



# Willing

*Lucy Monroe*

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Josie has been raised to be a soldier, and she could be the best if she wanted it. Instead, she left her dad's mercenary school behind for a normal job in computers. But now that someone has torched the school and her dad is MIA from the hospital, Josie's going to use every bit of her mercenary training to hunt down the culprits.

## Willing Details

Date : Published January 1st 2006 by Kensington

ISBN : 9780758208750

Author : Lucy Monroe

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Suspense



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## From Reader Review Willing for online ebook

~Megan~ says

Enjoyed this one just as much as the first...there's just something about a mercenary who doesn't want to turn out like his abusive father. It makes you want to hug them and convince them they're the good guy! Looking forward to Hotwire's story!

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jenjn79 says

These Mercenary books by Monroe are very enjoyable to read, and this is only the 2nd book! I think I enjoyed Josie and Nitro as a couple more than I did Wolf and Lise, but I liked the story in the first book a bit more than the plot of this 2nd one.

Book 2 features Josie and Daniel, "Nitro", who were introduced in book 1. There was an obvious sizzle between them but their ways of holding back their feelings made Josie think Daniel hated her. When this book starts, Daniel has just become a partner in Josie's Dad's mercenary training school - of which Josie is no longer a part of. She's decided after spending her whole life as a mercenary, it's time to do something normal. But then her Dad's school is blown up, almost killing him, and then he disappears. Josie has to team up with Daniel in order to find out what happened, and in the process she learns that what Daniel actually felt for her was a burning lust, not hate.

Josie and Daniel were fun to read. Josie is definitely not your typical heroine. Her Dad started training her to be a soldier at six years old. All she's ever known is that life. And Daniel...something about his dark broodiness was really appealing. They fit together very well. And the sex was yummy ;)

The one thing that bugged me about this story was that in the previous book, *Ready*, there's serious intimation that Josie perhaps has some kind of sixth-sense which she used to help dismantle a bomb...and there seemed to be some disgust on Daniel's part that she had such a "gift." So I was anxious to read this book to see what was up with that...and then nothing came of it. At all. There was absolutely no reference to Josie's special abilities working with bombs (if she indeed had any...and I honestly thought she did after reading book 1). It was a bit of a let down. And annoying in the sense that it makes the story feel a little incomplete because it was never dealt with (or just completely dropped).

Otherwise, I really enjoyed this one, maybe a little bit more than the first book.

((On a side note...I thought the choice of cover model for this edition sucked. Actually, all three of the cover models for these new releases of this series are awful. The guys all look way too suave for the type of characters they are))

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Brenda (b) says

Daniel aka Nitro is so wonderful. He's sexy and sensitive even though he presents a stoic facade to those who don't know him well. He wants Josie to know him better so he has to let her see inside. And did I mention

he's my favorite kind of hero -- tormented? He needs to overcome what he believes was his failure in the past. Josie knows soldiers and their ways better than she knows anything else since that's what she was raised to be. She's already set up changes to make her life more normal. Now she just has to realize her perceptions of Daniel's attitude are based on her inexperience with men and not on reality.

On a personal note: I thought the cover of this edition was totally off the mark as far as the story and hero were concerned. And I hate the expression on that guys face. :)

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### **Kathrynn says**

This is book #2 in the Mercenary Trilogy, but the author started another called the Goddard Project Series and it has interaction(s) with the characters from the Mercenary Trilogy.

I enjoyed this entire series (Mercenary and Goddard). Modern spy stuff with hot romance to boot! The books are large paperbacks, too. I think it is neat how she did the titles for this trilogy: Ready, Willing and Able.

Here's the series, so far.

1. Ready
2. Willing
3. and Able
4. Satisfaction Guaranteed (Goddard Project, Book #1)
5. Deal with This (Goddard Project, Book #2)...

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### **Norma says**

The plot didn't quite work. It wasn't really a suspense. It was as if a suspense plot was written in because a book about a mercenary needs a suspense plot. But, that's all ok when you read about Nitro. He's a sigh-worthy hero. I love how intense he was and how he treated Josie. He was wonderful!

Looking forward to starting the final book of the trilogy this week!

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### **Katie says**

This book was okay. There wasn't anything particularly exciting about it but it was a easy read. The plot build-up was better than the actual climax of the story.

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### **Kathleen says**

Three stars (tops) for this sweet , sexy, and intriguing romantic suspense involving a heroine trained from

childhood to be a warrior, and the horny alpha who's always loved her. Together, with the help of characters from book 1 (Ready), they take down a paramilitary cult.

I guess I just don't get moved by Lucy Monroe's writing. This is the second book I have tried -- both in this series -- and I just didn't feel the magic. No sizzling chemistry, no breathless hopeful anticipation. Lots of fairly graphic sex, and it started early in the book, but no relationship development to make the sex emotional for me, because Josie and Daniel / Nitro have been in love for a few years, even though they didn't know it.

