



Tempted by His Target

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Wanted for the murder of a Mexican drug lord's son, party girl Isabel Sanborn fled to Oaxaca. Now she owes her life to Brandon Knox, a passing tourist who just saved her from a hit man.

But Knox is no accidental hero—he's an undercover U.S. marshal assigned to bring Isabel to justice. Instead, wanting to protect her, he joins her on the lam...with cartel goons and corrupt police in hot pursuit!

And as the danger escalates, sexual tension sizzles. For the first time in his career, Brandon considers jeopardizing his mission to safeguard his target. And though Isabel can elude the authorities, she can't escape her feelings....

Tempted by His Target Details

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From Reader Review Tempted by His Target for online ebook

Leslie says

The opening pulled me in, set on a beach, with the hero watching the heroine surf. (One movie I can watch over and over is Blue Crush). He may be the well-trained one but she can hold her own against the men after them. The setting is not a place we see often either. Although I've only been to Baja, Sorenson did a good job describing not only the landscape but the people and culture of the Oaxaca region. It was an enjoyable change of scenery.

Isabel Sanchez loves the ocean. It's one of the reasons she's living in this region of Mexico. She fled her life and the high living in LA when a night of drugs and loss of memory put her on the most wanted list of a dangerous man and the US government. But it's the drug lord that she's more afraid of since she thinks he wants her dead. Isabel Sanchez aka Izzy Sanborn has come a long way from the party girl she use to be. I liked how Izzy has transformed herself into a survivor. She still makes mistakes but her survival instincts have kicked in.

Brandon Knox is just a surfer, looking for the perfect wave when he shows up on the same beach as Izzy. A harmless tourist who just happens to teach self defense classes which explains why he's so good at saving Izzy from the men who are after her. Just like Izzy, I had no problem buying into this but when Brandon pulls out a gun and ammo, his story started to get shaky. His fear of Izzy bolting if she knew who he really was very genuine. The reason she's in Mexico is because she ran so there's no reason to believe she won't do it again but as they became closer and he thought of them having a life after she was safe, he should have come clean and trusted her.

The romance was an on-the-run romance which sometimes works and sometimes doesn't. This time it didn't fully work for me. I got the physical attraction part. Izzy and Brandon had no problem steaming things up, but the actually falling in love part is where I felt the story weakened. Since they were both lying to each other about who they were, it was hard to believe they actually fell for the real person. Too many lies in the way. Maybe if they had had a chance to fall in love after they were no longer on the run, it might have made it more believable.

The suspense runs fairly high with little down time. With Izzy knowing the country and how the drug cartels work, she proved to be a real asset to Brandon. At times, he played the muscle while she was the brains. Even with all of Brandon's training, Izzy was just as important a factor in keeping them alive as he was. (I liked that!) They did learn to work together quickly with part of that due to the fact that they didn't have much choice if they wanted to survive. There was still an air of mistrust between the two which made sense since neither was telling the full truth.

Tempted by His Target was a quick read with a lot of action. The romance seemed to be brought about by the physical attraction and driven by stressful circumstances. I did like the pacing of the story, I never got bored just wish I had believed more in the couple. Looking forward to reading Sorenson's full length novels.

Saly says

Tempted by his Target was basically a on the run story.

US Marshall Brandon is on a mission, get close and bring Isabel, all around rich spoiled party girl into custody, who is currently hiding in Mexico and what he finds is different, she is definitely sexy but doesn't seem spoiled but instead wary and self-sufficient.

Brandon poses as a surfer to get close to her and circumstance force them to go on the run. Isabel for a long time made wrong choices because of her father's lack of care for her, she drank, did drugs, the works and then one day she woke up to find a dead man beside her and she ran and the past two years have changed her, she has matured, gained perspective.

I really enjoyed that Brandon wasn't portrayed as a know it all super-man, he was unsure, got hurt. I also liked his moral code and lines, he didn't want to cross the line with Isabel even though he falls for her.

The reason I am not rating the book higher is because of the romance. It just didn't gel for me that much, these two sleep together, she finds out who he is and back to US soil. The resolution came too quickly for me I guess but I did enjoy the action part.

ARC provided by Netgalley.

