



## Hostile Ground

*L.A. Witt , Aleksandr Voinov*

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After the deaths of three undercover cops investigating a drug ring in a seedy strip club in Seattle, Detective Mahir Hussain has been sent to finish the job. He joins the club's security team in the hopes of finding enough evidence to bust the operation before the men in charge find a reason to put him in a shallow grave.

To protect the strippers, only gay men can work the club. Ridley, the cold and intimidating head of security, knows exactly how to test potential new hires-including Mahir. From the minute they meet, Mahir and Ridley engage in a dangerous dance of sex and mind games. Mahir needs to find his evidence before Ridley figures out he's a cop-and before they both grow too close to betray one another.

As the game goes on, Mahir burrows deeper into the operation, where he learns there's much more happening than meets the eye . . . and why every cop who made it this far has been silenced with a bullet.

## **Hostile Ground Details**

Date : Published May 12th 2014 by Riptide Publishing (first published May 11th 2014)

ISBN : 9781626491243

Author : L.A. Witt , Aleksandr Voinov

Format : Paperback 300 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary, Mystery, Suspense, Crime

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## **From Reader Review Hostile Ground for online ebook**

**Lelyana says**

**~ ARC provided by Riptide via Netgalley ~**

**\*\*\*5 definitely-adored-this couples-stars!\*\*\***

*My casting*

**Mahir Hussain**

**Ridley**

Aleksandr Voinov and L.A. Witt are a perfect example for a perfect duet.

I adore their writing so much.

Perfect writing skills, perfect stories, I couldn't ask for more.

This is definitely a different, very different point of view in LGBT story.

Mahir is a gay, and he's a Muslim. I'm a Muslim myself, and being gay in Islam, is definitely wrong, especially when you're gay.

Happen in my family.

So I know how difficult Mahir and Kinza situation dealing with their life and family and Religion.

For me, this is more than a story, thank you Aleks and Lori for the story. I know exactly their feeling according to this.

Back to the story. Aside from how Mahir and his nephew cope with the situation, Mahir must face some undercover task in (view spoiler), he met Ridley, a head security of the club.

Since the very beginning, I can feel a very strong chemistry and attraction between the two guys...even, there's no trust between them...the passion and chemistry was 'there', and none of them can deny it.

I loved how Mahir struggled with a feeling of right or wrong, about what he felt for Ridley...and how Ridley's jealousy over another guy...there were so many awwww moments , that I felt so sweet and made me blush and \*cough\* ...squirmed on my seat...

And I loved how Adil took part of this situation, about Kinza, I think the Adil and Kinza part was so realistic...almost every Muslim family have the same problems..it's depends on how they cope with that. And Aleks and Lori, wrote it in a smart way.

**And I just loved how the book ended, and the Epilogue was just PERFECT!.... and I need more of**

**them!**

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**Recommended for all M/M readers, mostly who adores these two amazing authors!**

### **Christelle says**

#### **\*\*3.5 stars\*\***

Very biased rating, LOL. LA Witt and Aleksandr Voinov are among my favorite authors, so the niggles I had could have been a bit of a deterrent for me in other books, but I didn't mind here.

Mahir goes to work as a bouncer in a night club as an undercover cop to get enough evidence against the owner of the club and meets the head of security, Ridley. It's the first time he goes undercover and it's not easy for him, especially as he also has to deal with family issue with his nephew popping up after a huge row with his father and with his strong attraction to Ridley, who is among the bad guys.

My niggles : the plot, starting strong, went a bit shaky for me and with some holes by the end, and I felt uncomfortable with Mahir's nephew's part in it.

But that aside : Mahir and Ridley were really hot together and their interaction intense and delightfully interesting for me. Just for that, it was a winner !!!

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### **Kelly says**

#### **DNF at 35%**

Since I really like these two writers separately I was very excited to read something they wrote together. Unfortunately it turned out to be a big disappointment for me. I felt no connection to the MC's and it was very slow paced.

With all the 4 and 5 star reviews I've seen I'm definitely in the minority here. It's one of those books that just wasn't for me.

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### **Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says**

If this book has told me anything it is that romantic suspense is sooooo not my genre.

The writing combination of L.A. Witt and Aleksandr Voinov is sort of an auto-read for me. I've been known to go gaga for this duo (Quid Pro Quo, anyone??) so I HAD to see what these two would do with a thriller.

The first 25% of the book? LOVE! I loved the hot sex, the power plays, the dirty talking... I adore rough and

forceful sex scenes so I was like, "Yeeah baby!" (<--- picture Austin Powers voice) with the early scenes between Mahir and Ridley.

After that? Meh, not so much.

