



# Tempting the Fire

*Sydney Croft*

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**Tempting the Fire** Sydney Croft

EXTREME HEAT. EXTREME HUNGER.

A JUNGLE EDEN ABLAZE WITH TEMPTATION.

Deep in the Brazilian rain forest, a team of Navy SEALs has been nearly wiped out by something sinister and superhuman, sending shock waves through the Agency for Covert Rare Operatives (ACRO). Now ACRO agents Sela Kahne and Marlena West head to the world's most unforgiving jungle to find and kill a mythical monstrosity with a taste for human blood. But to succeed in their mission, they will need the help of two men, each hiding his own dark secret.

Sela is an expert on cryptozoology with a sideline skill that could prove invaluable: When she makes love to a man, she engulfs his innermost thoughts. Teamed with Marlena, Sela makes contact with the lone SEAL survivor, Chance McCormack. Meanwhile, Logan Mills, the man who rescued Chance, leads his private company on a hunt that has nothing to do with saving lives. Soon, Sela will put her supernatural charms to work on Logan, determined to extract information about the creature they are seeking. But in this sweat-drenched realm of danger and deception, Logan is more than just a passive target. He has the power to lead a highly trained seducer into a jungle without any rules, without any limits—and with no end to the heat.

## Tempting the Fire Details

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## From Reader Review Tempting the Fire for online ebook

Sharon ∞🐉 is an emotional book junkie 🐉∞ says

This book was interesting ~ and confusing ~ in that there were two main couples. Either could have made a good main story but it was also nice that they meshed together ~ although, going back and forth seemed to take away from the flow of the story. Then, you get to deal with the addition of many new characters and it was a lot to process. It definitely made it out to seem that the next book would be about Stryker and Phoebe/Melanie and what will happen between ACRO and Itor.

What do you say about a book when you like the back characters more? I love reading about Annika and Creed and Dev and Oz/Gabe. That made the whole book for me and I will continue reading the series just to find out more about them!

This book is more of a 3.5 than a 4. I do have to say that I could have done without the "splashing". It grossed me out!!

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„•\*°\*!Gwendolyn!°\*\*★°\*\*★ says

[Ooh and Expect... boy met girl, girl gets pregnant in following book, ooh and she gets injured to give the feel of....is the baby okay? At least it was like that wit

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**Michelle says**

THUD! Woaaaaaow. Maybe it's been too long since I read erotica. Well, great addition to the series. But, to be honest, I didn't like the Sela/Logan thread, or the Annika/Creed thread, or actually, the Dev/Gabe thread either. I've never really cared much for Annika and Creed, and there wasn't very much Dev and Gabe. And I just liked Marlina more than Sela. (And how do you pronounce that anyway? See-la? Sella? What a weird name.) The reason I wanted to read this one so badly was for Marlina. I swear, it has nothing to do with the fact that my first name is the second half of her name, so it's that much easier for me to imagine Chance saying Lena instead....anyways. Umm. Plus Sela was kinda a bee itch before, so I didn't really like her. And I've always been more a fan of Beauty and the Beast stories, and since Chance turns into a monster he totally counts as a Beast. Reminds me of that Big Bang Theory episode where Leonard first sleeps with Leslie and Penny and Sheldon are standing in the hallway listening and Leslie says "Oh Leonard you magnificent beast." in just the flattest tone possible. \*snicker\* So, yeah, #2 is still my fave in this series with #4 as a close second. We'll see about 6 once I get my greedy fingers on it.

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## **Tiffany says**

### Fantastic Characters and Creative Writing Keep This Series Burning

*Tempting the Fire* is the penultimate entry in Sydney Croft's immensely successful and truly unique ACRO series, about a CIA-like agency inside the U.S. government, whose agents have fascinating special abilities. This book has two couples sharing the stage: first is Sela, an ACRO agent with an ability to read thoughts and memories during sex and a background in studying extraordinary animals, and Logan, the heir to a huge weapons corporation who has a secret of his own when it comes to special abilities since he is virtually a human machine due to a previous accident. The second couple is Marlena, who has been a really interesting secondary character in earlier books because she was cursed as a young woman to fall madly in love with anyone she sleeps with but who will never receive love in return, and Chance, a Navy SEAL who is the sole survivor of his team after being demolished by a mythical creature deep in the Amazon. The mission of the two female ACRO agents is to capture this mythological creature, as low profile and with as little interference as possible. Of course, Logan's company is there with the same purpose and Chance is contending with a huge problem of his own after his encounter with the creature, so together they stir up lots of interference. Trust is definitely the common theme throughout this book. Then there's Itor, ACRO's rival agency, their evil counterpart, who always seems to be involved.