Julia says

A fun, fluffy romance; Sorenson's trademark chemistry loses none of it's potency in this classic romance format.

Suzanne Barrett says

Undercover U.S. Marshall Brandon Knox is in Oaxaca, Mexico posing as a surfer. In reality, he's tracking Isabel Sanborn on an assignment destined to bring her to justice. The one-time party girl is being pursued for the death of a wealthy drug lord's son, and she's fled the US for little known beaches in Mexico. Now, it appears her pursuers have found her and will stop at nothing to capture her. Brandon, however, isn't about to give up his target. The fact that he is attracted to her makes his task more difficult, even to having thoughts of jeopardizing his mission.

Isobel also is having difficulty denying her attraction to the man she believes Brandon to be.

Tempted by his Target sizzles with sexual tension. Amid chases by cartel goons, deserted cabins and hair-raising escapes, Isobel and Brandon develop a wary camaraderie...and try to deny their growing sexual attraction.

Lots of action in this chase story. The pacing kept me turning pages until well into the wee hours. Author Sorenson provided convincing motivation for both protagonists' backgrounds so they were likable characters (Isobel becoming more so as the story developed.) And the ending proved very satisfying. A solid four-star read.

Nicole says

Review originally posted here: <http://thebookpushers.com/2011/10/13/...>

Publisher: Harlequin

Publish Date: Out Now!

How I got this book: NetGalley

I'm a big fan of romantic suspense, and Sorenson has become one of my auto-buy authors, so when I saw her newest up on NetGalley, I didn't even bother reading the blurb before squeeing like a fangirl and requesting it.

Isabel is on the run in Mexico, dodging the cartel at every turn. She is hesitant around other people, so when the sexy Brandon comes sniffing around, she is reluctant to trust him. But he quickly gets under her skin and in her good graces and Isabel finds herself turning to him when things start to hit the fan.

Brandon has a secret, one he is desperate to keep from Isabel, especially since he needs to gain her trust. When he finds her in a pickle, he will do just about anything to keep her safe. As they travel through Mexico together, the two become more and more attracted to one another. These feelings are new to Brandon, and for the first time ever he might be willing to risk everything for a woman. But when Isabel learns his secrets, will she even want to accept what he has to offer?

What's more dramatic than a woman on the run, and the undercover US Marshal set to bring her in? I loved the story, and the setting especially. I love the Mexican culture and the way that Sorenson was able to bring so much life to the setting. I've always loved when a book's location can play such an integral part in the overall story, and I felt like Sorenson did an excellent job with that.

I really enjoyed the characters as well. I thought that Isabel was such a strong and incredible heroine. Although she had her moments of kicking ass, it was also obvious that she didn't want to do it, that she hated the violence that her life became, and I appreciated that. So many times in romantic suspense books, the heroine comes across as this incredible fighter and able to accomplish more than is realistic. That was not the case here, and I enjoyed that. Although there were times I wanted her to stop running and face everything she went through in life. When Isabel did finally get to that point, I was cheering for her, but wishing she had done so sooner.

From the moment Brandon stepped onto the page I was a fan. He was sexy and fun and one hundred percent dedicated to not only his job, but also the truth. I loved that he didn't take everything he heard and knew about Isabel as fact, and instead was constantly trying to get her side of the story, her version of what happened. I also loved just how conflicted he was about her and his job. It was obvious he was attracted to her, and I was glad to see a hero put that aside for a change. He thought about his job first, instead of thinking with his little head. His inner struggle with what to do about the whole situation was one of the things I loved most.

The romance between these two was smokin' hot, and the sexual tension was thick throughout. Both Brandon and Isabel struggled with trusting each other, with jumping into a physical relationship and I've always loved that. Although the adrenaline was pumping, I felt like their romance was real and true. I loved their ending as well, it was perfect without being cliché.

All in all, I loved this one. The story moved quickly with tons of action, and I was engaged from start to finish. The characters were fun to read and the romance was great. This is yet another Sorenson book to put on the keeper shelves.

I give *Tempted by his Target* an A-

Rhonda says

For some reason I could not get lost in the story. I picked it up and read for a bit and then did somethings and come back to the book a few different times. The story was fine.

