



Ménage

Emma Holly

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Bookstore owner Kate comes home from work one day to find her two flatmates in bed...together. Joe - a sensitive composer - is mortified. Sean - an irrepressible bad boy - asks her to join in!

Kate's been fantasising about her hunky new housesmates since they moved in, but she was convinced they were both gay. Realising that pleasure is a multi-faceted thing, she sets her cares aside and embarks on a ménage à trois with the wild duo. Kate wants nothing more than to keep both her admirers happy, but inevitably things become complicated, especially at work. Kate has told her colleagues that Joe and Sean are gay but the gossip begins when she's caught in a clinch with one of them in her lunch hour! To add to this, one of Kate's more conservative suitors is showing interest again, but she's hooked on the different kind of loving that she enjoys with her boys - even though she knows it cannot last. Or can it?

Ménage Details

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Author : Emma Holly

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From Reader Review Ménage for online ebook

Kimberly says

8/26/15 - 99 cents on Kindle

Annika says

Parts of this book I did quite enjoy onto others I was looking more with something like scientific curiosity. I'm just not into spanking, BDSM and the submission thing. When I'm reading such scenes I'm always wondering and I read these scenes trying to understand what drives these people. So, if you enjoy these topics I can recommend this book to you. For the likes like me there are also several rather common erotical encounters if you include m/m, m/m/f into this definition ;-) which are pretty hot.

Emma Holly again manages to spin a real plot around her characters and tell a real story and not only lines up sex scene after sex scene with a flimsy excuse of a story. Just for that one star more.

Nick Imrie says

Start as you mean to go on!

Kate comes home to find her tenants having sex in her bed. One of these handsome young men, Joe, has a crush on her, and the other, Sean, is indulging his sexual fantasy. Upon being discovered they immediately invite her to join in, which she gladly does. And for the next 100 pages, all three are bonking happily together all around the house and various locations in Philadelphia.

'Hmm,' the reader might think. 'Well, if the whole book is just going to be nothing but sex scenes -' (yes, yes, it is - it's erotica) '- then I hope the sex scenes are good.' Well, there's actually a surprising amount of character development, all cleverly tied into the sex. Sean's desperately trying to hide his vulnerability by staying in control (queue scenes featuring Sean the Dom) but Kate is determined to reach his loving soul within (queue Kate topping from the bottom and turning Dom herself) and of course he can only express himself to her from the safety of make believe (queue role play) meanwhile Joe is just a sweet boy desperately in love (queue the more tender scenes). And Kate loves them both, or at least, loves Joe and lusts for Sean (lots of happy ménage scenes).

The smut itself is not bad - look, here's the thing, I actually love the smut in this book. All three characters are whole-heartedly, willingly, joyfully into each other, which just makes me so happy. I so rarely read erotica which is so... wholesome. There's not a trace of angst in this story. No spite, no drama, no selfishness, an alpha but not an asshole. That being said, the level of realism bounces up and down like our young heroes' ruby red cocks (yes, that is how they are described). There's a very worthy attention paid to always having safe sex, and the characters all make sure to use condoms before any sexual encounter. But then the BDSM scenes show a fair lack of understanding about the importance of informed consent. Now we know, as the reader, that everyone involved is loving every second of it and having a great time, so it didn't worry me, but it seemed incongruous.

The purple prose delighted me. Yes, the descriptions tended to the ridiculous, but that just highlighted for me

how much everyone was enjoying every part of each other. There were a few moments where the menage didn't quite obey the laws of physics, and I would think, 'they must be *very* flexible to get into that arrangement' but it didn't happen often enough to ruin the fun.

There was a lot of room for improvement in the plotting, which gets somewhat messy towards the end before all being tied up rather rushedly, but I am overlooking any faults in the story due to the wonderful, upbeat mood. At the end everybody has a happy ending, which is all I ever wanted for these adorable characters.

Ellen Gail says

[Surprise happy ending wedding anyone? (hide spoiler)]

Cindy says

Hot. Puts the triple XXX in exotic sex. Not for the faint of heart.

