



Serving Pleasure

Alisha Rai

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Hungry for a touch...

Rana Malik is over being her family's resident black sheep. She's on a mission: ditch the casual hook-ups, revamp her bad-girl image, and fall in love with a proper Mr. Right even her conservative mama can't find fault with. Not on the menu? The beautiful, brooding Mr. Right Now who lives next door, and all the ways he whets her appetite.

Starving for love...

Artist Micah Hale had it all—women, success, friends and family—until his world changed in a single act of senseless violence. Now struggling to conceal his scars and get his life and career back on track, he knows he has nothing to offer a woman except his body. He's not looking for love...but he can't control his craving for the sexy bombshell voyeur he's caught looking at him.

Just one bite.>

Their attraction boils over, and their defenses are stripped off along with their clothes. They promise they'll walk away if it gets too hot. But it's hard to do the right thing...when being wrong feels so good.

Serving Pleasure Details

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Romance



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Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Slick's review posted at Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4.5 Stars

About 5 1/2 years ago one of the first ménage books I read was Glutton for Pleasure by author Alisha Rai and I fell in love with the characters of that book including the heroine's two sisters. I remember writing to Ms. Rai and asking her if she ever planned on writing their stories and she said yes but that it would be awhile. Now years later, she has written Serving Pleasure and I have to say it was worth the wait. I never reviewed Glutton for Pleasure so I'm including a short review at the end of this review on it; it is still a favorite of mine for a number of reasons but I have to say that over the years Ms. Rai has honed her craft and it really shows in this story. The road to happily ever after was hard fought in this story as two people who have been damaged; one physically which has affected him mentally and one emotionally, find comfort, desire, pleasure, and yes even love together as they work their way through the issues that have shaped their lives.

Having a wide variety of friend from many different cultures and backgrounds I applaud this author for her multicultural/multi-race books. It's not often we find that in romance and I very much enjoy reading about couples who struggle to be the independent people they've become while also trying to please their parents or grandparents by not disregarding their culture. It's a hard line to walk and I think for women, especially in some cultures, it is even harder which is why I loved Rana Malik so much. Rana has always tried to live her own life on her own terms but a year ago she decided she wanted something more out of life; she wanted love, possibly marriage and most of all she wanted her mother to look at her with pride not shame. So for the past year Rana has dated what she knows are "suitable" men by her mother's standard which is why it's been that long since she's had sex but she also finds herself drawn to her sexy new neighbor who she sees clearly through her bedroom window at night.

Micah Hale wanted to be mad at the woman who watches him from her window but he just can't seem to stop himself from giving her a show. He knows he's probably gone too far but when she shows up at his art show he knows it is time to make a move; he just hopes he doesn't scare her off with the scars from the attack that changed his life forever.

From the moment they meet the heat between these two boils over on the page but it is also evident that they are each mesmerized by each other and that goes deeper than sexual attraction. While Rana claimed she only wanted sex from this man she was clearly taken with his art and wondered about his anger but understood that although he'd obviously gone through something horrific he didn't want to talk about it and I admire her greatly for giving him time and not pushing. In Rana, Micah found a woman who didn't judge him, one that wanted him for him not for his fame and one that made him enjoy life again.

The fact that Micah enjoyed every little thing about Rana; her bluntness, her sassiness, her sexuality, her thoughtfulness, her bright mind, and her ability to size up a situation quickly made it clear she was more to him than a play thing or even a model.

While they insisted they didn't want permanence, they did enjoy the time they spent together and I'll warn you now that their sexy times were H-O-T, like scorching. They are both very sensual and sexy people and they enjoy each other thoroughly over and over and over again. However, it was those in between times; the

times where he was sketching her, the times they laid together talking that they connected on a much deeper level despite all their talk of a short term arrangement.

So many good things came out of this story but the biggest one was Rana and her sisters Leena and Devi forging a bond and making some big decisions about their relationship as they move forward with their lives. In the first book and throughout a good part of this one they were disconnected so I loved seeing this happen for them all.

With both Rana and Micah's issues, this was not a pretty or easy romance but it was quite beautiful to watch them both come to terms with their own lives in order to accept what they wanted from each other. Complex, emotional, and so very sexy *Serving Pleasure* was worth the wait and an excellent addition to this series.

Laura Frey (Reading in Bed) says

Very sweet and romantic at the end, for such a dirty book :) I liked that there was actual humour. When your hero is a troubled, manbunned artist named Micah, you can't take yourself too seriously.