Isabella was on the run from US authorities and mexican drug cartel. She was rich party girl who spent to much time of drugs and drinks. She woke up one day with friend dead in bed. She realized her one pills were empty she could not remeber if she gave the pills to him or what. She took his bag of drugs and money and ran. Isabella had been on the run for two years.

Brandon was a U.S. Marshall undercover to find her and bring her back. Because he could surf and she was known for surfing and written articles on surfing. When he found her on the beach she pulled a knife on him in fact she pulled a knife on him a couple of times.

Maybe I did not like Isabella character not before when she was spoiled party girl or now when she was to ready to pull the knife.

Brandon and Isabella are running around trying to stay ahead of bad guys while trying to get to different country. The bad guys catch up to them a few times.

I was given this book in exchange for honest review.

Janet says

Tempted by His Target is a fantastic book -- I ripped through it. Sometimes I think Harlequins are too short -- and I would have liked a little more understanding of Isabel's party girl past -- but this really was a great length, especially for a road-trip, cabin-romance book. Sorenson's characters are never cut-outs: they have quirks and real personality traits. Isabel and Brandon are capable, intelligent and they really really suit each other. They each have a streak of privacy and maturity that I so like.

Romantic suspense isn't a genre I read often but I'm glad I took *Tempted by His Target* off my TBR pile. The violence and scary aspects of their run to safety were real and omnipresent but so were the pockets of safety and relief. Mexico was a character too -- its landscapes, food and culture.

Cindy ~ says

Sexy, romantic suspense.

Isabel Sanborn fled California to Mexico after waking up next to a dead man. Isabel's life up to that point had been drugs, sex and taking pinup pictures for magazines. She realizes that if she doesnt turn her life around and get off the drugs she will be caught by the Mexican drug lord who is after her for the death of his son. She thinks she has done a good job of hiding in the small town until a stranger takes notice and the cartel hitmen find her.

Brandon who's a U.S. Marshall has finally found Isabel but he approaches her undercover to try and get her to come peacefully back to California with him. After thwarting the first attempt on her life the two end up having to go on the run together to avoid the cartel.

Isabel was a interesting character. We got see how she had grown from the spoiled rich party girl to being sober and trying to stay alive. I also really liked Brandon's character - he knew he was attracted to Isabel but he kept her at arms length knowing it would be wrong to cross that line and he loved being a U.S. Marshal. The author did a good job of showing how that kinda of life can take its toll as at one point Isabel had to admit she had never been with a guy without being totally wasted.

Holly says

This was a great blend of romance and suspense. I really enjoyed both aspects, not just one or the other. That's a huge thing, since RS has been on my naughty list for awhile. There was a lot of action in the book, but a good portion was focused solely on Brandon and Isabel, which means there was good balance. Overall this was an excellent romantic suspense that made my heart race.

Jess the Romanceaholic says

This is a Quickie Review. For the full review, please visit The Romanceaholic.

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Publisher: Harlequin

Imprint: Harlequin Romantic Suspense

Author's Website: <http://www.jillsorenson.com>

My Source for This Book: Netgalley

Part of a Series: No

Series Best Read In Order: N/A

Steam Level: Steamy

On the run from a Mexican drug cartel, Isabel Sanborn now blends in with other surfers in Oaxaca. When her past catches up with her, however, she's rescued by Brandon Knox, a handsome surfer whose job as a self-defense instructor allowed him to step in at just the right moment and keep Isabel from being killed.

Teaming up with Brandon, they flee to Guatemala, determined to put some space between her and the thugs after her. Only, Brandon isn't really a tourist -- he's a U.S. Marshal working undercover to bring Isabel into custody. Keeping his true identity a secret, he forges an alliance with Isabel, and finds that running from the cartel is not the hardest part of his mission -- keeping his hands off of his beautiful, intriguing target is!

Overall, this was a fast paced, sexy read with just enough angst to keep things interesting. Isabel used to be a party girl, using sex, drugs, and a scandalous lifestyle to distract herself from the pain of her father's disinterest and then death, and since going on the lam, she has completely reinvented herself -- becoming a teetotaler and swearing off men -- and instead focuses on surfing and remaining under the radar.

