



Pleasure and Purpose

Megan Hart

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Introducing the women of the Order of Solace?three new novellas from the national bestselling master of erotic romance.

The handmaidens of the Order of Solace are each named for the exquisite service that best reflects their true calling. Their greatest delight is giving pleasure?devoted as they are to fulfilling the desires of the mind, the needs of the soul, and the cravings of the body.

Meet **Stillness**, called upon to soothe the conscience of a man in need of redemption after a shocking act from his sexual past. Then there's **Honesty**, whose vow of Solace is to a prince looking for a submissive handmaiden. Instead, he gets the unexpected. And finally, **Determination**, a handmaiden confronted with a client lost in a haze of random sex and drugs. She has just the plan to literally whip her man into shape.

Pleasure and Purpose Details

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Carrien says

This is a hot read.

It's called Erotic Romance, but unless you think it's romantic that the hero gets drunk, shares the heroine with his best friend and doesn't remember it the next day, prepare to be disappointed by the romance. This is all about women helping men to get out of their funk in creative and seductive ways.

I myself started this book not looking for romance, but expecting to get three steamy erotic novellas and in that I got what I wanted. Even with the aforementioned 'romantic' scene, the first novella was my favorite.

The women in these stories are part of an order that tries to bring solace to people. From what the handmaidens tell the men I understand it's to both men and women and involves sex a lot of the times. So my main question was: where are the brothers of Solace? Apparently only women can bring solace though.

That aside: if you want some hot erotic stories about how these handmaidens bring solace, and like the men they work with enough to give you a semi happy end you should certainly give this book a try.

I myself might read more by Hart if I'm in the mood for some steam.

Blodeuedd Finland says

Now why do I read E Rom when I am such well known smex scene skimmer? Well I have had the book for years and I thought why not! Since it always sounded good to me, and it was all before I knew that I was a serial skimmer.

And it was good, really good in fact. If I actually liked these sort of books it would surely have been a 4, now I really can't give it that, since I do not.

I liked the world, they may call itself whatever they want, they still bring most of their solace in the form of sex. So temple prostitutes then, many cultures have had those. That is where the smexy times come in.

This is a 3 novellas in a book, they are all connected, as 3 friends finds solace, and true love with Handmaidens.

It was light, I liked that it was a fantasy E romance. No real worldbuilding, but that does not matter here. I mean hello, it was novellas that had a lot of smex.

I enjoyed the stories, and to see these unlikely pairs fall in love and find that solace.

Brandy *Ahviel* says

I have to say that I loved this book. I normally do not like 3 stories in one but Megan Hart was able to pull the three stories together to where it felt as though you are reading just one story.

First in the story we are introduced to one of the handmaidens of the Order of Solace Stillness. She is comes into the Lord's life just when he really needed someone to show him that just because he has a huge sexual craving it does not mean it is a bad thing. It is about finding the medium for that craving. Next is the Prince who sees what his friend has with Stillness and whats the same thing. Instead he gets Honesty and her name fits her because she lets the Prince know exactly what he doesn't want to know. And lastly is one of the other Lords that is friends with the two. He is in a downwhirl sprial and his friends order a handmaiden for him hoping that will bring him around. Normally handmaidens are supposed to do what their masters want, however in this case Determination, is the master and is proving her to master that he needs to get back into shape with not just his physical well being but mental as well.

? BookAddict ✍️ La Crimson Femme says

Ms. Hart is known for breaking a reader's heart. I don't think she has any happy books. It's generally an emotional journey that leaves me absolutely drained. While not to the extent as the book Deeper, this new series, Order of Solace is pretty cathartic. These women all go into what is essentially a nunnery with a twist. The service the women provide is definitely service with a capital S. The epiphany each hero/heroine goes through is pretty amazing. The pain suffered to become a better person gives me insight to Ms. Hart. I think her books are a subtle way to teach morale lessons. Sneaky, isn't she?

Adrienne says

I really really enjoyed this trilogy of Handmaiden tales about three friends who each need Solace and the women who provide it for them.

Megan Hart has once again bought everything together with a great, and original (as far as I'm aware) storyline. Each story is well crafted, and sufficiently erotic to make me blush and occasionally sigh on public transport. Its well written and although not in first person (Megans usually choice of narration at least for her contemporary stories) still has the lush emotional feel that I really enjoy in my erotic reading. I liked the fact that the story weaves through a gammit of emotion, there's a nice sharing threesome, together with a love story that runs between the three men whose own stories are sad and moving, and some light BDSM (although the story does touch on a practice that I've not seen written about in my reading before). There's quite a lot going on in this book but it never feels out of place, afterall the Handmaidens role is to provide Solace in whatever form that takes:)

willaful says

4.5 stars. When starting this collection of connected erotic stories, my first thought was “this is going to get old really fast.” A fantasy kingdom in which women, for implausible spiritual reasons, become submissive handmaidens trained to give solace to their clients in pretty much whatever form that takes... well, it seemed like an exercise in wish-fulfillment that was bound to be pretty dull and samish even before the first story ended. Nope -- all three stories were distinctly different and all three worked. And together they formed an effective interconnected narrative.

