



## **Letting Go**

*Michele Zurlo*

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Not currently available. Look for Letting Go (Author's Cut Edition) to release January 2019 with major revisions, and new/extended scenes.

No man has ever satisfied Sabrina Breszewski in bed. She doesn't want a husband, but thanks to her grandfather's will, she needs one, and soon. Impulsively, she proposes to a stranger in the conference room at the advertising agency for which she works.

Jonas Spencer has been married before. He's a cynic, but the chance to be with the beautiful, powerful advertising executive is too good to let pass. He accepts Sabrina's proposal in exchange for the promise of the passion boiling just below the surface, the passion into which she cannot tap.

Layer by layer, he peels away her carefully-constructed façade, helping Sabrina find passion and showing her the power was always hers. As Sabrina falls in love with Jonas, she must confront the lingering shadows of his first marriage. Can she help him let go of the past, or will he use it to throw away the future?

Note: This book contains BDSM, whipping, and exhibitionism.

A Siren Erotic Romance

## **Letting Go Details**

Date : Published March 8th 2010 by Siren Publishing (first published February 11th 2010)

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Author : Michele Zurlo

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## From Reader Review Letting Go for online ebook

### SandyL says

I loved this story!! At first glance, I wasn't so sure of how this book would pan out - the premise is the tired have-to-get-married-right-away-to-get-an-inheritance. And Sabrina doesn't really need the money, she doesn't want it to go to her evil cousins. A few days before the deadline she's at work on a Saturday, sees Jonas and asks him to marry her. After some negotiating, including that their arrangement includes sex, Jason says yes and they immediately fly off to Las Vegas to seal the deal. But as we get to know Sabrina and Jonas, the book takes a much more original path. Sabrina is a beautiful, confident businesswoman who is also shy, insecure about her sexuality and has never had an orgasm. She's slept with many men, but sex always fell short and she has been consistently disappointed (more in herself than in the men she's been with.) Unbeknownst to Sabrina, Jonas is also a professional Dom outside of his day job, and he takes it as a personal challenge to wake her up. Their agreement is for one year of marriage, staying friends and having sex during that time. As simple as these things start out, they never stay that way and feelings start to come into the picture. But Jonas is adamant he's not going to fall in love - he was badly hurt by his first wife and is absolute that all his love was used up the first time around. But they both realize what a good thing they have, and with a timeline running out, there is sadness underneath the joy they bring to each other.

I really liked all the characters in the book and I'm looking forward to reading about them in future installments. I really, really wanted to see a HEA for Sabrina and Jonas. At one point their struggles made me cry. The sex scenes were hot and varied and overall this was a very good and entertaining read.

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### Cecelia Jones says

I want Jonas to be my boyfriend. Smart, sexy, stubborn, and proud...He's the sort of man who will make your dreams come true or frustrate you to no end. Or both.

Sabrina is just lovely. The story is told mostly through her eyes. It's about coming to terms with the crap life throws at you and embracing the good things. I've read this three times so far, and I plan to read it again. I laugh, I cry...I feel like I know them.

The cast of supporting characters is also one thing I love about this book. Ellen is a riot! Everybody needs a BFF like her!

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### Smut Junkie says

FUCK Fifty Shades of Grey - READ THIS INSTEAD!

HOLY CRAP! I have seriously mixed feelings about this book.

Overall I LOVED this story! I started crying a little before the end and I currently feel like I'm emotionally distraught....yeah, over a book! I seriously feel like I have a broken heart!

For some reason I had some trouble with Jonah....and I can't really put my finger on it, but something about him just bothered me. He DID, however, grow on me more as the story progressed, and much like Christian from that stupid Fifty Shades, he is just a tormented, damaged hottie that needs some help getting his head out of his ass. And honestly - waiting for him to do that was AWFUL!

Sabrina is a pretty likeable little lady and your heart just breaks for her steely shell that just covers her vulnerable inside.

And all I can say is Role Play anyone?? HOLY MOLY - a Virgin and a Hooker??!!! FREAKIN' BEST SCENE IN THE BOOK!!!!

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### **Silviene says**

I really have mix feelings about this book because on one side I mildly like it because sometimes it gets interesting and on the other a little disappointed or irritated at the way the author cuts and flips the timing of really important events and she does not explain more over them. You are left in the dark most of the time and the story and characters were really anesthetic with each other and there wasn't any feeling or mood like 75% of the time.

And one more thing I HATED!!!!!! how it ended. So casual with nothing on it and the last scene wasn't even thoroughly thought or even cared to write it with a good ending. At the end I am more disappointed and would not recommend this book to be read!!!!!!!!!!