Brandon knows that he can't have any sort of relationship with Isabel, and that his sole mission is to return her safely into custody in the U.S., yet he can't resist her beauty, both inside and out.

The sexual tension is incredible, with quite a few "false starts" into their sexual relationship, but the small number of times that they do manage to actually consummate their relationship were incredibly hot.

Recommended for fans of sexy undercover cops, beautiful heroines on the run, and a forbidden relationship that not even Witsec can prevent.

3.5/5 Stars

Susi says

I'm a huge Sorenson fan and when I first heard about her newest release I HAD to get my fingers on it. I love how she creates exceptionally multidimensional characters even in such a short format. Tempted by His Target shows us a world of corruption and deception in the middle of South America. We are thrown into a wild chase through this foreign world (at least for me) that shows us a different culture and in the middle of all this we find a heartbreaking romance.

Our heroine Isabel is on the run. In her past she made big mistakes and currently she's hiding from the results in the middle of nowhere, somewhere in Mexico. La Familia is after her so she tries to keep a low profile. Isabel changed a lot since she left everything behind. She matured and finally discovered who she is. She is strong and knows how to stay alive but still has this good spot deep inside that prevents her from being ruthless in gaining her freedom. She tries to keep everyone at arms length to prevent them from getting hurt on her behalf, actually isolating herself as best as she can. I really felt for her- she is such a strong and independant woman but still incredibly vulnerable. The self inflicted isolation is a huge burden on her and she's nearing her breaking point.

On the other hand we have Brandon. Oh my; this guy is hot. He is determined and very focused. He knows what he wants and he also knows what he shouldn't want: Isabel. But well we know how that goes. *winks* I loved to see him resist their attraction this long- the chemistry was nearly on overload from the start but still he tried to do the right thing. He cares deeply for Isabel and he wants to save her and make everything right for her even though he shouldn't. He's fighting the constant battle between the obligation to his job and what he thinks is right.

The story itself is fast paced and doesn't leave much room to take a calming breath. Our couple is constantly on the run and tries to hide their whereabouts. It's a thrilling adventure and the exotic setting even heightened this effect for me. There was so much to see and learn about the culture and I was awed by the colorful descriptions we got about the local festivities.

The only problem I had with this book was Brandon's deception. Well I can live with that actually if the "culprit" gets the chance to grovel and beg at length but well he didn't. Isabel forgave him too easily for my taste but perhaps I'm just mean that way.

Tempted by His Target is a sexy adventure that will keep you on the edge of your seat. The characters are complex and they really touched my heart. If you have a few hours and need to escape your day to day life, grab this book and enjoy a thrilling chase in the middle of South America. You won't regret it.

Mandi Schreiner says

I liked the suspense part - had some problems with the romance. Review to come.

TheGeekyBlogger says

Requested from NetGalley

Overall Rating 3.50

Story Rating 3.75

Character Rating 3.25

NOTE: This was a fun quick read that was action packed!

Quick Review for a Quick Read: I will admit I haven't read Jill Sorenson but I am likely to in the future. Tempted by His Target with a quick, fun read with a few twists and turns. While I didn't really connect with the romance, I felt that this might have been due to the length of the story. If it had just been a little longer I felt I would have cheered for them to be together. Now for the action, it was intense and fun! Seriously, I was really impressed with amount of rock-em, sock-em action there was in this story.

Why I gave it a 3.50: I felt like this was a great thrill ride story that was lacking a little bit in the romance section.

RLA says

The hero Brandon is a U.S. Marshall whose newest assignment is to find and escort back to the US fugitive Isabel, the heroine. Isabel has been on the run for two years, from both the US authorities and a dangerous Mexican drug cartel. After spending most of her adult life jumping from party to party, drinking, and doing drugs, all to escape the disappointments in her life, being on the run has enabled her to clean up and reform her ways. Waking up next to the dead son of the cartel leader and having no idea of what happened, caused Isabel to flee in fear, and she has had to grow up a lot in the last two years. Brandon manages to make contact, despite her prickliness, and also gains her trust. However when members of the cartel find her they are forced to flee together. Brandon and Isabel grow close as they try to make their way through Mexico, Isabel begins to trust Brandon enough to tell him her story, and Brandon soon begins to wish he could help her rather than his eventual betrayal.