Most of the book takes place in the wild forests of the Amazon, and the setting was vivid enough to make us feel as though we're there. I really enjoyed that there were two main couples. Sela and Logan have a very passionate relationship from the beginning, and I liked their undeniable chemistry, even as they really struggled to trust each other with so many secrets between them. A scene of hate sex in a cave was especially hot. Meanwhile, Marlena and Chance are two really scarred individuals who find comfort in each other, even when they don't really understand it. I felt that the authors came up with a really creative way to handle Marlena's curse, and as a character I'd been rooting for, I was happy to see her finally find another human being she could come to really love. And once again, Sydney Croft seamlessly weaves sex into the agents' abilities in new and different ways that allow this series to explore the realm of erotic romance in a tasteful, intriguing way.

Then there's the secondary plot between Annika and Creed, who are absolutely my favorite part of the ACRO series. I was really pleased to see them get a significant storyline in this book after being on the backburner in the last book. They have always felt like a very real couple to me, despite the paranormal elements, and their intricate, intense relationship continues to reach new depths as they navigate their happily ever after, while it's really satisfying to see them developing and growing together. Other characters from previous books also make appearances, which is something I've always loved about this series, that we still get to revisit our old favorites.

There is one book to come in this series, which will be a grand finale and likely the final showdown between ACRO and Itor. But the best thing about this series is how these authors creatively implement new, amazing abilities and the universal elements that make up great characters in a way that always feels fresh and always keeps the reader engaged. I don't want to think about this series ending, but I can't wait to see what the build up to the end will bring.

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## **Melanie says**

Review originally posted at RabidReads.com.

If you're not familiar with ACRO series, ACRO is the Agency for Covert Rare Operatives. They are a group of people with superhuman abilities. Many of them are former military and the ones that aren't have a military like training at ACRO. I've always thought of them similar to the X-Men and they are even referred to that in this book. ACRO are the good guys. ITOR are the bad guys, also with superhuman abilities. They often are both trying to recruit the same people, though they have different ways they go about recruiting. ITOR isn't above abducting.

In this book, we have yet another player, GWC, Global Weapon's Corporation. They are a weapons manufacturer. The owner was never very careful about who he sold his weapons to, until his son is injured and made into a cyborg of sorts (although that term is never used in the book, that is basically what he is). The son, now cyborg, Logan, is former military and is now very involved in the company. He does not like some of the things his father has been doing.

The book starts off with a SEAL team in the jungles of Costa Rica and they are attacked by some sort of monster. ACRO sends down their cryptozoologist and an "assistant" to investigate. They think it has something to do with ITOR. Come to find out, GWC has been working with ITOR and lost a potential weapon in a chupacabra. Yep, you read that right. GWC had found a real chupacabra and they were trying to weaponize it. Logan just wants to recapture it before it does more damage.

Chase is the lone survivor of his SEAL team, but he is not the same. That creature had attacked him. The only reason he survived was because he has always healed way faster than most people. He is also being held prisoner by these GWC guys. Though with his new strength, he is a prisoner only because he is willing. He could break his bonds whenever he wanted.

Sela is the cryptozoologist who ACRO sent to Costa Rica. She actually is a cryptozoologist. She has also been looking for a chupacabra for years. She came to ACRO after she slept with another agent and learned about it. She is a psychic who can read a person when they orgasm. She started off in ACRO as a Seducer until she was beaten by a target, not to mention that the people she was sent after were not good people and the psychic impressions had gotten to her. That was when she asked to move to the cryptozoology department.

Marlena is a character that has been around since the first book. She started off as Dev, the leader of ACRO, assistant and part-time lover. That is until Dev found his true partner in Gabe. Marlena doesn't have any superhuman powers, but she is cursed. Her sister cursed her never to find love. After she has sex with someone, she falls deeply (like as in stalker crazy) in love with that person, but that person is instantly disgusted by her. She is usually thrown out right after sex with the most angry look on the guy's face. Dev was the only person to ever sleep with her and still be nice to her, though he didn't love her, though she was deeply in love with him because of the curse.