There were a couple things that really bothered me about this book, the most glaring being *plot holes*. God, I hate me a plot hole. I felt like as soon as the action picked up the leaps and gaps in logic became more and more apparent. Another issue that I had was that this book was REALLY predictable. I knew exactly what was going to happen next, and I'm no sleuth! Part of that had to do with the rambling internal commentary from Mahir, which gave a lot away, IMH.

I also didn't love how the book ended. Too neat and tidy for my taste.

But there was also a lot to like.

I loved the diversity of the characters. A gay practicing Muslim character? I haven't seen many of those. I liked the side plot with Mahir and his family, though I suspect some other readers might not enjoy that as much as me because it took away a bit of focus from the action. I think the writing was tight and, like I said, I always love the writing chemistry between these two authors.

So in the end, I enjoyed this book but I didn't love it. The guns and fighting don't do much for me, and combined with some of my other gripes, it fell short of a home run.

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

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### **Elise X a.k.a Ryder's Pet X says**

??????\*Too much sex\*??????

When there's too much sex, it overloads the story. Which is exactly what happened here. Detective **Mahir 'Saeed Hayaz' Hussai** (in his thirties) and the cold and intimidating head of security for a seedy strip club in Seattle (Gene Lombardi; his boss and owner), **David Ridley** (?) can't fight the attraction they have for one another, but not fighting it means dangerous. In other words; they might have to dig their own graves if they get caught. There's also being undercover... Overall, it was alright with the action and that, but the sex was too much and it wasn't what I wanted. Mahir and his nephew, **Kinza** (17) was cute though. But I wanted more for the story.

***"I want you to remember that," Ridley whispered. "That no matter what, you'll do anything I tell you to. Because you will. Won't you?"***

#### **Quick basic facts:**

**Genre:** - (Adult) Contemporary Romance (M/M)

**Series:** - Standalone.

**Love triangle?** - (view spoiler)

**Cheating?** - (view spoiler)

**HEA?** - (view spoiler)

**Favorite character?** - David Ridley.

**Would I read more by this author/or of series?** - Unsure.

**Would I recommend this book/series?** - Not really, but if you like 'sex overload', then yes.

**Will I read this again in the future?** - No.

**Rating** - 2 stars.

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## Kazza says

### 4.5 Stars

**'Dirty Except,' and Rafflecopter giveaway from May 12th at On Top Down Under**  
<http://ontopdownunderbookreviews.com/...>

*Mahir lifted himself up onto his elbow and resisted the urge to playfully or affectionately run his fingers down the center of Ridley's smooth, almost hairless chest. It hadn't been five minutes since this man was balls deep inside him and whispering filthy things in his ear, and now he seemed too dangerous to touch.*

This was a good read. A very, very, *VERY* hot read. It kept my interest level up throughout. The writing was polished, the mystery/suspense pretty good, the characters relatable with a delicious and intense chemistry between the MC's. I liked the layers and contemporary undercurrent of post 9/11 America. A. Voinov and L.A Witt continue to write as a well-oiled, cohesive team.

Spoiler free review at <http://ontopdownunderbookreviews.com/...>

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## Baba says

\*\*Review removed due to personal reasons. Rating downgraded to one star.\*\*

**Important:** The issue is not about A. Voinov\*\*

March 11, 2018

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## J \*deep in the heart of Texas\* says

### 3.5 Stars!

I enjoyed this one.....I think I've decided though, that romantic suspense...whether MM or MF.....is just not my genre of choice! There's only a few authors that I really really enjoy.

But with that being said, when I picked is one I was wanting something a bit different. An MM read with some steam but that also wasn't necessarily GFY or OFY, even though those are my favorites. And this one

fit the bill.

I did find several of the plot twists a bit predictable but I liked both MCs. The read itself was a bit on the slower side IMO....it felt like it took me forever to read it.

The sex scenes were hot....but not as hot as some of LA Witt's other books that I have read. Maybe the other author wrote the sex scenes, as I haven't read any of their solo works.

Overall, I liked it but I didn't love it! I think if you're a fan of romantic suspense you'll enjoy this one!

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### **L.A. Witt says**

Erotic suspense written with Aleksandr Voinov. Lots of violence and mind games. 'cause that's how we roll.

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### **Line says**

Freebie at amazon.com right now: <https://smile.amazon.com/Hostile-Grou...>

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### **Lisa \*-\* GiViNg It To YoU \* LoCk StOcK & TwO SmOkiNg BaRrELs says**

**OK here's the Short. Quick. and Dirty Low Down on Hostile Ground!!**

It was \*A\*R\*R\*E\*S\*T\*I\*N\*G\*!!

