



## **A Marine of Plenty**

*Heather Long*

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**A Marine of Plenty** Heather Long  
Serving overseas is a lonely duty...

Captain Charlie Sparks faces an impossible task—assigned to a security detail for the sister of a fallen Marine. The last thing Charlie wants is this beautiful woman in the middle of a base in Afghanistan no matter what holiday she plans to help them celebrate. But no one asked for his opinion, and worse, she's everything he adores in a woman and more...

Mourning what might have been is a terrible burden...

Jana Grimaldi had a plan—a plan to help her brother when he came home, but his death in Afghanistan left a hole in her heart and a desperate desire to do something. With the help of Congressman Sparks, she heads to Afghanistan to bring Thanksgiving to the men and women who served with her brother. Nervous and uneasy, she finds an unexpected—and familiar ally in Captain Sparks...

Not all wounds heal...

Charlie was one of the first people to reach out to Jana, communicating via email when her brother died—but coming face to face in the lonely desolation of the holiday connects these two wounded souls...

Can Charlie and Jana find hope amidst the heartbreak this Thanksgiving?

## A Marine of Plenty Details

Date : Published October 21st 2013 by Decadent Publishing (first published October 9th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Heather Long

Format : ebook

Genre : War, Military Fiction, Romance, Contemporary, Adult Fiction, Erotica

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# From Reader Review A Marine of Plenty for online ebook

## Darcy says

Beware, make sure you have tissues near by when reading this one. I really liked how Jana realized that her brother had another family with the men he served with and that losing him she wanted to find a way to be close to him and do something for his other family. Through the meal she was able to show the guys how much they meant. I loved her escort, Charlie. I wasn't sure things were going to go well for them considering the connection he had to Robbie. I loved that both of them went for it, especially considering that the time was short. I loved that Charlie was still watching out for Jana when she got back stateside. I hope that at some point both of them return for a HEA.

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## Sarah says

It is no secret that I am addicted to this series and I pounce when one is released or when Heather surprises me with sneak peeks or even an ARC. If I am reading something, it gets set aside until I finish reading the latest Marine. I love the conversations that Heather and I have through FB!

"I think A Marine of Plenty will blow you away" Heather Long said on June 25 @ 2:25pm

The above statement was said after I finished Marine in the Wind after I sent her this message:

"Are you trying to bump Matt off my favorites list?"

With every book, she blows me away. Some hit my soul and my heart more than others, but this one hit in such a different way. This is the first one that the love began over in the sandbox, but this one came as a result of a Marine dying.

Charlie was introduced in "What Part of Marine Don't You Understand?" because he is Naomi's brother. I really like Charlie for multiple reasons. He is Naomi's brother, he blackmails for Girl Scout Cookies, he is loyal but protective and he was instantly protective Jana, but was fighting his instant feelings for her.

Jana is the sister of a fallen Marine that was under Charlie's command. Since her brother's death, her parents have been distant and Jana didn't want to be alone for Thanksgiving. She contacts Congressman Sparks about going spend Thanksgiving with the Marines as part of Operation Proper Goodbye. When I read that I was crying my eyes out. I have heard about it, but I don't know much about it. When she arrives, she discovers that Charlie is her "security" for lack of a better word but also Congressman Sparks brother.

During this heart-wrenching story, you can see how Charlie is beginning to feel about Jana, but doesn't want to hurt Jana. Jana, while grieving her brother, is giving back to the Marines with a Thanksgiving meal. While she is doing that, she learns more about the Marine life and how her brother tried to protect her from the bad stuff. She also meets some of his friends.

Their time together is short, but it is so very powerful. My favorite line that gives me hope that Heather will give Charlie and Jana a full story in the future is:

“Naomi Sparks. My brother, Charlie, called me. He said you might need a friend and he asked if I'd stand in until he got home....”

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### **Mandy says**

Loved it. Short and very sweet. The connection between Charlie and Jana was instant and it felt genuine even with this being a novella. I REALLY want more Charlie and Jana!!!!

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### **Jan Meredith says**

A great, quick read that takes you to the sands of Afghanistan where the sister of a fallen Marine coordinates a Thanksgiving dinner at the base where he had been deployed. Jana's emotional reactions were so real, there were moments I felt like sharing a good cry with her. The quick attraction between Jana and Charlie, who had communicated through letters, and their one intense night together leave you with a "feel good" hope for something more in the future.

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### **Sophia says**

A Thanksgiving spent on a Marine base in Afghanistan between a grieving sister of a Marine and the Marine Captain that gave him his orders brings, healing, hope and something more.