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### **C says**

#### **Too much repetition**

There were several times the author gave background material she had given 5 pages earlier. Good story line but shallow character development.

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### **?Sinful says**

Unpredicatble, erotic, sweet, tender, hot, maddening.... I really enjoyed this read. Color me surprised.

The opening of this book is so cliche it should come with syrup. Girl's grandpa dies leaving a will that states she must be married by the age of 30 to collect her inheritance. Done much?

Of course she asks the first guy she sees at work. She doesn't even know his name. A guy she sees as sweet, sensitive and quiet. A lurker who rarely speaks and could clearly use the money.

The hitch, he turns out to be far from what she expected. A dom, an exhibitionist and a make your toes curl lover.

There is a cliche stream for this plot to follow. As cliche as the premise itself, but Zurlo doesn't play that

way. It is all about character development from the interactions in bed or work to the family obligations.

I really enjoyed being surprised.

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### **Rebecca Rose says**

The power driven Sabrina Breszewski needs a husband. Still reeling from her grandfather's death, Sabrina leans she can only get her inheritance if she's married by her thirtieth birthday, proves it to be real love and it last a year. Too bad her birthday is in three day!

Surprise wasn't the only thing Jonas Spencer was when he received the marriage proposal from Sabrina. Intrigued was more like it. She's a beautiful power house and Jonas has fantasized about being with her from the moment his eyes wondered her delicious small frame. But, Jonas has secrets he doesn't want his new wife knowing. Ones too painful to discuss.

So, when Jonas and Sabrina's 'fake marriage' becomes complicated with feelings, they must decide who's going to submit and who's going to be the dominate when Letting Go becomes their only choice.

WARNING: m/f romance, erotic sex and whipping

It's because of stories like these that I've become such a huge fan of erotic romance. The characters were so real that I thought about them long after I had finished the book. I felt their pain and cheered when Sabrina discovered that with Letting Go she became a much happier person. This story is a testament to how sometimes less power is more. As for Jonas, I loved how complicated he was. You understood why he did things you otherwise thought were stupid or secretive.

Congratulations Michele Zurlo on Five Blue Rose's! They were well earned!

Michele Zurlo's website: <http://michelezurlo.com/>

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### **Karla Schneider says**

If you're here for the plot, then might as well go watch The Proposal or My Fake Fiancé, as it's so cliché you can just insert your own plot. Now the twist was, she's an alpha sub? Sort of? No. She tried at least, she played the victim like any damsel protagonist. But that's what we read erotica for right? Yeah, but the sex scenes were each no more than one paragraph in length.

It was a let down.

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### **Suzanne (Lily) says**

3.5 stars

Jonas's and Sabrina's paths seemingly crossed by fate, but that was only because Sabrina was so caught up in her own world, a world where she had gained professional achievement but a lack lustre personal life. A marriage of convenience to meet the terms of her beloved grandfather's will, turns out to be a lot more than

she anticipated.

Jonas has talents that he utilises to bring her out of her shell but he is unaware of the emotions he will endure. An enjoyable story with likeable characters.

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### **Judith says**

Marrying for love isn't always the reasons people "tie the knot." In this case, a well-to-do advertising executive, already flush with her grandfather's money from a trust fund, finds out that she must marry in four days--before her 30th birthday--in order to claim her \$12 million inheritance. She finds the man, a co-worker in her advertising firm, who agrees to a one year marriage--with benefits--and with whom she eventually falls in love. It is a story that has its moments of joy and caring, but there is deep sorrow and hurting here also. This may be one of the most poignant illustrations of the truism that money cannot buy happiness. A very good read with lots of good characters and some hot loving and an exploration of aspects of the BDSM lifestyle, and an in-depth study of the human spirit.

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### **Jami says**

I didn't get this one at all. I tried to like it but it just felt strange and offputting to me.

First off, we have the ridonkulous set-up which is another "I have to get married to get my inheritance" trope, which always leaves me cold because I really don't know how legal something like this could be. But okay let's say it is legal to force someone to marry we have several other problems with this scenario.

One problem is that apparently Sabrina has put off this impending marriage deadline for a very long time. Either that or her grandfather's will gave her a very, very short time frame in which to do it. The story isn't really clear on the mechanics, all we know for sure is when the book begins, Sabrina has only until next Wednesday to get married.

Which is what the author wanted. Clearly a 'forced marriage to a stranger' scenario which doesn't make sense in contemporary times but whatever. Sabrina damn near married another guy a few years ago, so she's not hurting for actual people she knows that can do this for her.