**Meet Detective Mahir Hussain - our Gay, Muslim , Undercover Cop**

**Add into the mix.....David Ridley- who ouzzed menacing intensity - Head of Security for King Drug Lord Lombardi - Not to be fucking messed with!!**

**Kinza - Mahir's Nephew - is a sweet adorable character, struggling with his own issues.**

**\*C\*A\*P\*O\*W\*** - what more could you ask for - a HOT, super charged suspense.

Undercover Drug Ring Operation - Yes I likey!!

Another successful collaboration between Aleksandr Voinov and L.A. Witt.

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## **Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says**

### **Reviewed for Prism Book Alliance**

There's a *Fight Club* reference. I really shouldn't have to sell it further than this but I will.

I **loved** this! I've made no secret about my affinity for Voinov. Now I'm starting to see the special magic he and his sidekick Witt can create. No, I haven't read the Market Garden series yet. Stop judging me.

*Hostile Ground* reminded me a awful lot of *The Departed* and I freakin' LOVE THAT MOVIE! We've got the son of a bitch gangster/sociopath in Lombardi. Seriously, this dude is scary-two to the chest, one to the head scary. We've got the undercover cop in Mahir who's in way over his head and, finally, we've got Ridley, Lombardi's enforcer with the icy, penetrating stare, ever present sunglasses, way too much sex appeal and an utterly unreadable face. But is he a sociopath?

What made *Hostile Ground* such a page turner for me was the investigation into Lombardi's crime ring. Drugs and prostitution are a given, but that doesn't fully explain why or how three cops got put six feet under nor does it explain where in the fuck all the money is coming from. How widespread is this network? Is it international? What all does it involve? Who all's involved? An investigation I could **really** sink my teeth into.

Mahir's attention is divided between his real life and Saeed, his undercover persona, since his nephew, Kinza, ran away from home straight to the one uncle that's always been there for him. Now I know these authors too well to believe for a second this plot line isn't going to weave into the other somehow. The pressing questions then become how and, more importantly, is it going to hurt my feelings?

The sexy times were really more stress relief for me and the characters. I/we needed that shit! They are savage with each other befitting their situation and personalities. Lots of toppiness, biting, pining of arms, a little choking for good measure you know, the good stuff. In a nutshell, Witt and Voinov brought it. I will say in one scene they did beat the hell out of the 'control' drum more than I thought was strictly necessary.

"I like it dangerous."

Quite a few racial epithets and gay slurs are bandied about, so if that's a trigger, you've been warned. The characters in *Hostile Ground* are gritty and unsavory for the most part. Some are world class douche canoes that need to be put down. They are criminals and thugs and they are portrayed as such. No holds barred. Asshattery galore. Yada yada yada.

The tension Witt and Voinov create is visceral as well as intellectual. Be forewarned, parts of the investigation will turn your stomach. As far as the writing, it's Voinov and Witt. Do I *really* need to say more here? The only drawback for me was I would've liked a more detailed explanation of the investigation's findings. I know. I hear ya saying, 'it's a romance novel, Wench'! I know. I know, but still... Maybe a news clipping or a mock report at the end? \*backs away slowly\*

All and all, it was highly entertaining. Excellent pacing. Authentic dialogue. The works. If you like crime thrillers and/or either of these authors, you won't be disappointed.

*I would like to thank Riptide for providing me with an ARC in exchange for my honest review.*

**Mahir.** Couldn't get this image out of my head the entire time I read this.

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### Gigi says

I absolutely **LOVED** this book! It was on-the-edge-of-your-seat fun with incredible romance and plenty of hot sex to keep even the pickiest M/M romance enthusiast happy.

Because of all the startling and fabulous plot twists and potential spoilers, I'm going to keep this review as my reaction only. Read the blurb and get reading! **Highly, highly recommended** for the romance *and/or* the suspense. Read it for one and get the other as a bonus.

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### Ingie says

*Written May 13, 2014*

#### **4.4 Stars - Nervy, steamy and delightfully tantalizing with exciting plot**

**I was so happy the day I got this ARC novel.** *Hostile Ground* is a new cop/crime romance by Aleksandr Voinov and L.A. Witt, with release day: May 12, 2014.

I haven't read that much of any of these two authors, but the books I have read have been really good. This romantic thriller genre with gay guys tend to usually work well for me. I really wanted to read more by these authors. ~ Am I still happy? Yap, this was a good one.

**I can heartily recommend *Hostile Ground*** to you M/M readers who also likes a bit tougher (male) style and a tighter tension in your romances.

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**Detective Mahir Hussain** has been sent to finish the job as an undercover cop after the deaths of three other police colleagues who have tried to investigating a drug ring in a **seedy strip club** in *Seattle U.S.* Mahir joins the club's security team as *Saeed (his cover identity)* to finding enough evidence to bust the operation.