Ivy Deluca says

Quickshot review (since I read this long ago and never marked it down)

This is a great one handed read. The storyline is a little OTT and alot happens between these three. It's not a committed triad, but there are insanely hot scenes between them all the same. If MMF erotica is your thing, Ms. Holly has a talent for it.

A??ela W. says

Holy Hell this book was hot. When Kate Winthrop discovers her two male boarders in a romantic tryst in her bedroom, she accepts their offer to join them and thus begins an adventure for all three. Kate, a successful bookstore owner, finds herself attracted to the dominating, masterful Sean, who takes liberties with her body, but from whom Kate keeps her heart and soul at a safe distance. This books was picked for me in a pick it for me challenge in the Menage Group it was a very good pick. The sex scenes are really hot and Holly, as usual, knows how to build the anticipation before every encounter. Emma Holly did a great job of telling this story. She definitely delivers a great read in this book. You are able to bond with the characters and actually understand their points of view. I found this book to be well written with good plot and character development. I love reading Emma Holly's books they are well written and this one was one of them.

Heather in FL says

This story was interesting, though much longer than I expected. Generally speaking, it's about Kate and Joe

falling in love, despite the protests of Kate. When it first starts, Joe and Sean are a couple. Kate actually thought they were gay, though she felt like Joe had a bit of a crush on her, their older landlady. And when Kate catches Joe and Sean in a compromising position, they invite her to join in, which continues on for months and months. Joe is apparently a talented actor and composer, and Kate lived by the "if you love something set it free" mantra. She really felt like if Joe didn't explore his true potential, he'd grow to resent her. She also felt like if she accepted his professions of love, he'd be ignoring half of his sexuality, and he'd grow to resent her. Plus, with her being older, she felt like he needed to really live his life before settling for her. She really felt this way! So she sent him away to live his life and become successful. Eventually, he comes back and grovels pretty well. I have to say it was a little sad that Sean ended up not really being a part of their lives. It would have been nice to know where Sean ultimately landed, romance wise. We know he and Kate were in business together, so he was still very much in the picture, just not in a romantic sense. Sean sure was creative when it came to their play! Kate was too, for her part. She definitely rolled with the roleplay. While I generally liked the overall story, it was a little jarring to see all the British-speak in a story that took place in Philadelphia. There also seemed to be several little story threads that never went anywhere: the Italian dude who seemed to give up way too easily after having doggedly pursued Kate; the person who called the cops -- I refuse to believe it was their elderly neighbor whom nobody thought could hear anything; and Marianne kinda fizzled out. And I found myself just wanting it to be over already. But I am glad I read it.

marlene says

well written and even somewhat believable plot wise. these characters didn't get together in the middle of saving the world, or running for their lives. they were friends and room mates for awhile. things had a more natural progression to them than most menage books. the sex scenes were pretty amazing. ok pretty amazing is an understatement. they were down right delicious.

the story kind of irked me in spots. the games sean played seemed just out and out mean at times. yes, yes, that is part of his tortured appeal but they were just a little too hurtful. watching joe follow suit was pretty heartbreaking as well. i get the point of it, i just don't like how it came about.

this was also one of those times where at the end of the book i was looking for more. the ending did not make me a happy kitty. i needed a little bit more follow up. i was dying to know how it all ends up. no such luck. it was well implied, but still.

The Cat Bastet says

There is so much that is wrong with this book. Both the roleplay scenes are absurd, as is the "BDSM" scene. Captain Blood is ridic. Joe's magical career? Ridic. All of this should make the entire thing intolerable.

And yet...

This book is a perfect example of emotional authenticity trumping everything else. Sean felt real. His behavior toward the ends of the BDSM scene and the priest scene saved both of those. Sean's motivation felt true. Sean's occasional moments of vulnerability felt true. His issues and the arrangements he makes to stay in Kate's life felt true, and more importantly, they felt specific. The 180 he does and the moment she realizes

he's flipped made my stomach drop.

The only thing that would've made this better would've been Joe disappearing entirely - and as a permanent MMF partisan, that is sacrilege - but again, emotionally, it has to be this way to make things work long term.

So, five stars.

? BookAddict ✍ La Crimson Femme says

Emma Holly writes some delicious sex scenes. This is one of my early menage stories I've read. I remember thinking, wow... this is different than the sex books I've read. This was tastefully done and I enjoyed it. Hot!

