



In the Zone

Sierra Cartwright

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The dangerous enigma that is Master Nathaniel alternately thrills and terrifies Alani. At heart, she's no man's submissive; she's a masochist who craves beatings that will send her into subspace, make her forget. And she swoons under the bite of this dom's punishing leather belt.

Nathaniel is determined to make her the perfect sub and shatter the emotional barriers she's erected to keep her safe. But in a battle of wills, dominance, and submission, there can only be one victor, and Nathaniel will win, as soon as he puts Alani in the zone.

Publisher's Note: This book contains explicit sexual situations, graphic language, and material that some readers may find objectionable: anal play/intercourse, strong BDSM theme and elements.

In the Zone Details

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Author : Sierra Cartwright

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From Reader Review In the Zone for online ebook

Becca says

In the Zone is my favorite Sierra Cartwright book so far. She's an author that grabs my interest with her plots and blurbs, but often lets me down with her execution. Frankly it is usually too hard for me to buy into the HEA's she gives her protagonists.

With this book, I still had trouble with the quick ending - they weren't ready for commitment IMO - but I loved the very real feeling of Alani's emotions. The push and pull she felt about submitting to Nathaniel. Her mixed up reactions - anger and desire were very well conveyed. I enjoyed reading about a Dom that had to work for his submissive, and sweat a little too - even if all the sweating was internal. Ms. Cartwright did an excellent job with Nathaniel IMO. He was both a strong, compelling Dominant, while still coming off as very human. Far too often in this type of story, the Dom comes off as either one or the other - too flawed and vulnerable to be a believable Dom, or so strict and unyielding that he becomes an "action figure" Dom, a caricature.

I recommend this book for those who enjoy hot scenes that are moderately heavy on the S/M and a couple working toward a total power exchange relationship.

? BookAddict ✍️ La Crimson Femme says

"Look at me," he snapped... "Keep your eyes open. For this moment, I am your entire world. Don't forget it."

Yes, Sir!

My eyes widened at the same time my body melted a bit. These are such simple words yet the tone from Master Nathaniel has me jumping to obey instantly. I'm not surprised Alani feels the same. Some men have a commanding presence; some men are clueless. Master Nathaniel is the former. I'd submit to him anytime. Now that he is back in the dungeon as one of the managing owners, Alani is in for it.

Alani is a professional submissive. I conceptually know these people exist though I haven't met any nor have I seen any advertised. This is kind of odd since I know many more submissives than Dom/mes. Yet, I am fully aware of several professional Dommies. I have my theories on why this is the case, but that is neither here nor there. What I do like is reading a story where one of the characters is a professional submissive. This is a different perspective and Ms. Cartwright does a great job.

Alani is a bored submissive. She's just going through the motions and not submitting for real. This cheats her paying customers of the full experience. Fortunately, they have not caught on. Unfortunately for Alani, Master Nathaniel did catch her yawning during a scene plus rolling her eyes. She's in for it now. She has a choice to be retrained or to leave. The trainer will be Master Nathaniel. Seriously, how is this even a choice? Sub for Master Nathaniel! Who wouldn't want to? This is a no-brainer decision. This is where the story starts smoldering in smexy hotness.

The D/s dynamic between Master Nathaniel and Alani stroked me in all the right places. It definitely places me in the subspace lusting zone. The BDSM in this story is a great read. It is good for those who are interested in the D/s aspects of BDSM. This is also good for those who are graduating from the novice BDSM books and want a bit more of a bite to their BDSM.

The story for this moved very well. There were no side tangents to distract. I have come to expect a tightly written story by Ms. Cartwright. She delivers again in this story. She does leave a little hook which has me yearning for the next book in this series. Or at least I hope she writes a next book with Master Marcus as the focus. I want to know what happened. I'm devastated by the short little snippet we learn about him and his tattooed and collared submissive, Karyn. If Ms. Cartwright doesn't write a follow up book on Master Marcus, I'll be rallying the troupes to send her requests for Master Marcus's story.