The story concerns three male friends who deeply love each other, but whose relationships have become damaged; though each falls in love with his handmaiden, the story is also about the healing of their friendships. I was fascinated by the depictions of complicated relationships which are both connected to sexual feelings *and* apart from them in a way that seemed very balanced and real. I won't go much into the plot -- but there is one, or rather several, and they're all interesting. I also really enjoyed the writing: that style of imaginary kingdom formality is hard to do without sounding ridiculous, but it feels just right.

My favorite story is the one I thought I'd like the least, about Cillian, the spoiled wayward Prince who is actually capable of great love and sacrifice. (And surprisingly, since Cillian is devoted to BDSM, it has the least amount of sex in the book... which is actually the point.) It opens with Cillian hoping to replicate Edward's experience from the first story -- hire a handmaiden who will make his life perfect, give him exactly what he wants, and love him. Instead he gets an exhausted, hungry handmaiden named Honesty, who has her own needs and is feeling doubts about her career. Yet she is exactly what he needs to be able to stop hiding behind his sexual desires and become the person he was meant to be.

Possibly if I'd read more erotica I'd find this much less extraordinary than I did, but this is the first erotic romance I've read that really felt like it got it right. My only complaint is that I would have enjoyed more time shown on the development of the love relationships between the three couples. Even so, though I'd classify this as erotica rather than romantica, because more is involved than just monogamous love, my romantic heart was almost perfectly satisfied.

Kazza says

Read this ages ago but for some reason I didn't rate or review. Hmm...

Tina says

Heat level: 5 out of 5 (for some of stories)

Kink: m/m hinted at, m/f/m, bdsm, spanking/whipping (extreme)

Stories in book:

Stillness/Edward: 3 stars

Honesty/Cillian: 5 stars

Determinata/Alaric: 4 stars

I have only read 1 other book by Megan Hart and didn't care for it all that much (Stranger) due to the lack of caring at least in my opinion between the characters, it seemed to be all about the sex. So when this came out and I tend to read more paranormal/fantasy books than contemporary I thought I would give this author another try since SOOOO many people have raved about her books.

The first story about Stillness and Edward set up the background of the world and I did like that about it however the extreme whipping in this story I just did not like, it turned me off of Edward who up until that part I liked ok. There is also a strong undercurrent of homosexuality between the three friends Edward, Cillian, and Alaric which is not a big turn on for me but I thought it was tastefully done here. I would give this story 3 stars.

So after reading the first one I was like oh boy I am not going to like this book at all. I thought Cillian was a total tool sort of like a man whore/spoiled rich man. And Alaric was not talked about much but he came off to me as very wimpy. I must say Cillian story made me tear up several times. Ms. Hart really turned around my thinking on Cillian and while he still had his tool moments I at least could understand. Cillian turned from a debauched man into a man who realizes that all the debauchery is only taking him away from what he really wants which is to make up with Edward and be a family and be happy like they were when boys. Loved this story the best and would have given this story 5 stars.

The last story was about Alaric who I still thought was a wimp but now realized he is a submissive. I have only read 1 other story about a submissive male (Natural Law by Joey W. Hill) and this was not quite up to that one but still quite good. Despite being submissive Alaric is very manly and sweet toward women and really got his heart crushed not only by the lady but by his friends for leaving him behind. I teared up in this one as well. A great story about knowing your strengths and weaknesses. I really liked how Determinata showed Alaric his worth by having him do things and not just saying it. I would give this story 4 stars.

While my focus was mainly on the males the women were good matches to their men with me liking the woman like I did the men with Stillness (Edward) being ok, Honesty (Cillian) being my favorite, and Determinata (Alaric) being the second favorite.

I was pleasantly surprised by this book and plan to check out the other Order of Solace book No Greater Pleasure. Ms. Hart also has another paranormal/fantasy title coming soon that I hope to read as well.

Quinn says

Megan Hart has written one of my all-time-favourite books in Broken, and on the strength of that book alone, has become one of my favourite authors. But as with most authors, she fares better in full-length novels than she does in novellas.

Pleasure and Purpose contains three connected novellas introducing the *Order of Solace*. Handmaidens in the Order of Solace are matched to patrons who seek their services to obtain absolute solace. Order of Solace handmaidens will serve their patrons in whatever way necessary to provide solace.

They are named for the traits that best reflect their natures and true calling, and believe that the granting of solace has a divine, spiritual outcome that will lead to the return of the Holy Family (at this point I should note that this is a fantasy novel, and not representative of any conventional religion).

Pleasure and Purpose contains the stories of handmaidens Stillness, Honesty and Determinata who are called separately to serve three childhood friends who have lost their way, and although each is a separate story taking place in chronological order, they are connected through the fractured friendship of the men and a past tragedy that wreaked havoc on the lives of two of them.