So, there is a lot that goes on in this story. Sela and Logan are a couple that comes together. Also Marlena and Chase become a couple. There is also a lot going on with Dev and Gabe have some issues that they must work through. Gabe being new to ACRO and trying to push the rules since he is sleeping with the main guy. There are also a lot of issues between Creed & Annika, who are from a couple that have been featured since the beginning. They have a very interesting relationship that gives new meaning to complicated. We are also introduced to a new bad guy at ITOR, Phoebe/Melanie. They are one in the same person with a split personality. Melanie seems pretty normal, but Phoebe is beyond nuts. We also learn a pretty interesting secret about the two of them (are they two or one, I'm not sure how that works). I will leave the

Phoebe/Melanie and tell you that you must read the book if you want to learn more.

I know that this sounds like a lot is going on, and there is. But, it isn't so much that it is overwhelming. It kept me very interested in the story (which has been hard for me the last few months). This is a really fun series that is completely different from any other PNR series out there. If you haven't tried it, I highly recommend it. I should also point out that Sydney Croft is an author team of Larissa Ione (an author that I love) and Stephanie Tyler (an author that I still need to try outside of this series). So if you've tried either of these two authors, know that you will like these books too.

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### **Carolyn says**

Well, I finally finished this book! I hate when real life gets in the way of my reading. So unfair! Anyway, all the interruptions did not deter my interest in it. I LOVED this book. I was already a big Marlana fan. But Marlana going out on a mission in the jungles of South America had me scratching my head. Marlana? Jungle? The whole notion was shocking and impossible, in my mind, for her to carry off. But the way it played out proved to be fascinating, captivating. I loved the new character, Chance. He was such a joy to read about.

Also meeting Sela, and finding a connection to Creed, thus creating problems for him with Annika when they already had enough problems to make themselves crazy, was a nice surprise in the book, as well as Logan, who supplied us with suspicion, mystery, and the question of deception. Usually, the story centers around one couple, but this book had two central couples. Such fun! Having two males and two females with the banter and tension and sexual encounters made it all the more enjoyable.

The surprises were enthralling. I found myself gasping out loud at the shocker revealed regarding Creed and Annika and the disclosure about Gabe. Then the very last page of the book had me shouting, "Oh my! I didn't see that one coming!" Great book, and so well written that it made me want the next book in the series immediately. Highly recommend this series!

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### **Kathrynn says**

I didn't feel ANY romance in this book.

Started off with a bang and I was so looking forward to reading about hunting down a chupacabra in the Venezuelan jungle, but a few things turned me off from liking the main characters. First and foremost, both the main heroines were active/former "Seducers" for ACRO. That's a prostitute. Reading their thoughts and how doing that job messed with them, mentally, and seeing how ACRO still sent them out to have sex and still uses "Seducers" bugged me. Top that with them being called "whores" and treated as such by their heroes didn't sit well with me.

As usual, there were several stories running in this ACRO saga:

The main characters were Sela Kahne (former Seducer, now, cryptozoologist) and Logan Mills (former SEAL, now co-owner of a weapons company that got in bed with ITOR Corp). Logan made my tortured hero shelf, but also my hard to like shelf. He had his good moments, but they were few and far between. Sela's physical appearance was never described in the book. Did I miss that? She'd been through some awful experiences and it just didn't jive that she became a "Seducer."

Two characters I would have liked to have read more about were Marlana West (former secretary for ACRO with love-sex curse) and Chance McCormack (active duty SEAL with special abilities). I assume that is them on the cover. It did not make any sense to me that based on Marlana's curse, she became a "Seducer." That was dumb. Also, she sure slept a lot through the book. Chance seemed like a good guy, but how he treated Marlana when he found out what she did for ACRO bugged me.

The third story that ran through this book was (more) about Creed and Annika. I grew to detest Annika's character. How she burst into Devlin's office--acting like a spoiled brat. How she reacted to the "problem" she and Creed had. For a soldier who wanted to be thought of as tough, her actions had her more of throwing tantrums in my opinion. I despised how these two acted and thought their "problem" was drawn out much too long.