Jess says

After all the hype about Emma Holly's work, I was expecting something much better than I got. I spent most of the time giggling over Holly's euphemisms and bad, purple prose descriptions of man-parts rather than enjoying the romance.

Malinda says

2.5-3 stars

This was a decent story. I liked Kate, Joe and Sean and I liked their story to a point but there were too many parts of the story that didn't work for me overall. Maybe I was so disappointed with this book because I've previously read Holly's The Billionaire Bad Boys Club and loved it.

Kate is a successful bookstore owner. She was married but things didn't work out due to him cheating on her multiple times and then running off with the 17 year old daughter of one of Kate's friends. Kate has her own house and has 2 boarders, Joe and Sean, that are both 23 years old and graduate students. They're involved with each other but Kate has secretly been crushing on Joe for a while.

Sean is an accounting student and Joe is also a student (although I don't remember reading his degree path) as well and is taking an interest in drama/music. Sean is really smart and is going to do well in the business arena. Joe is actually a musical child protege but his mother wanted him to have a normal life. Now that he's building his career, Joe wants to write musicals. Joe and Sean met each other around a year ago and are best friends and involved sexually.

When the story begins, Kate is getting home from work. She gets to her bedroom and finds Sean and Joe in her bedroom having sex. This turns her on as she's been drooling over Joe for a while and Sean is pretty hot as well. When Kate doesn't go running, Sean asks if she wants to join them...which she does. It soon becomes apparent that there's a much stronger tie between Joe and Kate (who have become friends over the past 6 months they've been cohabitating) than between Sean and Kate. Because of the mutual crushing that's been going on between Kate and Joe, Sean figures he's losing Joe but invites Kate in figuring he'll take what time he can get with them both. Kate doesn't know if something can work out long term but seems

determined to see what can come of things. Joe doesn't see a problem with things but doesn't seem to think about the future, at least at first. The ménage relationship between the three starts off well and goes alright. There's some drama here and there but nothing too bad and some unusual sexual encounters as well. The main drama comes with the conflict of Joe's future vs. staying with Kate and things kind of go to crap and stay stay crappy for a while. There is a reunion effort from Joe but I wasn't too thrilled with the way he and Sean played it and so the reunion was kind of a dud for me. The story ends with a HEA for Joe and Kate.

This was an alright story. I liked the characters and the story wasn't bad but there were certain points of the story that were a bit too weird for me or just didn't work for me, especially the reunion at the end (as noted above). Also, the HEA was sort of inconclusive because Kate and Joe are together but there also seemed like the possibility of adding Sean back in later. Overall, the story was alright but just didn't work for me.

Jane (PS) says

I've read the first chapter but this book is really not grabbing me. This could be a DNF... I'll give it another couple of chapters and see how I go.

I sat down and finished this book today. Whilst the first 150 pages has some steamy writing in it, I just couldn't settle into the book. Generally, if I'm reading erotica, I like it to be short and sweet. This was erotica but it was long; so it struggled to hold my attention.

The last 100 pages then turned into more of a romance story - that's when I really started to enjoy the book... It was still steamy - but I could relate better to the characters and 'feel' for them. I can see why this book was this length - the first 2/3 of the book is really setting the scene for the last third. I really liked the resolution and the 'open' ending.

The last 100 pages deserve 4 stars, but I really did have to force myself to get to that point, so 3 stars overall.

H.A. Fowler says

I'm so torn on this book! The sex scenes were some of the hottest I've ever read. SERIOUS panty-melting yumminess. It's the plot that sort of sinks it. The emotional plotline is a complete mess, and most of the time, I had no idea who was feeling what for whom and why in that respect.

The development of the characters, except Sean, didn't make any sense to me either. Changes just seemed to come out of nowhere, for no reason. I never really knew what the hell was going on with Kate, and Joe's sudden rise to fame and thus to a "play top" was really fake and made me miss the original Joe. I mean -- it was SIX MONTHS, not ten years! Oy.

So, the plot, emotional throughline, and characterization are only 2/5, imo, but I finally had to decide on 3/5 just based on the sex scenes. Did I mention they were hot?

