



## End Game

*Vanessa Waltz*

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**The job was simple: Watch the girl. Don't let her do anything stupid.**

It only took her a couple months to do something stupid, and now my boss wants her dead.

It would be simple, except she makes me feel for the first time in months. I love tasting her, having my way with her, and she's gotten deep under my skin.

She's chained to my bed because I've decided that she's mine. I want her, but what I want doesn't matter to the Family. I'm a soldier. I've seen and done so many terrible things, and one more death won't matter. I have to do my duty.

I have to kill her. Even though it feels like I'm killing myself.

**Marisa**

I need to get out, but I can't leave without him.

I thought I could handle the mob. I thought I could control them.

Instead, they're controlling me. They sent him to watch over me. Joe DiFiore, a soldier in the Vittorio Family. He says he's here to protect me, but I know the truth. He'll kill me if I make one wrong move.

He's my judge, my executioner, but he's also my protector. It's sick, but I want him, and I'm falling hard for him. He says he just wants to play, but I should know better. Kissing him is like playing with fire, and I'm addicted. He was a spark that raged into an inferno.

Now the families are at war, and they both want me dead for what I've done.

He's my only chance... and I can't believe I'm falling in love with him.

**Author's note:** *This is a dark romance novel with a possessive alpha male over 80,000 words long. It is a standalone novel, the third in the **Vittorio Crime Family** series.*

## End Game Details

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Author : Vanessa Waltz

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## From Reader Review End Game for online ebook

### Mary says

Unexpected, chilling, sexy, keeps you guessing ... those are a few words that come to mind as I try to describe End Game. This is the first time I have read a Vanessa Waltz book and WOW am I glad I got a chance to read her work. Marisa is the peace keeper in the family so when her father suddenly dies and leaves her his company, skipping over her older brother, you know the sh\*t will be hitting the fan. Nathan is creepy with violent tendencies that have never been dealt with. As Marisa takes over the casino a whole new pile of issues appear in the form of the Mafia that her father had been working with to keep the casino afloat. All of this is a shock to Marisa as she tries to navigate these treacherous waters. Joe has been dead inside since his sister's murder. You sense a kinship between Marisa and Joe from the loss both have suffered but neither expected to be thrown together as Joe is charged with watching over Marisa for the mob. Their attraction is electric as they both find a connection they have been lacking that allows them to feel free ... whole. Just when you think you know what will happen, another mob family surfaces, Nathan gets creepier and well, Joe and Marisa can't keep their hands off each other. I was on the edge of my seat more than once.

I was provided an ARC copy for an honest review.

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### CoCoFierce says

End Game is a standalone novel and book 3 in the Vittorio Crime Family Series. This is a dark romance with very adult themes including erotica, bdsm, violence and abuse if you are a person who does not like to read about the above themes then this novel isn't for you. This is a full novel no cliffhanger and includes a HEA. Joe DiFiore is an ex-capo now soldier/enforcer for the Vittorio Crime Family. Every day feels like complete darkness for him. He is the walking dead, no hope, no reason to smile or live. Which makes him all the more dangerous. Joe is numb battling the demons surrounding his sister's death his only need for life is revenge until her.....

Marisa Toffoli has been taught that family is everything. Her father Dominic has put his life into the family business Worlds Casino. Double dealing and cheating his way to the top Dominic has found himself in business with some very unsavory characters involved in the mob. Through some very unforeseen circumstances Marisa, her siblings Nathan and Jessica find themselves in control of the business with Marisa being the primary stock holder. Little does she know that heavy is the head that wears the crown.

Marisa has a very colorful personality which is quite the opposite over her drab business persona. Growing up with a physically abusive brother and self-absorbed sister in her adult life Marisa still lives out her childhood. She has no friends or social life it's no wonder she lives so much in her head. Fuzzy sleepers and cartoons on Sunday morning make her smile until darkness in the form of mob enforcer Joe shows at her door step. On his last leg Joe has no choice but to take the job of guarding Marissa. Not only does Joe guard her body but he rules her heart and soul as well.

