career dreams if it means doing the right thing?

Lynley's tale of intrigue, state secrets and espionage belongs in an episode of Homeland or 24. Actually, I enjoyed this more because her characters have more heart and Beau has a much better sense of humour (and sense of fashion) than the good guys on TV.

Such a wonderful book!

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review for Inked Rainbow Reviews.

Denise H. says

*** "One Marine, Hero" is a military mystery/romance !! *** Our hero, has been awarded the Congressional Medal Of Honor, and is now on the Marine Air Corps that flies the President and dignitaries. He is Captain

Jake Woodley, a blue eyed, crew cut, hunky Marine,

who meets Matt "Beau" Beaumont at a White House event. Beau, who works for a newspaper for the fashion department, is slim, lean, honey haired, and has brown eyes. Not only that, he's a colorful, vivacious, free spirit.

Beau sees Jake and walks right up to him. Jake is interested, and it becomes so much more than a hook up. We get the mystery flights at Jake's job, strange meetings, plus an investigation a fellow reporter is writing, Jake's alcohol problem, and Beau's zero tolerance policy, because of his Mom. Deeply thought filled characters, a steady paced tale of intrigue, and the sexy M/M romance with these two men who need each other.

Daisy

I liked this story with the military details, strong men, a sweet side kick in Laney, and the smooth plot flow. Sweet, sassy, with a backbone Beau, and true blue Marine officer, Jake are terrific together. Each is strong enough to challenge the other and work out their issues, explain their needs and move forward.

Nice surprise ending, and epilogue. ENJOY !!!

=====

Love Bytes Reviews says

4.5 Heart Review by Vicki

Beau Beaumont, writer of fashion stories for a Washington DC paper, former writer of political stories for another Washington paper, likes a man in a uniform. After a mistake is made with his name and the name of a political writer at his paper with the same last name, Beau and his best friend Laney attend the Autumn Correspondents' Celebration at the White House. Beau catches the eye of a Marine in full dress uniform, stalks him a bit, then boldly offers the man a blowjob. Some sexy times are had, and Beau makes a new friend.

Jake Woodley has some issues. He's called a "hero", but doesn't feel like one. He's a helicopter pilot in the Marine Corps, formerly in combat, now in the HMX-1 Squadron, flying the President and other upper level officials around. Well, Jake isn't flying POTUS yet, but he hopes to be. Sort of. He's got a drinking problem and an attitude problem holding him back. He's not a happy man at all. He's got some serious guilt from a mission that went bad, losing a couple of fellow Marines, and he can't let go of the blame. He's a reluctant attendee at the Autumn Correspondents' Celebration at the White House, when a lovely man asks if he wants a blowjob. Why not? Seems like a cute guy...

This gets Jake and Beau together. It seems like it's going to be a pretty straight (Ha!) forward romance, but it's really not. Jake is pretty fucked up, as Beau comes to learn as they spend time together. Both keep secrets from the other, rightly so, this is a very new relationship and Jake has military things he can't tell Beau. Beau is scared to tell Jake he writes fashion pieces, thinking Jake won't be impressed. Jake of course finds out what he writes, and Beau finds out who Jake is. Things get serious as Beau finds out about Jake's booze issues. Then there is this whole mysterious plot line going on... Beau gets himself involved in a research

project that has ties to Jake, and they both end up in trouble.

So I have a confession to make... I have a close family member that spent four years in the HMX-1 Squadron. Not as a pilot, but still in this unit. I've been to Quantico multiple times, I've been on a Cage tour, I've sat in a helicopter a couple of times, and I've heard stories about the travel and the life of a Marine in this unit. When a fellow reviewer saw this book and messaged me I couldn't decide if I wanted to read it or not. It's like reading a book set in your home town, or featuring a character in the job you do, sometimes knowing details makes it harder to get in to a book and accept the story as it is, without seeing fault. I was going back and forth, until I saw the authors comments about working in the White House, and being familiar with the process of these big beautiful helicopters. So I thought, what the hell? How bad can it be? Not bad at all is the answer!

One of my HUGE and probably irrational pet peeves is an author or a character referring to a Marine as a soldier. I hate that. That one detail will toss me out of a book and piss me off. This book started out good, there were some details about the unit, the helicopters, and the base that had me happy. But you know when the author "got" me? With this exchange:

"Oh, you earned it, soldier."