Hackmops says

Serving Pleasure by Alisha Rai (new favourite author alert?) is a wickedly funny and scorching hot delight. There are so many things that are good about this, let me attempt to count the ways:

- Both of the leads are great people and interesting as individuals. Rana is wonderfully funny and confident lead character who still has her insecurities. Micah has been through trauma and is struggling at times. However, both of these people are mature and own up to their actions and take the initiative instead of just relying on the other person to motivate them. When stuff goes wrong, they apologise to each other. They communicate. Even the (view spoiler) had a positive outcome for both Rana and Micah, as each of them was forced to examine what was important to them beyond being happy together. I was so happy when Micah (view spoiler). This is such a refreshing change from petty drama and unnecessary misunderstandings.
- As an extension of the previous point, both characters also have something in their life they are good at and which they enjoy doing BUT they are also striving for more. I *love* reading about people being competent at their jobs while still wanting to improve or do more. It sounds almost trivial but work is such a huge part of everyday life and I take pride in doing what I do well, so Rana and Micah's struggles in that area are very relatable to me. It makes both characters feel more grounded and real, too.
- POC lead characters - Alisha Rai is obviously drawing from her personal experience and I love how her characters navigate the world of family dynamics and cultural expectations. I love how Devi's Indian background and her complex relationship with her mother are something that have uniquely shaped her and but it is not the main thing that makes her as a character. I just loved the "The Order of Samosa. We have a handshake and everything." scene, everything about Rana's identity feels so natural and definitely a change from the usual cookie cutter contemporary romance mould. Same goes for Micah, who is mixed-race but again, this is not a big deal. Just part of who these people are, the way it should be.
- The sisterhood between Rana, Leena and Devi was also an integral part of Rana's background and I just enjoyed reading about their tight bond. Sibling connections are a common element in romance novels but this one felt really special, and it definitely also brought something more than the inevitable sequel potential to the table. It felt genuine and real and made me miss my sister and just hanging out with her.

- I greatly enjoy Alisha Rai's writing. Rana's voice was just hilarious and made me love her right from the start. It was simply a joy to read.
- Ok there is no good reason why I put this last, I basically wanted to open this review screaming that THE SEX SCENES WERE SO HOT OMG. OMG. Seriously, wow.

Definitely one of my highlights of the year so far and now I am waiting for Leena's story. Waitingggggggg.

Suraya (thesuraya) says

smoking hot

??Trea says

After my lukewarm review of Glutton for Pleasure and needing to find books that finished up a series for a challenge, I broke down and purchased this book. I really wish I hadn't!

Micah was too focused on his tragedy and he had not fully mentally healed from it. I felt he had no business starting an intimate artist's relationship between model/artist, never mind starting a romantic one! While he never actually became abusive to Rana, he also wasn't in a good position to be the emotional rock she needed.

Rana followed Devi's footsteps a bit, in so much as she couldn't stand up to her mother. Eventually, she does, but it comes at a time where emotional blow after blow begins hitting Rana. I felt that the mother was definitely emotionally abusing the three sisters, but most especially Rana! It also didn't help that Rana's self-esteem was pretty much non-existent during all of this.

All things considered, I doubt I will read the final book in the series, if and when it comes out, nor do I think I will continue reading the author's work.

Lillian ? Cloud 9 Books ? says

**** 4.5 'CUT A B**** FOR CHOCOLATE' Stars ****

Can be read as a standalone

"I wanted you to pose for me because you're you. You have this... intriguing mix of good and naughty. Silly and sexy."

This was so hot! Phew!!! Not only was it steamy, but it was also funny and cute.

Rana is the only person without a college education in her family. Her mother keeps telling her to find a rich man as soon as possible because her looks aren't going to stay forever.

So, to keep her mama happy, she changes her lifestyle to find Mr. Right. She parties less and drinks less. No more 'Old Rana.' This is 'New Rana.'

The story begins with Rana spying on her new gorgeous neighbor. She has a view into his studio where he paints. From her observation, the handsome artist just never seemed to be satisfied with his work.

Micah gets angry when he realizes that his neighbor is constantly spying on him. He was going to confront his neighbor until he got a good look at her. He was mesmerized by her body and soul, and he fell under her spell.

Micah eventually asks her to be a model for him, and she agrees to do it as long as neither of them fell in love. Even though this is something 'Old Rana' would do, it was just something temporary to 'tide her over until she found someone right.'

I instantly fell in love with Rana's wittiness, attitude, and humor. She forever changed my views on muffins.

"Now she craved him frightfully, the way a person on a carb-free diet might crave a huge muffin. She needed that muffin. She wanted to make love to that muffin. She wanted to engage in acts of questionable legality with that muffin."

"Your buttocks are worth two diplomas, at least."

I just loved everything about the story. This is book 2 in the Pleasure Series, but it can be read as a standalone.