Jana lost her brother while he was deployed overseas. His loss has left her family coping with their grief in various ways. She comes up with a way to both gain closure for her own grief and do something for the men and women who served with Robbie. She's on her way to deliver and cook Thanksgiving dinner and care packages to the Marines of the base where Robbie served. What she doesn't expect is the crush of emotions being there does to her.

Captain Charlie Sparks is not prepared for Jana when he sees her. He was the one who sent her the letter about her brother and they continued on with a regular correspondence. He thinks its a bad idea for a civilian, especially one as emotionally fragile as Jana, to be there in the combat zone, but once she's there he can't really regret it.

As Thanksgiving closes in, Jana is caught up in food preparations and seeking out those who knew her brother, but she is also caught up in Charlie. Thanksgiving now has new meaning for her as she spends the holiday with the Marines.

It is a novella and doesn't have a lot of room for development and plotting and yet, it is all there and done so well. I enjoyed getting both characters' perspectives and feeling right along with them. It didn't hurt that Charlie and Jana were good together and for each other. It's always a good sign that the only issue I had with this story was that I wanted more. Kudos also for the story taking place around such a truly meaningful holiday that enhanced the story so much.

The story can be read as a stand alone or part of the the Always a Marine series. I loved the letter to the readers in the forward that will give new readers to the series an understanding about the series as a whole

and a better idea of why the author took on the series and related military projects. I can recommend the story to those who enjoy poignant yet spicy military romances in a novella-length book.

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### **Donna says**

Oh my. Heather Long has done it again. Though this isn't a very long story it will have your emotions pinging the entire gamut from laughter to tears and everything in between. You definitely feel Ms. Long's love for her subject. This book, this series, is pro service member without the preaching you get in some other books. Politics aside, every American owes their freedom to the men & women of our armed forces. Heather Long gets that. In this book we get a quick peek at life in a war zone over Thanksgiving and in doing so it reminds us all what we have to be thankful for.

I was lucky enough to receive an arc from the author in return for a fair and honest review.

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### **Virginia Nelson says**

In the holiday Marine books, Long brings the same emotional punch as she shows in the whole series. Jana is a woman with a purpose on a mission and Charlie (Naomi's brother from *What Part of Marine Don't You Understand?*) Sparks finds himself in charge of her security while she fulfills it.

Charlie is dealing with issues of his own, assuming responsibility for things no one else holds him accountable for, and doesn't agree with Jana being on base. Even though he isn't happy she's there, he's drawn to her. She represents everything he's fighting for—home, love, beauty—and he can't help but feel the attraction between them.

Jana knows you can't fix the past, but she wants to do something. When she meets the very strong man and soldier, Charlie, she sees the man underneath and is both attracted to him and longs to help him in turns.

Long delivers sexy scenes, foodie scenes, dramatic and tense scenes woven into a brilliant tapestry that so reflects real life that, as a reader, I can't help but be sucked in and feel all of it with the characters. Having read the whole series, I keep expecting to get to a point where I don't fall in love...where the characters don't stride off the pages and into my heart.

It hasn't happened yet. HIGHLY recommend Jana and Charlie's book. Yet another Marine book I couldn't put down!!

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### **Laci Paige says**

*A Marine of Plenty* is an emotional Thanksgiving tale. The story draws you in immediately, doesn't let you go until the end, and it leaves you wanting for more. I hope to see more of Charlie and Jana sometime in the future, they were written well, and had great chemistry together. I've never read a bad story by Heather Long, she's a talented author who's at the top of my TBR list.

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## Jen says

Anyone who's read my reviews knows that I'm a fan of the "Always a Marine" series by Heather Long. These stories are short but do not scrimp on substance and considering it's taken me just a few days to get to this point, I'm already beginning to worry about withdrawal! Hahaha! As I've gone from one installment to another, I've had my share of favorite stories and couple in the series; now, with this 17th book (18th overall), I am officially pushing the rest one notch lower on my list because "A Marine of Plenty" is now my favorite story and Marine Captain Charlie Sparks and Jana Grimaldi are my favorite couple. ^^

Charlie and Jana are tied together by the most devastating of circumstances--the death of a Marine, Jana's older brother, Robbie. Charlie carries guilt with him, knowing that it was his order that cost Robbie his life, even though it was based on shoddy intelligence. Jana doesn't blame him and, over months of written correspondence, has grown to appreciate even further what her brother fought for, making her want to go to Afghanistan to, at the very least, bring a bit of home during Thanksgiving to those who fought with Robbie.