Okay, so they have known -- wanted -- each other for years. That doesn't mean I can immediately feel their emotions. Monroe needed to develop their relationship before dumping them into bed.

Josie's characterization was a bit odd. For a 26-year old "little warrior" she was just too clueless and naive about sex and Daniel. She asked him some pretty dumb questions about a hard-on, for example.

Something about the language is off, too. Expressions like "man alive" and "for crying out loud" (I don't like lots of profanity, so I appreciate it, but yet it sounded weird).

But not bad. Some scenes were great. An intriguing mystery, and some good secondary characters.

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## **Holly says**

Josie McCall grew up in a world not many people get to live in, much less see. Since before she was ten years old she's been immersed in the life of a soldier and now that she's twenty six, she's tired of it and wants to finally experience a normal life. She turns down her father's offer of a partnership in his mercenary school and he in turn offers it to Daniel Black Eagle, aka Nitro, the man Josie has been in lust with since the moment she met him. Nitro, on the other hand, seemed to despise her the moment he met her and so she's been secretly carrying a torch for the handsome merc in what she thinks is a one sided obsession. When her father's mercenary school gets blown up, she turns to her father's new partner for help. Nitro comes rushing to her aid and when Josie's father all but leaves her in his care, he steps up and confronts both her enemies and his desire for her. Being around her is wreaking havoc on his control and control is the one thing that Nitro strives for. Josie innocently inflames his obsession for her and the next thing she knows, the man who she thinks can't stand her, is all but throwing himself at her. She rejoices in his desire and revels in her new found femininity and when the two aren't rolling around in the sack, Nitro and his friends, Hotwire and Wolf all join up to help investigate the explosion. With her father MIA and reporters camped out on her doorstep, Josie needs Nitro more than ever and while he's refusing to promise her forever, he can promise her today, and all the days he can get after that.

This was kind of blah. I mean it was okay, but it was missing something. That spark of chemistry or that hint of magic, what ever it was, I just felt like something was missing. There was good flow, good interactions with both Josie's father, her roommate and some nice cameos from Wolf, Lise and Hotwire. Everything was in it's place, yet I didn't enjoy this one as much as I wanted to.

Josie grew up tough as nails. She's on the small side of average and so she's always had to work harder at bringing a man down. Her skills at being a mercenary have all but squashed any hints of womanly softness so when she decides to give up the life of a soldier of fortune, she's eager to embrace whatever femininity she has. Unfortunately, she's completely clueless when it comes to seduction or even simple male anatomy.

While she may notice a male erection, most notably Nitro's, she just assumes it's a sign of male virility and has nothing to do with her. WTF? Male virility? Please, gimme a break. Her rationale was just silly and while I normally like cute, ditz behavior in a heroine, this was just too stupid for words. When she does realize that Nitro's erection is because of her, she eagerly jumps in the sack with him and vice versa. Nitro is adamant that he give her a wonderful night and he's determined to make her first time as memorable as possible. I'm just going to say that I thought he went a little overboard with the whole wining and dining thing, but you can be the judge of that when you read it.

The plot of this story was practically non existent. Josie's father nearly dies in an explosion that levels the mercenary school and when he suddenly goes AWOL on her, Josie and Nitro are forced to look for clues in the rubble and in a bunch of old journals. There are some interesting glimpses in the psyche of a paranoid Vietnam war vet but ultimately the bad guys are never named or fully explained. Maybe I missed it but I don't think Lucy Monroe even gives a reason as to why the bad guys blew up the school. The only theory that was bandied about was just too stupid for words and I guess I blocked it from my memory.

Daniel Black Eagle, a.k.a Nitro, was an interesting mix of obsessed alpha male and tortured little boy. He's still letting the past dictate his future and of course, he has to let Josie know right away that there is no future with him and his obsession with her is only physical. So as soon as he sates himself on her body, he's just going to be the first notch on her belt. But he immediately marks his territory whenever someone with testicles looks her way and he seems to enjoy letting everyone know that she belongs with him. That's a lot of mixed signals and since Josie is clueless to begin with, no wonder the poor girl was confused.

I could go on and on about the little things in this story. One thing I really enjoyed was that there was some humor in the book and even though Nitro states his obsession for her is only physical, when she's put out of commission due to her "monthly" he becomes as worried, sweet and tender as only a romance hero can be and it was very "awww" worthy.