"Marine"

"Aren't Marines soldiers?"

"No. Soldiers wish they were Marines." Jake grinned.

"You earned it, Marine."

"That's better."

Sold! From that point on I was happy to buy anything that E.M. Lynley would sell me! This is a great story. I loved the contrast between Jake the bad-ass Marine, and Beau the wearer of designer clothes. I liked the drama between them, Jake's drinking and work schedule causing issues, and Beau's attempt to help him. I liked the action of the mystery, although it felt a bit unrealistic to me. There were a few moments that I questioned the realism of some of the details, but those were small moments and they didn't bother me. I also wasn't a fan of the jealousy that comes up between them, that made me unhappy now and then. But mostly I just enjoyed the story!

I've read a few books by this author and I've liked them, this was by far the best though. Great research and writing, great characters with a good connection, and an interesting story. There is lots of sex but other than blow jobs it's not overly descriptive, I thought that would bother me but I got over it. I liked the additional characters, even the kid next door, and I loved Daisy the dog! Overall it was just a great book, and I'd recommend it to anyone that likes military or political dramas.

This book was provided free in exchange for a fair and honest review for Love Bytes. Go there to check out other reviews, author interviews, and all those awesome giveaways. Click below.

Kade Boehme says

I enjoy EM Lynley's work and how she seems to really grow with each new one. And she never fails to impress me with her research. I think I've said before that she utilizes her research in such a way it's organic to the story and doesn't make me feel overwhelmed or like she's trying too hard (aka pompous). And with this, it was so fun and an interesting job our marine had. I'd never even really considered that there would be a helo squad separate like Air Force One. Silly me.

As for our guys, they were refreshingly capable of communicating and were adult about their issues and their relationship (for the most part). I like that the book was steady and took its time when it needed to. This was def one of Ms Lynley's better works. Recommended for sure.

Carly says

Wracked with survivor's guilt after returning from Afghanistan, Jake Woodley's life is slowly spiraling downward. Consumed by loss, he is unable to appreciate the value in his life or recognize the opportunities for positive change his current posting contains.

Matt is a fashion commentator who yearns to prove himself as an investigative reporter. A case of mistaken identity catapults him out of the rut his professional life has become and into the center of a political storm the size of which he never dreamed to discover.

Brought together by chance, Jake and Matt are helpless to deny the powerful chemistry they share. It doesn't take them long to realize that they are each holding a dangerous piece of a puzzle that threatens to unravel the fragile connection they're just starting to maintain.

Lynley pens a story of life, love, loss, and second chances. Suspenseful and emotionally charged, this is a dramatic example of what can happen when people are pushed to the brink of desperation. The complexity of *One Marine, Hero's* plot left me breathless as it carried me away.

My OFFICIAL REVIEW written for Carly's Book Reviews.

Kimberley says

Copy graciously provided by InkedRainbowReads.

5 Captivated Stars!!!!

I have read this author before and I love her writing!!! She gives us interesting and intelligent details that captivate your attention through the whole story. I devoured it!!

I loved both Hero's for their unique characters. They each brought strength to the story. It was a heart-felt and very sexy Journey with Jake and Beau.

Jacq says

This storyline was solid. It had potential. The smexy scenes were poorly written. Most were BLACKED OUT ...Ugh! The MC s were hard to picture. I noticed E.M Lynley, like to use this line a lot " over the next few days" I found myself thinking wait what! Yep, my oh my there you have it. I lost a few days. So I must say this was slightly, less than an ok read. Sigh, not worth the FULL price I paid, not by a long shot.

I push the purchase button to DAMN FAST~

Sherry Bohrmueller says

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

I absolutely loved this book. It wasn't just a romance about two guys, it also had a fantastic mystery to it.

Jake was a war hero who didn't deal with being called a hero very well. I think the author created an excellent version of a war hero and how hard it is to deal with losing their teams. Jake had a drinking problem, loved this line in the book.

"It didn't stop him from thinking about spending some quality time with his secret boyfriend, Don Julio."

A Marine helicopter pilot with a motorcycle? Could it get any hotter than that?

Then there was Beau, I loved how he took chances and just enjoyed life.

They made a perfect couple in this story, I just loved how they were together. The mystery part of the story kept you guessing about what really was going on. Highly recommend this book.