Ana says

Rana Malik is a new woman. After her little sister Devi found love with not just one man but two (Glutton for Pleasure, book one in the Pleasure series and currently free), she decided it was time to make some changes in her life. No more impulsive dates or casual affairs with "unsuitable" men, she is dating with a purpose. While she doesn't want to date any of her mother's handpicked candidates from Indian matrimonial sites, she is determinedly looking to date the right kind of man, the kind you marry. However she is supplementing her diet of boring dates and a year of celibacy with some voyeuristic perving on her new artist neighbor. Every night she settles in to her bed darkened room to watch him paint in his curtain-less studio. She know it is wrong, but she can't stop doing it.

Micah Hale feels shredded. It has been two years since an attack stole his appetite for life and quite possibly

his art. He has moved an ocean away from his friends and parents to escape their watchful wary gazes. But there is one person's gaze he inexplicably doesn't mind. He spotted her watching him weeks ago and instead of outraging him it arouses him. Instead of buying curtains or confronting her, he decides to provoke her.

When Micah and Rana finally meet face to face, they are combustible, fueled by naked, raw desire. They know that they have crossed lines, they have inflamed each other's lusts, and they can't turn away from each other. I love the " we are all wrong for each other, so this is just a fling" stories, because they tend to be stories of discovery. Micah and Rana think they know what they want, what they need and what they can give but as they spend time with each other they discover they might have been all wrong.

Alisha Rai writes fun, emotional and scalding erotic romance that explore themes of identity, perception and acceptance. In *Serving Pleasure*, Rai takes a couple from a lustful collision to burning love. They build intimate emotional bonds with each other despite their determination not to. They have to confront and evaluate the way they think about themselves and how they have let how they think others see them define and control how they behave. She unpacks these complex relationships with humor, wit and sexiness. I love that two people who thought they brought the worst in each other are pushed to become their better selves.

I received a review copy of *Serving Pleasure* from Alisha Rai via NetGalley.

Amanda says

Either by society's standards or their families', Micah and Rana were considered to be *wrong*. In Micah's case, it was his inability to move on from a violent event in his past. For Rana, it was her wild child lifestyle. So in fear of appearing less than in the eyes of those they cared about most, Rana and Micah chose to shut themselves, their *true* selves, down until no apparent flaws were visible to the discerning eye. But the one person they found that they couldn't and didn't hide from was each other.

***"What was it he'd said when they met? They brought out something wrong in each other?
She had been bad. She'd been bad to watch him, bad to pose for him, bad to fuck him.
God, but it still felt so good."***

Micah didn't restrain Rana's naturally passionate nature, and in fact reveled in her larger than life persona, so different from his own. Rana never once saw Micah as broken and instead saw him as the person, artist and survivor he truly was. The constant shifting of power plays worked so well for them. Usually there's a more dominate person in the relationship, be it vanilla or otherwise, but here, it really felt like Micah and Rana were complete equals. They just instinctively knew what the other needed at any given moment and brought out the very best in each other. And while their individual epiphanies at the end may have read a tad bit cartoon lightbulb suddenly coming on over their heads, sometimes it takes a kick in the proverbial ass, such as finding someone who accepts and loves you for just the person you are and losing them, to get your shit together so you're ready to *love*. And boy was I bawling when Rana and Micah both finally realized this.

***"'I don't want to be someone's step, Micah. I want to be someone's destination. I want to be their ending. I...I deserve that. I'm worth that.'
"You do. You are.'"***

Sobssssssssssssssss.

I actually wish I could better articulate every emotion and feeling this book gave me but I'm not sure it's even possible. Alisha Rai pulled on every heartstring I possess and I loved every moment of it. And on a final random end note, I was so glad to see the bond between the three sisters expanded upon more so than it was in the previous book.

Keertana says

Rating: 3.5 Stars

Christine says

If I could only use two words to sum up *Serving Pleasure*, they would definitely be *smoking hot*.

"How many orgasms do you think you can have before you pass out?" he murmured. "That's how many times I want to make you come."

Oh, God, he was a prince among men. A leprechaun riding a unicorn holding a fairy.

But as scorching as the sexy times are between Rana and Micah, this was so much more than a bad case of insta-lust. Even with the hotness that is brooding British artist Micah, you will find yourself falling in love and cheering for Rana first.

Rana is the eldest daughter of a traditional Indian mama that just wants to see her daughter curb her free-spirited ways and settle down with an Indian doctor or lawyer. Tale as old as time. And bless her heart, Rana has been trying so hard to make her mama happy. But the dark pull between her and Micah is just too strong:

Do you think there's something wrong with me? Because I had the best sex of my life last week with this weird hermit guy who lives less than a hundred feet from me. We agreed it would be a one-night thing, but I can't stop thinking about him, and I'm scared Old Rana's going to grab a hold of me and I'll march over to his door and demand more. Did I mention that we met because I was spying on him? Yeah, I could have been arrested for that shit. It was as pervy as hell. How do you think Mama would feel about all of this? Like, would she disown me right away, or wait ten minutes?