When I started reading this book I actually didn't like it. The use of a lot of surfer slang kind of put me off (!) and the hero was a little too young for my liking. BUT, I kept with it and ended up really loving it. The suspense in this book is pretty much perfect, there is plenty of edge-of-your-seat action, as well as mystery. The passion between the hero and heroine is intense, it jumps off the pages. The rushed nature of the relationship is very exciting, and reads well. Although I do think the HEA is a little too 'wrapped up', if you know what I mean.

But overall, this is an exciting, fast paced, and emotional book.

Originally posted at <http://everyday-is-the-same.blogspot...>

Brie says

Originally posted at Romance Around the Corner

I am a huge fan of Jill Sorenson's work. I love good romantic suspense and I think this is an author that knows how to write it. She has an amazing ability to create real and flawed characters that are likeable, and her sex scenes are scorching hot. So I was eager to read this book and while it wasn't my favorite of hers, it was an enjoyable and fast read.

Isabel Sanborn is a woman on the run. She used to be a privileged party girl hanging out with the wrong crowd. When she wakes up from a night of hard partying and finds her companion dead she flees the scene. The problem is that the dead guy happens to be the son of a Mexican drug lord, so now she lives in Mexico as a fugitive hiding from the people who want revenge and from the law.

Brandon Knox is an undercover U.S. Marshall in charge of locating Isabel and bringing her to justice. Posing as a tourist he ends up saving Isabel's life and now they are on the run. She doesn't really know why he's helping her but since she needs him she accepts his help. What neither of them expects is the intense attraction they are both feeling, but for several obvious reasons they must fight that attraction before it gets them killed.

This was a very intense book, it isn't long but the action picks up almost from chapter one and it stays up until the very end. The scenery is beautiful and you can tell that Sorenson knows the places she describes because you can almost feel like you are there. By the end of the book I was seriously considering vacationing in Mexico.

My opinion of Isabel changed as the book kept progressing. At first I found her strong and likeable but once I read about her past and the reasons she was hiding she came across as immature and as a very bad decisions maker. I was a bit annoyed by her until I realized that she did a lot of growing up and she no longer was that spoiled brat. Granted, she does the growing up off-camera and that threw me off a bit, but by the end of the book I found her courage admirable, even though I still felt like she could have saved herself a lot of pain by making better choices. My main issue with her was that her journey from drug-addict party girl to level-headed woman on the run was mighty fast and quite unrealistic.

Brandon was a great hero because he finds himself in this difficult situation where he has a job to do but feels an intense attraction towards this woman and acting on it could jeopardize his job and their lives. He also suffered from a lack of maturity (he was young and fairly new to the job) and just like Isabel he made some wrong choices. One of my favorite things about Sorenson's books is that she manages to make the love story between young and immature characters, believable. I don't like romances where the lead characters are in their twenties, but in this case it worked and I could not only root for them but also believe in their happily ever after.

One particular issue that I had with the book –not so much a problem but something I would like to note– was that when I started the book I was unaware that Brandon was an U.S. Marshall (it says so on the blurb but I guess I forgot about it). Since he is quite vague about why he is after Isabel I spent more than half the book wondering if he was some type of bounty hunter hired by the drug lord and one of those bad guys turned good. Then there's the big reveal and everything gets straightened out, but that subplot (which might have been just part of my imagination and poor attention to detail) was quite interesting and suspenseful, so I wonder if having the blurb state what he really does for a living kind of hurts the book a bit and it might be a bit spoilerish.

I found the ending quite anticlimactic, I kept expecting something else to happen but it never did. I think that their journey wasn't so much about escaping from the bad guys as it was about Isabel coming to terms with what she did and realizing that she needed to confront the consequences of her actions. This makes for a fairly realistic plot with a rather boring ending that left me wanting just a bit more (although there's a very hot sex scene near the end to compensate for it).

Overall this was another great story by an author that has become one of my favorites when it comes to romantic suspense. I think every fan of the genre will like this book and even though I had some complains about the plot and it took me a bit to warm up to the characters I ended up enjoying it and I think you will too.

Source: we received an e-ARC of the book through NetGalley for review purposes.