I thoroughly enjoyed IN THE ZONE and highly recommend it to BDSM readers who enjoy reading about a submissive learning the art of submission.

Ruthie Taylor says

~~I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads ~~

I really enjoyed this book that launches a new series - there is a little world building, but in context and I am sure that much more will come out as the story develops.

I wasn't sure about Alani initially, but she definitely grows as a character, and we get a good idea of just what she enjoys about the lifestyle, and how Nathaniel can provide it. The plot is fairly straight forward, but that is rather refreshing, and meant that the attention was on the detail, rather than being distracted by a subplot. The blurring of the line between scene and every day worked really well, and gave Alani plenty to reflect upon as she remembers just why she sought out BDSM in the first place. Even the fairly instant chemistry works as it is in context.

Good book of the genre, with some interesting stories to come, I am sure.

Michelle(Chelle) aka Nightshade - Cake Whisperer says

Let me just say that the second half of the book was better than the first and that is why I am giving this 3 stars. I like BDSM books. I'm am not an expert on the genre by any means but I have come away from reading previous books feeling that even if I personally wouldn't live the lifestyle in RL that I would love to have certain men as my Doms if I ever changed my mind. This was not the case after meeting Nathaniel. I most definitely would not want this man as my Dom. To be fair though I didn't really connect with Alani either so the two of them as a couple just didn't really work for me. From my previous forays into BDSM books I came away feeling that in most cases the Sub had almost as much power and say as the Dom. I didn't get that feeling in this book until the very end, which was a little too late for me. Nathaniel just came off as a selfish, brute for much of the book IMO. Maybe this book better represents the lifestyle but I didn't care for it

as a fiction romance as much as others that I have read.

Michael Dunellen says

I don't know what it was about Alani, but she absolutely positively came across to me as one of the most submissive women I have seen of late. Toss in the fact that she is also a masochist and I honestly felt, please forgive me, that this girl would view a stay at Judgement as a pleasant vacation.

The oddest part to me was the fact that she had been working at Zones (terrible name for a BDSM club, IMHO) for two years and no one had figured her out. She was really just putting on a big charade - the pain didn't bother her so everything else was just an act because she wasn't making an emotional connection with anyone. I understand why she didn't but the other people around her must have really not been paying attention.

I think the relationship between Alani and Nathaniel can work but only if he is really serious about staying home - at least for a good while. I think they are going to need some major bonding time to achieve the relationship they both want and the only way that will work is lots of quality time together.

A couple of minor complaints - I hate when submissives are called "sub." Slave doesn't bother me, but to me a sub is a sandwich. And actually I didn't like the way Nathaniel spoke to her several times - I don't mind domineering but I don't like guys who talk like pimps.

Still, though, a nice story and always good to find a story where they aren't one or both beginners.

Deborah says

Shockwave is a straight-forward BDSM romance! Sierra Cartwright is a master at creating this type of novel and this is no exception!

Alani is a professional sub at her BDSM club, Limits, where she works. She does the accounting books by day and plays with various Doms by night. She is a masochist and only submits to a Dom in order to get the pleasure she draws from the pain they inflict. When Master Nathaniel, one of the club owners, witnesses her yawning and rolling her eyes during a scene, he decides she is need of re-training. He decides he should be her trainer.

I really enjoyed how Sierra portrayed Alani. She did a great job of making me understand what it did to Alani to receive the pain she do desperately wants and ultimately needs. She explained it as it hurts and you know it hurts, but it releases something in you. So you want it and crave it. The pain allows you to focus and let go of everything that is going on in your life. Master Nathaniel seems to do that for Alani. He says he's not a sadist. He truly just enjoys giving Alani want she needs for herself. And when she flies, he's enamored with her. She's unlike any submissive he's ever had. He's never collared a sub, but he wants it all with Alani.