The chemistry between these two characters is palpable. There is no slow build up once these two interact it's like igniting a flame. Joe is attracted to Marissa but he doesn't know that once he has been with her once would never be enough. He is Alpha-Dom hotness and makes sure that Marissa knows he is boss. Clinging to each other in the need to feel these two embark on a world wind romance. Although Joe can be a jerk to Marissa at times when she really needs him he is there to help even if it costs his life. This story is a very dark romance but what I love is that the author focuses on the mob aspect of the story as well. It's a great balance between Joe the lover and Joe the enforcer. At about 46% of the book there is a twist and from there

the plot keeps thickening.

Marisa can be very frustrating especially the situation dealing with her brother but when it comes to Joe she is very much his equal. At times I wished Marisa would have put up some resistance she was a doormat. For someone who wasn't that sexual experienced she lets go of all inhibitions when it comes to Joe. Or maybe she just wants to feel something anything from the existence that is her life.

Quote from book: "All men are beautiful I'm the dark. It's only when the lights go on, that the superficial judgment's begin." I thought this quote was very poignant in the fact that once the lights come on all secrets are revealed and once they are there is no going back. Both Joe & Marisa have to learn to let go and trust each other. Being hurt and losing someone you love the first time is hard but can these two learn to love again? Through flashbacks of Marisa's childhood readers get more insight into the trauma she has experienced as a child. These flashbacks are very important to the story because through this trauma Marisa has to overcome a lot of demons some she has been battling all her life. She has to learn to lean on someone else and Joe has to learn to let go. What I love about Joe is that although he is a soldier we get to see the cracks in him. The characters were very well developed.

We do get to see characters like Vincent and Adriana from the first 2 Crime stories make an appearance in this book. I am advocating for Vincent to get another book!!! This is a very detailed and through story that will have you at times frustrated and hot because the sex scenes are so explicit. I thoroughly enjoyed this story and would recommend it. Please judge this book for yourself and not based on this one review.

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**Allison ♥?Will Never Conquer Her TBR♥? says**

**End Game**, book three in the Vittorio Crime Family series, is full of suspense, mystery, and heat.

Marisa's life is thrown into a tailspin when her father suddenly passes away, willing his casino to her, and essentially leaving out her two siblings. What she doesn't bank on is finding out the corruption buried deep within the casino...money's going out to bogus accounts. When she decides to stop payments on all accounts she isn't familiar with, the mafia comes a calling!

Joe Difiore, member of the Vittorio crime family (New York mafia) is assigned to Marisa...to get her to "understand" the error of her ways in cutting off ties. He's a shell of a man, dead inside after the murder of his sister. How can he protect the mafia family but fail his sister in the end? He doesn't think twice to kill, lives in isolation, doing job after job for the mob.

Joe is taken back by Marisa. She's different. It doesn't take long for him to realize she's as innocent as anyone here and her father has dumped a heap of shit in her lap upon his death. She's got a ruthless brother that'll do anything to gain control of the casino. He feels a new sense of awareness...a need to protect her. A light starts to shine in his otherwise dead soul.

\*\*\*\*\*

Joe was seriously HOT in End Game. The tortured soul brought to life by the damsel in distress. You can't help but feel sorry for them both. But can Joe toe the line between making his mafia family happy that he's doing his job but still protect her? He's never had to choose between loyalty to the mafia and a woman. Is he going soft?

Marisa is a pretty tough heroine, consider the hand she's been dealt (pun intended)...losing her dad, getting stuck with a casino full of corruption, a wicked brother that will stop at anything to see her fail. But there's something about Joe that makes her feel protected. She knows she should fear him...he's a murderer for fuck's sake, but there's a softness deep inside that settles her soul...