As we've seen in each book in this series, there's always a little something about Devlin's current relationship (male-male). This had a small bit of him and Gabe's troubles.

Finally, I thought it was dumb how the two girls with "Seducer" skills were sent in the jungle to spy on a group of men who were hunting a chupacabra. I thought it was silly, how Devlin sent "backup" way after the fact and if more hadn't snuck on the plane, they probably wouldn't have come out of it as they did. I thought the way the backup "handled" the situation was stupid, too.

Yes, this was an erotic book. Some rough sex. Main heroins were called and treated like whores by the main heroes. It bugged me that when a hero touched them, no matter how mad or hurt they were, they couldn't wait to get it on. Stupid.

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## **Jess says**

I love this series a little bit more with each new book. And all that love centers around Creed/Annika and Dev. I always look so forward to seeing where their stories go, it almost unfairly overshadows the main storyline.

But from the start I've hoped for good things for Marlana and it's easy with these books to connect quickly with all the characters. The multiple story lines blend together so well and after learning about everyone's history it's hard not to root for the main couples in this one, Sela/Logan and Marlana/Chance.

And as usual, the end just leaves me wanting the next book, now!

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## **~V~ says**

aaahhh...the wonderfully sexual world of ACRO...oh how i've missed it!! I have to admit, that I was a little bit skeptical at first about how this book was going to play out...in every one of the previous ACRO books, there have always been multiple storylines going on..typically there is ONE "main" couple and a couple of backround characters w/ their own storylines going on at the same time. This one was a little bit diff. though... because although it still had the usual backround characters and storylines... it "featured" TWO diff. "main" couples! Well...Sydney Croft..aka the fine writing team of Larissa Ione and Stephanie Tyler!...did NOT disappoint!!! This one was just as good as all of her previous books!! This series is not your typical

PNR w/ a suspencful storyline and a "some" sex...this is a PNR w/ a LOT of sex (really good sex, I might add!) w/ a GREAT action packed storyline! I loved it! I think that Sydney Croft does a great job of melding together multiple storylines into one book w/ out it getting overwhelming! The two main couples were great..it was nice to see poor Marlana finally get her HEA and Sela and Logan were very yummy!!! I also loved that we still got to be a part of Annika and Creed's continuing saga..I LOVE them!!! We also got a good dose of Dev throughout the book too. If you HAVE read and liked the previous books in this series..you should DEFINITELY read this one!...I don't think you'll be disappointed!! If you haven't yet read this series I would highly recommend it for something diff. than your typical PNRs...it's a lot of fun! However, this is def. a series that should be read in the correct reading order because of all of the continuing storylines and characters from previous books.

\*\*I also wanted to say...that although I liked the first book in this series enough to continue on w/ the rest...it was not my fav....I DID, however, thoroughly enjoy all of the rest..this one included!!! :)

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## **Wendy says**

This book is not as fast paced as the rest, but thank goodness, it's just as hot in the lovin' department. :)

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## **valee says**

5 stars review!

Finally! This book was everything I wanted it to be and more. I have been enjoying the books in this series big time for some time now, but for some reason I always seem to give them 4 stars. I know one of the main reasons is that the beginnings never entertain me as much as the 2nd half of the books have done, but not with this installment, I loved every page. This series just keeps getting better and better and right now I just don't want it to end! We need many, many more books in it. I always loved X-men, but this series gives a whole new amazing twist to it.

In Tempting the Fire (ACRO, #5) , we get to read about Marlana West, which we got to know since the beginning of the series. She was Dev's secretary and I really felt sorry for her. She was cursed to get in love with every guy she sleeps with but never received love from then, just hate right after the deal. I was so happy to finally get to read her HEA, she really deserved it! Her hero was amazing, hot and caring, some kind of changeling.

Then we also get to read about Sela Kahne, which I did not remember a thing from the previous books. But I ended up liking her story even more than Marlana's, which I loved, so you can imagine how much I liked this one. Her hero was amazing as well. A guy saved by a scientist who was able to keep him alive by changing several parts of his body for metal, turning him in some kind of half ma, half machine.

Finally we see more from Anika and Creed. And this two will always be my fav characters in the series, I'll never get bored of them. I adore this 2. We get a tiny bit of Dev and Gabe as well.