Alani likes Master Nathaniel and his flogger wielding ways. She's a self-proclaimed pain slut so she tries to push Master Nathaniel's buttons to get him to punish her-thereby getting the pain she really wants. If she has to fake submitting for awhile then that's what she'll do. But Master Nathaniel is having none of it. He sees

right through her manipulation and does exactly opposite of what Alani expects. He is a tough master and wants her to submit to him the proper way-not the way she's handled the weaker Doms at the club. As he expects more and more from Alani, he breaks down her emotional barriers one by one. They share a emotional connection so deep it literally scares both of them. Soon they do not want to be without the other. But is Alani ready to be all that Master Nathaniel wants of her??

I loved Master Nathaniel! Hot as hell and sex on a stick! The sex scenes are uber hot and left me needing a cold drink! Whew! Where can I find a Master Nathaniel?? I loved their romantic journey! As this is the first book of the Impulse series, I am hoping the next book involves Master Braxton and Karyn! I want him to be happy and at the end of this book, he's downright miserable!!

4.5 stars/4.5 flames

This book was gifted to me by the Jeep Diva for the express purpose of an honest review. That rating and review are solely my opinion.

Vashti says

I don't think this book was really my style at all.I just could not get into her need for pain for pleasure.

Maureen Nicholson says

3.5 Stars

This was an engaging sexy read. The writing was good and while mostly enjoyed both characters, there were times I wanted to feel more of a connection beyond the steamy hot sex. A

All in all, it's a simple erotic read that didn't require too much but was enjoyable.

~ Bees ~ says

Loved this. It's just a straight forward BDSM novel – there's no axe wielding homicidal psycho stalker after the heroine and there's no abduction, rape or non-consensual abuse but it is a romance, and a hot one at that.

The beauty of a D/s relationship is that the Dom can get as deep inside his sub's mind as he can her body. Alani is a professional sub, submitting physically to any number of Doms in Zones, the club she works at. She's deeply masochistic using pain to block out emotional harm from her past. Her submission is physical but, emotionally she remains detached, topping from the bottom consistently to get her Doms to take her deep into pain where she thinks she needs to be.

She's witnessed yawning and rolling her eyes during a scene by Master Nathaniel, part owner of the club and a skilful sadist who decides she needs retraining to understand the beauty of true submission. He takes her on and pushes way past her physical barriers until he's able to break down the emotional walls she's so

painstakingly built over the years. A deeper emotional connection now exists between the two of them, one that neither of them has ever experienced before.

I loved it. Nathaniel is an awesome dom. The sex is hot. Very, very hot. Hotter than Vesuvius. I especially loved the blindfold scene.

4 stars glitterkink BDSM romance

Rene says

4 Teacups / 5 Handcuffs

Review on Lit. 4 Ladies: <http://wp.me/p31uud-3DJ>

Elle says

4* *you're the one* STARS!!

Sierra Cartwright always impress me with her BDSM story. It feels real and believable. I've never read Shockwave before, so this was my first time. Shockwave isn't your typical kinky romance story. The love between a couple who finally found each other through BDSM.

Alani Dane works as professional submissive at night, mostly to earn more money despite she didn't meet her needs. There is no Dom who could satisfy her until Master Nathaniel Stratton. She was caught by him, disrespect her client-Dom in a scene. Punishment must be given and Master Nathaniel has other plan for Alani.

I never read a story about professional submissive before. I couldn't like Alani at first because she acts like a brat despite being 'professional'. Eventually, I know Alani is a strong and independent woman. She's basically raised herself. Also, there isn't much info about Nathaniel beside he's one of the owner from BDSM club where Alani works. Nathaniel clearly wants a 'professional' D/s relationship with Alani. He's interested with her.

“But outside of the club, I will bend you to my will, punish your indiscretions, beat you into erotic submission, send you to subspace and fuck you ragged. Blunt enough?”

Nathaniel isn't like her other dominant. He's strict and a bit sadist. Alani attracted to his commanding aura. He doesn't like 'fake' submissive and he knows Alani better than anyone. Their scenes was beyond HOT. They're really experienced and didn't sugar-coat everything. I enjoyed their D/s relationship because Nathaniel really understand her needs.