I'd call this series pretty "mafia-lite." There's a bit of violence, murder but I've read rougher mob books. Joe was seriously a pussycat deep down. He tries to keep Marisa at bay with harsh words and no promises for anything but sex and protection, but deep down he's just a *good guy*. I love a tough guy going soft for love. Swoon.

This series has a nice balance of it all...mystery, suspense, steam, and let's not forget the alpha hot mobsters...

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## **Dar says**

This book goes where lots don't in a mob setting, what happens with those sad feelings these guys must get? Joe is truly and honestly suffering and depressed as the book begins, and while he is dealing with it poorly, he is dealing with it. By the end of the book, we see how his fellow 'family' members weren't blind to what was going on, they were worried as well

Marisa had dealt with a lifetime of abuse at the hands of her brother. She dealt with it for the good of her family, but then it all falls apart on her, and she realizes her life was nothing that she thought it was. As her world crumbles, she discovers she has strength and resolve she never dreamed of

Roles reversed in their feelings, these two draw strength from each other to find a place they are both comfortable and together. I cheered for them every step of the way!

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## **Jos says**

5 Very Sexy and Very Suspenseful Stars!!!!

This is the 3rd book in The Vittorio Crime Family Series and it is absolutely sexy, hot and full of "edge of your seat" suspense. First, if you haven't read the first 2 books of this series, PLEASE do yourself a favor and READ them.... This series is scorching hot, between the men and their sexual appetites, YUMMY stuff, I kid you not!!!!

Hmmmm where to begin with Joe, oh gosh, he was so damn hot and sexy! He was truly fighting such sadness over the death of his sister when we first meet him and it broke my heart to see him completely broken. Marisa, she was sexy, feisty, oh so damn sweet and loving and my heart was breaking for her while she struggled with her feelings on their "arrangement" but oh as heartbreaking as it was to watch these 2 fight their feelings, in the end, it was so worth the all the angst I felt throughout their story:)

I am hooked on this series and I hope we get more, maybe a story on Jessica, wink, wink! Congrats Vanessa Waltz on a another great read:)

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## **Christy McCurry says**

This is the first book by this author I have read. Let me say  
Vanessa Waltz you now have a new fan !  
I found myself on the edge of my seat holding my breath reading this book.

Marisa's father the owner of a local casino passed away leaving her devastated and the new CEO of her fathers casino. Which brings trouble to her doorstep. Her brother who assumed being the oldest would of inherited the title is out to ruin her. She also discovers that her father whom she thought was running a legal business is involved with the New York Mafia.

Mafia made man / ex-capo Joe DiFiore is a walking time bomb. He is sexy, dangerous, but he has given up. That is until he is sent by the main Mafia man Jack Vittorio to watch over Marisa and is interest in the casino.

This turns into a no-strings attached relationship which soon becomes much more for Marisa despite Joe's warnings.

I highly recommend this book.

This is a amazing story and can be read as a standalone.

You can read Vincent Cesare and Adriana Baldino story in  
High Stakes ( Vittorio Crime Family #1)  
Blind Double (Vittorio Crime Family #2)

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### **Sarah says**

Loved this series the books seem to get better each time was nice to still have Vince and Adriana in this one now on to book 4

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### **Catherine Anderson says**

End Game has to be my favorite book so far in the series about the Vittorio Crime Family. You don't have to read the other books in the series to appreciate the story line but I would recommend reading those too because otherwise you miss out on some great characters and stories. For those of us that started at the beginning, you get to see a bit of Vince and Ade again too—even though I am not always a fan of Vince in this book.

I love a book that gets me from the very beginning and this one did it for me – from the first page I did not want to put this one down. Joe is such a great lead, so sexy and there is sweetness hidden there too. I really liked Marisa and wanted to protect her from the very beginning. The sex between these two is off the charts! If you are looking for a sexy hot steamy read – this is it!

There was so much action packed into this story that really grabs you and keeps you on the edge of your seat. I had to make myself put the book down and go to bed, but got up early for work the next morning just so I could read a bit more. I hope there is another book in this series – I would be especially excited to see one about Marisa's little sister and her HEA.