The other thing is this so-called marriage needs to only last a year. Which makes the story a little weird because at first they keep telling themselves it's only a year and then it's like they ONLY have a year. Which is stupid because there's nothing in the will that says they have to get divorced after one year. In fact I'm fairly certain it's the grandfather's intention that Sabrina stay married to whomever she chose. So the looming one year deadline is just weird.

Then we have the BONUS stipulation that Sabrina's mother declare the marriage real and true, meaning she must sign an affidavit that Sabrina and her spouse are really, truly in love. Which is in itself a whole set of other issues. Or it would have been. But a week after Sabrina announces her marriage, her mother just fakes an affidavit and signs it because she thought the whole will was stupid in the first place. Or she didn't want the cousins to get the money Sabrina would forfeit if she failed. Either way it was a non-issue for the plot and I can't understand why it was even included.

Then we move on to the relationship. Sabrina has never had an orgasm at the ripe old age of thirty. Which is

fine. Some women can't/don't/haven't and I get that. What's weird to me is the very first time she and Jonas ever have sex is IN AN EXHIBITION CLUB in front of a room full of strangers. It's a poorly written scene because once they walk in and Sabrina realizes what kind of club this is, they immediately start having sex and you never get a feel for the surroundings after that so they might have just as well been back at their hotel room for all the audience gets to see of this sex club.

And lo and behold she has an orgasm. Of course. In a room full of strangers. Where five minutes earlier she was about to turn and flee out the front door. Nice to know you can go from Zero to O in no time at all and have no qualms about people seeing you naked and having sex three feet away from you.

And then the sex just kind of fizzles out a little. They don't go to anymore clubs for most of the book and what they do have is just at home behind closed doors. And it's fairly vanilla to boot. There's a tiny amount of bondage and some dress up going on but that's it. It's kind of a let down after their marriage started off in a sex club. You kind of expect farm animals, aliens and/or clowns to top that initiation.

There's also this big mystery about his past wife that is frustrating because it's hinted around at for FAR too long. There are WAY too many conversations between Jonas and his friends/family that Sabrina is present for but in no way understands what they are talking about, and as such neither do we. It takes way too long for the BIG REVEAL that he's a Dom, especially since in his relationship with Sabrina he never acts that way at all. He kind of comes across as whiny and a little passive sometimes and doesn't have the personality that you would expect from a Dom.

Since we are often privy to Jonas's POV throughout the book, I really expected A LOT more about him trying desperately to hide his Dominating tendencies with her for whatever ridiculous reason he wants to hide them. But he switches back and forth like...well...dare I say it?....a SWITCH. And I don't have anything against switches, which if you don't know are people who can play the dominant role with someone and then switch to the submissive role either with someone else or with that same partner. But I never get any kind of insight into whether or not he really is a switch or his personality is just written to suit whatever setting he's in, i.e. he's a sub with her and a Dom at the club where he works.

I find it strange to say this because in all honesty BDSM interests me greatly while exhibitionism has never been on my radar, but this book would have been so much better if it had delved more into the practice of voyeurism/exhibitionism and just stayed away from the bondage/domination entirely. Because the truth is, Jonas just isn't much of a Dom. He doesn't have that Alpha thing going on. He's too passive for too much of the time for me to really believe he's the top. It could have been a really hot book about voy/ex as Jonas and Sabrina took a strange journey into that kink but instead the author crams BDSM into their relationship as though BDSM and exhibitionism go hand in hand and are somehow interchangeable.

There's a line in the last part of the book, "Now she understood the look he gave her when she misbehaved during their bondage activities. He wanted to discipline her, but her was afraid of hurting her in a way that would irrevocably damage their relationship."

Okay. We only saw ONE instance of true bondage in the whole book. And we never saw any looks or anything to let us know that he was having some kind of inner debate with himself during that scene. The whole book WANTS to be about those two lines, but it never gets there for the audience. There's never enough inner turmoil about Jonas trying to keep his 'true' nature in check for Sabrina. And I felt cheated because of that.

And for some reason I felt really irritated that when Jonas FINALLY came clean and basically said, "I want to hurt you, so if you don't want that you'd better go back to bed," Sabrina turned it into a roleplay scene. A

fake scene, an illusion, with both of them acting out fake personas. The one time he's trying to say, "This is who I really am, Sabrina," and she says, "Let's play naughty wife and the pool boy." I HATE that they roleplayed instead of having a real conversation about his sexual proclivities.