He'd secured her wrists, held one shoulder, and he'd filled her pussy and ass totally. This man possessed her body.

She was afraid he was working on her soul, too.

Towards the end, Nathaniel opened himself. He has dangerous job and rarely in home. Alani isn't clingy person and she's okay with it. He's starting to love her even more. She's perfect for him and vice versa. Alani is in denial with her feelings with Nathaniel because she's afraid to getting attached. I could understand her struggle but Nathaniel isn't a pusher. He isn't crazily pursuing her like a stalker instead he let Alani has her own space.

I enjoyed how both Nathaniel and Alani spend their weekend together to explore their relationship with great amount of sex. This is almost perfect except everything happened so fast and it's not enough to feel their love. Sometimes I feel their D/s became too much, like TPE. They even rarely has vanilla conversation. However, I still enjoyed it and really recommend for anyone who curious about in depth D/s relationship.

nd ♥ kitten ♥ says

Anything by Sierra Cartwright is outstanding in my book. And this book was no exception.

Alani is a professional sub, but in my opinion seems to be bored with it, she can't seem to find a Dom she can't top from the bottom, or she feels like she has to "fake it till she makes it". It's during one such scene that Nathaniel, owner of *Zones*, a BDSM club, catches Alain yawning and rolling her eyes, and he takes over, in more ways than one.

This was a Dom she couldn't top, and knew better than to "fake it" with... not that she had to do that anyway! He "unsettled her" and excited her. Made her feel the things she had been craving but was ready to give up hope of finding.

Nathaniel didn't play games, he wanted her, but she was going to have to come to him freely, and give everything freely. He saw her potential, knew what she could be for him and what they could be for each other. But he wasn't going to chase her or convince her, she had to figure it out on her own, and come to him. This wasn't easy for Nathaniel.

But would she give to him freely? Would she really come to him as a true submissive, no games, no faking it? Could she? Can she really open up about herself, be honest with Nathaniel about her past and what she feels? Or will her "hiding" be the downfall of this relationship before it can even get started?

I really enjoyed this book, these characters, the struggles on both of their parts to find the right aspects of D/s and S&M that work for them as individuals and together.

I like how this author digs in and grabs hold of what it really is to struggle in a relationship, be it vanilla or as lifers. There is always valuable information that lifestylers should follow, or those that may be interested in a BDSM relationship should know, in all of her books, and *In The Zone* is no exception to that.

This book gets a solid 4 stars from me.

The BookChick says

My Rating: ★★★★★

Book Description:

The lovely Alani Dane, professional submissive has a thing or two to learn, and Master Nathaniel absolutely will be the one to teach her.

When he catches Alani yawning during a scene with one of Zones' more prestigious members, club owner Master Nathaniel Stratton takes her bad behavior as a personal affront. Although he's seldom in the country, the club's success matters to Nathaniel and his partners. Nathaniel vows to personally deal with Alani, fraternization be damned.

The dangerous enigma that is Master Nathaniel alternately thrills and terrifies Alani. At heart, she's no man's submissive; she's a masochist who craves beatings that will send her into subspace, make her forget. And she swoons under the bite of this dom's punishing leather belt.

Nathaniel is determined to make her the perfect sub and shatter the emotional barriers she's erected to keep her safe. But in a battle of wills, dominance, and submission, there can only be one victor, and Nathaniel will win, as soon as he puts Alani in the zone.

My Thoughts:

This was definitely a different type of BDSM story for me. I have read a lot of books in the genre but this is the first one that focused primarily on the S&M aspects. Alani and Nathaniel were interesting protagonists. They sexually and emotionally challenged each other but it made the relational dynamic of the story very interesting. Nathaniel was steely, stubborn, and demanding and Alani was equally stubborn who resisted Nathaniel at every turn. Alani was a masochist and her need for pain drove her to become a professional sub at the club where Nathaniel was part owner. During a scene with a 'weak wristed' Dom, Alani rolled her eyes...twice and yawned and her disrespectful behavior was spied by Nathaniel. Being the Don that he was, he personally took on 'retraining' her. The retraining process led them to a journey of commitment and love.