There's an honesty in the relationship between Charlie and Jana that makes it more than just about lust. Through their letters, they have already forged a connection that can't be denied and one that both needed. I loved these two together and their story made my heart clench more than once. ^^

If I could give "A Marine of Plenty" more than five stars, I would, and I don't mind saying that another book just about them would be more than appreciated. ^^ Not only is this book my favorite in the "Always a Marine" series, it's one of my favorite reads for 2013 and would highly recommend it to anyone. ♥♥♥

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## Sassy Moms Say Read Romance says

Sarah and Adri's Reviews:

So after discussing what to do about Heather Long's Always a Marine Holiday collection, we have decided to do joint reviews. We both love this series so much that we didn't want to fight over it. The good thing is that we share these Marines so well!

Adri's:

After the loss of her brother Jana decides the best way to remember his memory is to visit his brothers in arms in the sandbox. With the help of Congressman Sparks she is able to set up a Thanksgiving meal for the troops who are based where her brother was. Charlie Sparks is a captain and the man who gave the order that caused a fellow Marine his life. Now, he has appointed himself as the one to escort and protect the man's sister.

The way that Jana turns her loss, that she could have drown under, into a positive is such a show of how strong of a character she is. It also shows that she wanted to honor her brother in the best way she knew how, by helping the same men and women that he worked with and putting her own life on the line going to such a hostile place.

The guilt that is eating at Charlie is evident, he feels it's his fault that a family is having to grieve over the loss of one of their family member's, but at the same time he needs to keep his head clear and keep the rest

of the men under his charge safe and alive.

This story is guaranteed to have you crying, but even though its emotional the quick chemistry between the two main characters will make you laugh.

Sarah's:

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## **Lauren Harrell says**

Alright so I'm still on this military romance kick. I have no reason why. There must be some sappy patriotic lovie dovie in the air. lol This book grabbed my attention, because I love holidays and it is based at Thanksgiving and that is the current holiday coming up this month. It was a very short read. Like many main female characters in romance novels the girl always gives it up too quickly in my opinion. This again happened. I don't understand the thought process of having sex with someone the same day you meet them. Especially if the whole reason you were going over there was to honor your brother's memory by bringing Thanksgiving to his fellow marines? I understand that some women read to satisfy themselves with the

lemon of sexual content in books, but I read to fall in love with the characters. I want to see their relationship develop. It was a very short read. I rated in a two star merely because I wanted to know what happened after she went home. I couldn't attach myself to this book. Everything was too rushed in my opinion. Again just because your writing a romance novel doesn't mean you have to rush sex. Go a little deeper. Make us the readers fall in love. This is just my opinion.

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### **Heather says**

I would recommend this short, quick holiday read. Jana (in an attempt to get over the death of her brother, a Marine in Afghanistan) coordinates and arranges to make and have a real Thanksgiving dinner for the men at the base where he was deployed. Captain Charlie Sparks is assigned to her security detail. Charlie and Jana have been corresponding since her brother's death. This short story was filled with emotional highs and lows. Ms. Long does delve somewhat into deployed soldiers' feelings – homesickness/ loneliness/loss. She also delves into the feelings of family members trying to understand the death/injury/loss of a loved one during war. Jana and Charlie seem to have an instant attraction that circumstances and proximity allow them to act on. I would love to see Jana and Charlie together in another story.

I was given an ARC by the author for an honest review.

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### **Sheri says**

This is a great story. Jana wants to do something to honor her fallen brother so she puts together and jumps through all the hoops to get all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner and get to serve it to the Marines that her brother served with.

I enjoyed the glimpse of what Afghanistan might be really like, and the instant attraction between Jana and Charlie. They meet and it's this instant thing, but they only have 48 hours, so it's romance sped up but it works. They have the foundation to go forward to something beautiful. I really recommend this story. Also as another note, a portion of the proceeds go to Toys for Tots.

I received an ARC from the author. I was not compensated for my review.

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### **Eva Millien says**

The seventeenth novella in the Always a Marine series is a fast heartwarming romance. This is a great fast contemporary read and the author shares the meaning of Thanksgiving to our wonderful and deserving troops with this heartfelt story.

See my full review at:

<http://www.thejeepdiva.com/marine-ple...>



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**JoAnne Kenrick says**

It's a Heather Long, so what can I say? Once again she's blown it out of the water and delivered a heart-felt story rich in characterizations and emotional depth. The sexy scenes scorch the pages and the food scenes...YUM. I could practically smell and taste the treats. Not to be missed!

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