And then because these two people are married but can't have a conversation without pretending they are other people, they split up. Sabrina pretends to date another man to make Jonas jealous, which works, but not the way she's hoping and the whole ending just felt anti-climactic.

Overall I just didn't like this book nearly as much as I wanted to. The ideas were there but we skipped entire chunks of time, which I understand in a novel that takes place over the course of a year is bound to happen. I mean you can't have a day to day recapping of an entire year. But there's a scene near the end that's supposed to be poignant when they break up with Jonas saying "We'll always have Paris," and Sabrina saying, "I wish I could forget Paris," and we're supposed to be all verklempt and upset because she wishes Paris never happened. But we can't feel sad about this because WE NEVER SAW PARIS. This rollicking good time of art museums by day and sex clubs by night and we never saw one single moment of it because it took place in a chunk of time that the author left out.

I didn't think it deserved all those five star ratings.

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### **AussieChick says**

Well, I finally finished Letting Go. I'm not even sure why I bought it as it is about a rich chick called Sabrina and her grandfather dies. In order to get her inheritance, she has to get married and stay married for a year. She chooses Jonas who she works with and hardly knows. Not the most original theme and not one I really like.

Sabrina is very boring, prudish and sexually repressed. At the end of the book, she isn't anymore! She could easily come across as being very cold or stand-offish, but the author writes her in a way that this does not occur.

The main thing I like about the book is that it is set over a long period of time, so they fall in love gradually. It makes it more realistic. I like that they are insecure, have arguments and doubts. I like that they seem real. The secondary characters are awesome and thankfully have some books of their own. Because it is so long, the characters are well developed and you really feel like you get to know them as people, not just on the surface.

This is one of the best books I have read in a while. Oh, and the love scenes are hot, incredibly hot.

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### **Anas Attic Book Blog says**

Find more of my reviews at Ana's Attic Erotic and Romance Tales and Toys

Book rating: 4.25. Heat rating 3.5. I bought this book as a hot little smutty read, but it was so much more (in fact, it wasn't really that smutty at all.) Though the story is typical, (career woman must marry by 30 to get her inheritance. She has 3 days, and marries a stranger), the way it played out was so much more! Both characters work in an ad agency together. She is an uptight straight laced boss, he seems to be a mild mannered ex-teacher. But he has a secret- he works as a Dom at night, and opens her up to all kinds of new adventures. He also opens her up at work and makes her more approachable.

Surprisingly though, this book was not that hot. Though there were some good scenes, they were few and far between. This was more about the story and relationship than about the sex. Not a complaint at all though! I'm just not really sure if this is erotica or romance. It seems to be more of a romance with some erotic scenes to me, but I guess because it contains some BDSM (very light) and exhibitionism it needs to be classified like that.

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### **Lucy says**

I thought this was going to be a light-hearted BDSM romance with a typical plot that would give me a bit of enjoyment plus a stress-reliever in between the more darker romances I favor. But this book was so much more than that. The author takes a plot-line so tried and true as to be trite and makes it new with interesting characters, who behave and act like real people with real feelings. Ms. Zurlo is new to me, but I will definitely be reading more from her!

Sabrina is a manager in an advertising firm. Though wealthy, she works to say sane and give meaning to her life. Sabrina's beloved grandfather has recently died; and in order to prevent her inheritance from going to her selfish, grasping, hateful cousins, who have sponged off her grandfather their whole lives, she must marry before her 30th birthday--in four days.

Sabrina is sitting in the conference room of her business contemplating her dilemma. Enter Joshua. Literally. He's just started at the office a few months ago; he's very good looking and he appears to be single. The more she stares at him, the more she decides to take a chance. She proposes--and finds out his name is actually Jonas.

After a bit of wrangling, Jonas and Sabrina agree to a one year marriage that must convince the cousins that they are in love. Jonas has agreed if Sabrina will throw sex into the bargain; and she reluctantly agrees. But there's a problem. Sabrina has never enjoyed sexual relations with other men; and Jonas is in for a challenge. Jonas has some secrets of his own--some that Sabrina finds totally hot.

This is not just an erotic, light BDSM book. Jonas and Sabrina are strangers to each other when they marry. They are older and both carry baggage that needs to be confessed and worked through before their relationship can begin to fully progress. The characters' thoughts and emotions are fully developed and believable. I felt like I was reading about real people who enjoyed a little BDSM in the bedroom and who didn't exhaust me with melodrama. Highly recommended!

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### **Charnel says**

LOVE THIS BOOK. EVERYTHING ABOUT IT I LOVE!!!

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