Mahir have *Syrian* ancestry - something he often gets digs for that. As an *Arab* (and with a larger family in the Muslim tradition) in U.S nowadays, are ugly and nasty bullying words about him, and his background, not uncommon. So also in this strip club. His new teammates are not very welcoming.

**One that doesn't seem to care much** about Mahir's dark appearance and Arab ancestry is his new boss, **David Ridley**, the cold and intimidating head of security. On the contrary, he seems to like both Mahir's (or Saeed's) appearance and dark eyes already from the start.

'Yeah, he was gay and he was attractive, but there was an air about him that made Mahir more than happy to stay on the opposite side of the room. The guy radiated a menacing intensity. A focused, predatory aura that pulled all of Mahir's nerves taut.'

**To protect the strippers - only gay men can work at the club.** The rumor is that Ridley knows exactly how to test potential new hires—including Mahir. ~ It will be a tough first encounter between them (but not uncomfortably raw and hard) which later leads to so much more. The passion and desire was inevitable and almost immediately.

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**I'll start by admitting that I was a little nervous at first.** I always find it uncomfortable with shady clubs. You know; dark and misty bars, crime bosses, huge nasty leather men, prostitution, drugs, violence and sometimes also cruel abuse. But this was more suspense and awfully thrilling than creally rude and disgusting. It was there in the background but I didn't get all of it in my face all the time.

Who Ridley is and why he chose to work for a cruel crime boss is of course the big question. How can Mahir, even on the job's behalf, consider to entering into a (...sexual at first) relationship with a suspected feared murderer and executioner? - Yes, I was puzzled at first.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Pretty soon begins the romantic part of the story** and it was well made and nicely told. I belived that the attraction, and later maybe even love, was possible and it felt natural, and even quite casual believable.

"I want you to remember that," Ridley whispered. "That no matter what, you'll do anything I tell you to. Because you will. Won't you?"

**Mahir had of course another (completely normal private) life too** and sometimes is he back in his home (..secretly of course) and we meet his everyday troubles, etc. The part I liked best perhaps. As soon as he left the club, I could breathe a little easier.

I felt that it was both a good dialogue in general and many interesting characters here. Even Mahir's relationships with other than Ridley raised the action and intrigue. ~ Mahir's lively teenage nephew *Kinza* was such a wonderful addition to this a bit dark and gloomy story.

What should be steaming hot in this romance felt so even for me. ~ Absolutely nothing to complain about in that part.

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**It is also always a little extra plus from me** when "*the gay issue*", etc. is highlighted. If you are a member of an immigrant Arab and Muslim family is the question (this problem ..) of course usually there. Likewise, if you work as a police officer.

'God, but he was the most enticing, unnerving combination of the two sides of the man Mahir had come to know. The hand on Mahir's cheek slid into his hair. Tightened. Pulled. Mahir surrendered, letting himself be drawn in, and just before their lips met, Ridley said, "I like it dangerous."

**This is a book with a high "thriller" atmosphere.** For me it was both anxiety-charged and creeping scary sometimes. In the end it was pure "*Bruce Willis action*" and really fast-paced and violent. Shoots swirled in the air. - If you want to know more about the plot you must read the book, or another review, I don't want to reveal anything. All I can say is that it was twists and surprises that I hadn't expected.

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**All in all - I liked this novel,** the characters and especially these two (both sexy and so lovely) male main characters. I got an well-made crime drama and of course a very smexy love story. A romance with a grand resolution (..just awesome) and a sweet epilogue.

Quite crisp and cozy to read (.. a few days far away in China a few weeks ago). It will be more by Aleksandr Voinov and L.A. Witt.

**I LIKE - this gave me a taste for even more gay cop / crime romances**

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*\*\*ARC kindly provided by Riptide Publishing via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. March 27, 2014.\*\**

*\*\*\*Quotes above are taken from the ARC version of the book and may differ upon publication.\*\*\**

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**Kaje Harper says**

This story of undercover cops is very hot, full of intense sex and desperate moments. I liked the fact that the

POV MC, Mahir, was Muslim and gay, and dealt with being an outsider from multiple directions. I enjoyed the fact that he was dealing with the sudden appearance of his real life gay nephew, who needed a place to stay. Trying to balance out his responsibilities added stress and complexity to the story. Kinza was well written as a troubled teen with a chip on his shoulder.

I had problems with some of the plot points. Particularly later in the story, involving Kinza. (view spoiler) But if you take this as entertainment, an erotic thriller more than a police procedural, then it's fast moving and enjoyable, with a happy ending.

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