Although this was a hard story to read because of the Nathan's constant use of 'painslut' and Alani's desire for pain but both worked to make the story compelling and complex.

Reading Time: 5.5 hours

Carinae L'etoile says

I've read other Sierra Cartwright books and this is no different. I like to read whatever I can get my hands on and as long as it's a good read and I feel emotionally vested, it's all good.

I keep looking for the second book in this series, but it's not out yet! Darn.

What I like about Sierra as an author is that when she writes, it all feels real. I'm out of the scene and have been for a long time, but I still have friends who tell me all about it. I passed on an anthology that I had with a story written by Sierra (if you're interested it's in Doms of Dark Haven, Western Nights. The story is A Good Sub Would...) to my girlfriend and she had told me that Sierra Cartwright is one of her favorite bdsm authors. Good to know that a lifestyle person loves the author. I've often wondered if Ms Cartwright herself lives the lifestyle.

What I liked about Shockwave is that it features a woman of color. As a woman of color myself, I get tired of reading about subs who are almost always NOT a woman color. The story is well paced, well thought out and overall a good, hot, read. The characters were likeable and approachable.

This is not a short story, not one that can be devoured in under 20 minutes. This is a story that had me coming back days later and re-reading the story, happy with it from start to end.

Overall, I would recommend this to friends, but not family. ;)

Jo * Smut-Dicked * says

Alani is a masochist who only "does" submissive to get at the pain. When Master Nathaniel sees her yawning during a scene he decides that she needs to be handled. Since Alani is a professional submissive and he is one of the club owners that proves a bit Complicated.

There were a couple things I really enjoyed about This book. Chief among them is this is one of the few books that gets the feelings of A masochist right. As a masochist I appreciated that. I think most people think masochists somehow don't feel pain the way other people do. Or they think masochists have a high pain tolerance which may be true for some but not all. The way Alani processes pain is very close to the way I feel with it. On one hand it hurts and you feel it as pain and don't want it but on the other hand it releases something in you, let's you process, focus. It is a strange relationship and one that few people get right. The only thing that was a bit off is how fast Alani got to subpace...but that is individual so it theoretically could happen.

Alani took time to win over. She didn't go willingly, he had to work at it. Granted it is fiction so it all gets abbreviated but it felt more like work. More honest.

I also liked that this book did not focus on the club. It was a part of it, a setting, but it did not take on a huge life of its own. It had a more authentic feel that way although there were plenty of cliché's running around as well.

So why no five star? Because I remain unconvinced that Alani really is as submissive as he thinks she is. I think she is a masochist who found a guy for whom she could submit due to the dynamics of that guy. She spent a lot of time in her head convincing herself that she was a sub but her greatest pleasure remains pain. That did not change. The only reason this matters is because he definitely is going for a 24/7 thing...and in the end I just don't buy that working for her long run. It was strange for him as well since he did not appear to have ever had a collared sub.

The beginning of relationships are always sunny when they go right. You do many things you will abandon or hate to do later. I definitely got the feeling Alani was besotted by the first guy who pushed her but for me

to believe that it could last the power structure must be clear and Alani had to have been given opportunity to interact with Nathaniel as an equal to express and she really never did when it mattered. He maneuvers her into talking always while she is naked, kneeling, or in an otherwise submissive pose. That affects mindset and I didn't like it. I never felt he saw her as Anything but a submissive masochist. Intellectually I think he sort of did but since there is never anything deeper than their D/s you don't get exploration on it. In the end (view spoiler)

So overall I loved much of it. Truly the last quarter was where I had issues because of the way he was interacting. Always an order from him (do this or else!) and I never felt like they had opportunity to talk things out while outside a D/s dynamic. Because of her personality it was hard to believe that this was a functioning dynamic for them and could continue to be so.