Although the stories are erotic (they contain BDSM, m/f/m and D/s - not all of which appeals to me), the characters are very well drawn and the stories are rich in emotion, something that sets this author apart.

While I will be reading the next book in this series as I believe it is a full-length novel, I would not recommend *Pleasure and Purpose* as the book to try for those who have not read this author. She can, and has, done much better. That said, I'm not a fan of BDSM so I may have rated it higher had that not been the case.

Kathryn says

Stillness, Honesty & Determinata. All Handmaidens. They are here to help their patrons find ultimate solace. Each handmaiden is precisely matched with her benefactor in order to reach this goal. What they don't realize is that they will find their solace, their womanhood within their service. Together in service, but traveling different paths Nessa, Erista & Mina they become, and finally understand why they are so purposefully matched.

I've made Megan Hart one of my "always will read" authors. I hope you do too.

notyourmonkey says

Dude. It's like the Valdemar or Pern books, but instead of ponies or dragons, the lucky few get *religious hookers*. It's like Valdemar and Kushiel had a love child!

Throw in an actual relationship among the dudes in the book, relatively interesting dudes at that, and the homosexual subtext that is not entirely ignored (albeit totally subsumed once everyone's appropriate Religious ~~Høøker~~ Solace-Giver shows up), and color me impressed. Enjoyed this way more than I thought I would.

Tracy74 says

This story was good and I enjoyed it. I liked that there were three stories in one. The only thing that kinda bothered me was the ending/abrupt ending of these stories. They have been "serving" their patrons for years and never have fallen in love, I understand the exception and I wanted them to fall in love w/ the men and rooted for them, BUT in my opinion it just happened too fast. I can't fall for a patron, then I Love You.

Anna says

Megan Hart delivers another enthralling, emotionally driven read. This one was hard to put down. *Pleasure and Purpose* is the first book in the Order of Solace series. Three beautifully written stories. This book is about three friends whose lives are turned around by three women of the Order of Solace. Not only are these stories about finding solace, but they are also about friendship, forgiveness, trust and love. I have to say I was absolutely blown away by this book, and I highly recommend it.

Amy C says

Set in a vague fantasy world, *Pleasure and Purpose* consists of three novellas. Each of them centered around a member of the Order of Solace. A place where women are trained to bring a person to complete solace. According to their religious beliefs, each time they bring a person to complete solace another arrow fills the quiver, bringing the Holy Family one step closer to returning to the land once again.

Pleasure and Purpose is based around three friends. For years they've been the best of boon companions, enjoying the sins of the flesh, indulging in drink and drugs, but then tragedy strikes and their lives are forever changed.

In the first novella, *Stillness* is sent to Edward. Guilt has been riding him for years since the night of the terrible accident. He hopes to find solace with her, and who better than the handmaiden called *Stillness* to still the guilt that has consumed him. This one was the hottest of the three. A little menage action in this one.

The second is *Honesty*. *Honesty* is requested by the Prince, Cillian. He has seen what the handmaiden *Stillness* did for his estranged friend Edward and wants that too. Because within him lies pain from the loss of his friend as well as the unfortunate event years ago. He is spoiled, and with *Honesty* she opens his eyes, causing him to be honest with himself and to see that his way of life isn't what he truly wants.

The handmaiden *Determinata* is requested by both Edward and Cillian for their lost friend Alaric. He wasn't directly affected by the event that took place years ago with Cillian and Edward, but indirectly, he's been affected. Now a woman has caused him to hit rock bottom, but with the help of one very determined handmaiden named *Determinata*, Alaric is soon on his way to recovery and acceptance of himself. You see Alaric is Submissive and Mina is a Dominant, and together they are perfect!

I loved the way this book was put together. Even though it was three novellas, it felt like one story with three happily ever afters. You can't get much better than that! I've read a few of Megan Hart's Spice books, and I find them to be extremely emotional, but *Pleasure and Purpose* did not have that intensity. Which was perfect because it allows you to enjoy the eroticism that fills nearly every page! The emotional level may be turned down in this one, but the heat level is near scorching.

I am very much looking forward to reading *No Greater Pleasure* next month!

Darcy says

This book is divided into 3 parts, each story is the focus of one of a group of 3 men who have been life long friends. Each one so very different in personality and how they view sex, yet each finds solace with a handmaiden, who themselves are each very different from each other, yet hold to their organizations values.

The concept of the handmaiden was interesting and different, one that I enjoyed learning more about.

I thought Edward and Stillness's story was great, it slowly introduced this world and yet gave great details about them both. Cillian and Honesty's story was very boring and blah for me. Which considering what we learned about Cillian I was surprised. Alaric and Mina's story was good too. They both seemed to fit each other and really got one another.

I look forward to the next book to spend more time in this world.