Again, I have to state that I'm a huge fan of romances with characters of color. But my biggest pet peeve is when a character's race/ethnicity is used as a gimmick. Not so here with Rana, whose breezy personality and out-of-control internal monologue elevates her beyond the stereotypical daughter trying to please her Old World immigrant family. The scene where she put the businessmen sexually harassing a young timid waitress was pure gold. As I read it, I couldn't decide what I wanted to do more: cheer for Rana or go out for Indian food.

Watching Rana waking up to her self worth is what makes her wake Micah up from his self-imposed prison.

I don't want to be someone's step, Micah. I want to be someone's destination. I want to be their

ending. I...I deserve that. I'm worth that.

I vaguely recall reading Rana's sister Devi's book Glutton for Pleasure a while ago but I found Devi too wishy-washy and promptly forgot about it (If two hot men want you, then just shut up and go for it, girl). It wasn't until I started reading that I realized they were sisters. Rana, Devi and middle sister Leena's drunken sisterly showdown was so awesome that I forgave Devi and really hope that uptight Leena gets her own story soon.

I received an advance copy from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

??s Xamante de los spoilersX says

Para ser un libro erótico estuvo muy bueno, además del sexo tiene una historia pero me hubiera gustado que la autora profundizara más en eso, sobre todo en Micah porque sus problemas psicológicos son dejados de lado y al final la autora da unos manotazos de ahogado tratando de solucionar todo en las últimas páginas.

Britt Marczak says

So very good! This was really what I needed today. The characters are fantastic and the writing superb. <3

Mandi Schreiner says

Serving Pleasure is a very strong romance – I've been so impressed with Alisha Rai's stories recently. I hope she writes more and more.

Micah Hale was a successful artist in London, but after a vicious attack where he almost died, he lost his energy and passion. He moves to the US for a fresh start, but becomes a hermit. Rarely leaving his house or socializing, he has tried to get his painting back on track. We'll come back to Micah in a minute.

Rana's family owns a restaurant and she takes turns working in it with her sisters. Rana has dated a lot and has decided, with a push from her controlling mother, to really focus on dating lawyers and doctors and to not sleep around anymore. Pressure from her family is one area Rana has a hard time with. Rana's one guilty pleasure in life is to sneak peeks at her hottie neighbor through his window. She doesn't know his name or much about him, except he rarely leaves his house and he paints at all hours of the night. She becomes very obsessed with spying on him. Although he is a stranger to her, she starts to make up his personality in her head. She calls him her "muffin" because she is trying to stay away from hottie guys who her parents would frown upon, and muffins are her guilty pleasure.

One night she catches him sans clothing and pleasuring himself.

But he was naked. Fully, delightfully naked.

He held a towel in his hand and used it to finish blotting his wide chest before he tossed it into the bathroom.

Even knowing he leaves wet towels on the floor doesn't diminish his sex appeal.

Feeling extremely guilty that she watched his – she tells herself she will no longer ogle him through his window. But when she sees him leaving in his car, she follows him and ends up at his art show. Unknown to Rana, Micah knows she has been watching him, and put on the pleasuring show for her enjoyment. When he sees her at his art show, he makes a move to take her back to his place. Let the sexy times begin!

While this book has really great sexual tension and very, very hot sex scenes, it also features a really strong and sexy heroine. I love Rana. She is confident and independent, yet lets her mother's disappointment seep into her blood and she lets her sisters boss her around. When it comes to family, she is vulnerable. When she is with Micah though, she is not ashamed of anything. He worships her body and she lets him.

He walked toward her until his chest was a few inches from hers. She wanted to breathe harder so her nipples could brush against him.

Damn. She'd had sex with this man? Go her.

Micah is very intense and serious. Rarely smiles or laughs, it has been very hard for him to move past the trauma of his attack. He scoffs at the idea of a therapist and would rather live alone and closed off to the world. Rana is a tornado of energy that storms into his life and he starts to crave her. She reawakens his sexual desires. She makes him food. She models for him and allows Micah to remember how fun life can be.

And this book is damn sexy. I'll prove it in one sentence:

“Make me suck it,” she whispered.

Highly recommend this book.

Grade: B+

Mel González says

- rana is one of my new favourite characters!!
- Indian-American heroine with sisters?
- biracial Hawaiian/black hero with PTSD (affects his eating)
- voyeurism
- sexy af but also emotional af (i actually cried... a lot)

Maiya says

I'm being really generous with my rating. I really wanted to like this book. I did but I DNF at 70% and I even skipped chapters to get to the more exciting parts but something about this book wasn't working for me. Maybe its the story which I thought lacked a certain ommph because it was a very cliche story. The thing I

definitely enjoyed the most was the character Rana I thought she was genuinely spunky and kind of hilarious whereas her love interest was the same broody and alpha type of guy which again contributed to me not finishing because it was everything I have seen before and it honestly felt like a chore to go through.