All in all, I am recommending this book. It was okay, not great, but enjoyable only if one was interested in and committed to this series. Unfortunately, what hooked me on to this series was the whole gimmick with the titles, Ready, Willing and Able, and I started reading without really knowing what the books were about. With the amount of books I have available to read, I guess I was just upset I chose to invest my time in these. I would read this book and this series only when you have nothing left to read from your top tier of authors. I'm placing Lucy Monroe's Ready and Willing firmly in the 'B' category. It's not good enough for the A list but nor is it junk to be consigned to the C list. Willing was a good, solid B for effort.

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## **Miss Kim says**

AAH! It was so good! I loved Nitro, or Daniel's, story. We first met Josie and Nitro in Ready and there somewhat of a spark that they both denied. This one starts out with Josie leaving the mercenary life and planning to start a new career. Daniel has just purchased half of her dad's mercenary training school. In the beginning, both are hot for each other, but are blind that the other one actually likes them. There is action, mystery, romance and HOT SEX. \*Fanning face\*....

I'm very interested in 'and Able', the conclusion to the series.

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## Shawna says

4 stars – Contemporary Romance/Romantic Suspense

**Willing** is the second book in Lucy Monroe's *Mercenary Trilogy*. It's a steamy romantic suspense read about sexy, brooding alpha mercenary Daniel "Nitro" Black Eagle. Nitro is very fitting 'cause it's hot, HOT, *hawt*! The heroine, virgin mercenary Josette "Josie" McCall, is cute and adorable, but I found her utter naivety a tad unbelievable. My main complaint is the same that I had with *Ready*, which is that there's just something about Monroe's writing that bugs me. I don't think she writes tough, alpha males in a realistic way, and the dialogue between the H/H is cheesy, sentimental, and clichéd. I didn't find Nitro's 100% character turnaround convincing or realistic either. Still, it's a fairly good romantic suspense and worth reading for the hotness. Oh, and it has one of the sweetest, steamiest deflowering scenes that I've read. 4 stars.

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## Deanna Against Censorship says

First: This is a horrible, ugly and uninteresting cover. If I was not a fan of Lucy Monroe's work, I would not have picked it, Monroe's covers are never the best but this was ever worse than her usual.

Now that that is off my chest on to the book. I liked Nitro and Josie's relationship and I liked them. The first book, *Ready*, had a better story line but *Willing* had the more interesting couple. Their relationship was more equal and they understood each other better. Daniel (Nitro) was so romantic at times yet he was still a very alpha male. Josie is also a warrior but wants more from life. I loved their journey to self-awareness. I enjoyed the heat of their relationship.

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## Eastofoz says

Excellent bit of romantic suspense but with lots of focus on the couple and not just the bad guys. Better than the first in the trilogy even if it isn't as "imaginative" ;)

Daniel/Nitro and Josie sizzle from the get go. Both are strong characters and won't let the other get the upper hand. They both think the other hates them but when they find out what the real low down is sparks begin to fly and sky high too! The sex scenes will leave you gasping and Daniel is the consummate lover (!) This is more "restrained" erotica than a regular romance –pass the ice please 8-)

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## Jane Stewart says

This guy sure knows how to love a woman.

I was so moved by Nitro's single-minded passion for one woman only. He was so loving and giving to her and possessive as well. It left me with a wonderful feeling and I continue to think about Nitro even after

reading other books. The plot was a little too simple for me, but the feelings to and from Nitro made up for it.

#### DATA:

Sexual content: not evaluated. I read this book before I began counting sex scenes and describing the language. As I recall, it was probably strong. Setting: current day U.S. Copyright: 2006. Genre: romantic suspense.

#### OTHER BOOKS:

I've reviewed the following Lucy Monroe books.

5 stars. Ready. Copyright 2005. My review posted 2/21/07.

5 stars. Willing. Copyright 2006. My review posted 2/21/07.

4 stars. And Able. Copyright 2006. My review posted 2/21/07.

3 stars. 3 Brides For 3 Bad Boys. Copyright 2005. My review posted 5/26/07.

1 star. Tempt Me. Copyright 2006. My review posted 5/26/07.

1 star. Deal With This. Copyright 2007. My review posted 6/14/08.

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### **Ladiibbug says**

#### #2 Mercenary trilogy

Ahhh, a perfect book to relax with after a hectic week!

Daniel Black Eagle, aka Nitro, has just invested as a partner in an Oregon coastal mercenary training facility. When a bombing hits the school and his friend and new partner disappears, Nitro and Josie (the sr. partner's mercenary soldier daughter) are swept into the investigation.

A nice mix of suspense, relationship development and romance. I liked this! #3 And Able is on tap as a December read :-)

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### **Gail says**

Another hot one from Monroe, loved it. Can't wait to read Hotwire's story next. But I must say the covers for this trilogy are definitely off-base. Who chose them???? They're not bad, they just don't say "this hero is special-ops and a mercenary".

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