I swear this series just keeps getting better and better with each book, and after book 5 I'm a huge fan. While not a fav series definitely one worth reading. If next book is as good as this one though, it might become a new fav.



And OMG, that ending!!!

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### Shawna says

4 ½ stars – Paranormal Romance/Erotica

I'm a big fan of the Sydney Croft, pseudonym for powerhouse writing duo Larissa Ione and Stephanie Tyler, *ACRO* series and although this wasn't my favorite, it still gave me the erotic thrill ride I was expecting. It's jam-packed with high-octane action and sweltering hot jungle lovin'. Seriously, there's *a lot* of frantic, angry, sweaty, rough, smokin' hot sex in this between the two main couples, Logan and Sela and Chance and Marlana, and also with ongoing sideline couple, Annika and Creed, who's growing relationship is shaken up by an unexpected surprise. There's sex against the wall, up against a tent pole, on a cave floor, on a cot, on the ground, in a car, in a helicopter...it's pretty much like a smut version of *Green Eggs and Ham*, LOL! And most of the time, the H/H can't get into each others' BDUs fast enough, so there's a lot of frenetic clothes tugging and ripping, which heated things up about another 10 degrees.

There isn't much relationship development and the ending was somewhat abrupt with no epilogue, so I knocked off half a star, but everything is ramping up powerfully to what promises to be an epic final showdown between ACRO and Itor in the next, last?, book. So although it's not my favorite in the *ACRO* series, **Tempting the Fire** was still an entertaining, lava hot read that I enjoyed. 4 ½ stars!

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### Awilk -never sleeps- says

This series never lets me down. I put this on my currently-reading shelf, and then other books plus my mood had me not starting it after all. I really don't know what I was thinking. Once I began reading, I remembered why I love this series. All the characters who we have been reading about in previous books excellent new characters who I can't wait to learn more about, plus how all the different story threads are woven together to make a story that is fascinating to read. I don't always like books where there is more than one couple getting together, but these very talented authors manage to do this in a way that I enjoy.

Now that I have read this one, I am eager to finish off the rest of these books, so I see myself reading them shortly.

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### Francesca the Fierce (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

I liked this book a lot more than I expected. When I first read the description I wasn't too crazy about it. In the previous books we never get to see much of Marlana, other than she was Dev's secretary and sometimes lover, and she is cursed with falling in love with any man she has sex with, but her curse also makes sure that that man could never love her.

#### Chase & Marlana

Marlana is now trained as a Seducer and she is sent on a mission to the Brazilian forest to help Sela figure out what's going on with a missing military guy. She is supposed to infiltrate this camp and seduce the head of

the operation to find out what's going on and free Chase. But Chase has been infected with a "chupacabra" type virus and he is now turning when angered. They also mate for life, and Chase recognizes Marlana as his mate when he first sees her.

#### Sela & Logan

Sela is the expert on chupacabras, even though she doesn't believe in them. She's worked for ACRO for a few years, and she has a special ability to read peoples minds and see into their past while they orgasm. So she's back up in case Marlana can't get answers out of Logan. But Marlana doesn't even stand a chance. Logan wants Sela from the first moment he sees her. Even though Logan works for a private company that is supplying weapons to ACRO's enemies, it's run by Logan's father, which means he has little control over it. And he owes them his life, as he was injured almost beyond repair while in the military and they saved his life by making him part machine.

#### Dev & Gabe

We don't get to see much of them in this book to my liking. Dev is a bit disappointed with Gabe's lack of interest and dedication to ACRO and learning to control his abilities, and Gabe decides he has to prove himself by doing something majorly stupid.

#### Creed & Annika

I love these two. Have I said that before? Yeah? Well, I'll say it again. I love them!!!! First Annika is jealous because apparently Creed had sex with Sela (way before Annika), and then we get a \*huge\* surprise!!!! Won't give anything out here, but this is a big one and very emotional.

I'm really looking forward to the next book, which I'm sad will be the last in the series. Are you sure you don't want to write more???

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### **Kathleen says**

This was a really good book for me, I LOVED it! The team of Sydney Croft left me craving for more at the end of this book. I can hardly wait for the next book in this series to come out.

If you like your book's with lots of action, X-man and X-woman type hero's and villains and loaded with steamy hot sex/love scenes than this series is for you. I have truly enjoyed reading these book's so thank you Tiffany for recommending them to me.

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