Thank you Vanessa for letting me read an ARC in exchange for an honest review—I had so much fun reading this one!

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### **Valentina "TinchyB" says**

4.5 HOT STARS!

Arc provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.  
All opinions are just mine and I'm not paid for this review!

First,for those who don't know me by now,I just love mafia novels.  
They are my favorite!  
I love how made men are protective,ruthless and all alpha,  
and if there is romance,too...we have a homerun!



This is a story about Marisa and Joe. I really loved them both!  
There are so much novels with damsel in distress heroines out there, and I'm sick and tired of them.  
So this book came as a nice change.

Marisa and Joe meet at her father's funeral.  
He's been working with Joe's boss, the head of mafia family.  
Marisa inherited father's business, and Joe was sent to do a job,  
to make her wash mafia dirty money as her father did.  
Both of characters are well written.  
I just love how they worked together.  
The chemistry between these two is palpable.  
And those sexy scenes...

Joe is alpha in every meaning of the word.  
He's dominant, hot and sweet in the edges.  
Yes, he has some troubled past, but so does Marisa,  
and that is something what bonds them even more.

This was great read for me.  
Looking forward to another one from this author!

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**Vanessa Waltz says**

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**Tiffany Silver says**

Loved this stand-alone book in the Vittorio crime family series. Loved getting the Vince cameos.

You can tell this author is really growing as a story teller. I've read all her other books and loved them as well.... But there was something a little different about this one. More. More smooth flowing imagery.

I really enjoyed Marisa and Joe's story. Just as intense as the others books in the series. Lots of drama, passion, and action. Flowed well and keeps you turning the pages.

Something I enjoyed was Joe's pov... Alpha, not over the top, seems genuine. Not like a woman writing what she thinks a man is thinking.

I also like that Vanessa isn't afraid to write the raw gritty moments... She deals with depression in this novel, which she executed really well. You feel it without being consumed with it. She writes such evil bad guys... That Nathan! Ew.

I also would love another in this series... About Jessica who I'm sure is dealing with some shit. Maybe send her to Canada? To their allies?

Bottom line, this is another great mob story.

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## **Juany says**

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.

4.5 stars for this Mafia gem!

I was thrilled to get the chance to read Waltz's third book in the Vittorio Crime Family series. Having read and loved High Stakes and Double Blind, I was chomping at the bit to start Joe and Marisa's story.

Waltz definitely does not disappoint! This book had me on the edge of my seat the whole time! Waltz paints such a clear picture on the mental and emotional instability that Joe is experiencing, that there were times I thought he'd really hurt Marisa. There's nothing better than an unpredictable story that has you guessing the whole time!

This book is distinctly darker than the previous ones. Joe is a scary guy. Unlike other gangsters I've read about, Joe can't really separate his mafia persona from his private one. He struggles with a lot of demons and is trying hard to be the man Marisa deserves.

I loved how Marisa was able to get in his heart and bring him back to life. The supporting characters were just as important to this story. Wait till you meet Nathan, Marisa's evil brother! Overall, very good book! I hope Waltz will give us more on this crime family. Carmine is still in jail so I'm hoping for more of that other crazy guy.

Although it's the third book in the series, End Game can be read as a standalone. I'd still recommend reading the first two books first though, since there are recurring characters in this one.

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## **Katie says**

**\*\*4.5 INTENSE STARS\*\***

From the moment I read the blurb about the book, I knew I would love this book. And boy, did I love it. I

read it from cover to cover in one sitting. I could NOT tear myself away from this book!

Let's start with the two main characters- **Marisa and Joe**

Loved these two. Seriously. Marisa was a strong, smart and amazing heroine and I was cheering for her the ENTIRE book. Normally, I grow bored with heroines and their easily broken spirits, but NOT Marisa. What I loved the most about her? The fact that no matter what was going on in the book, family was very important. Probably the reason why she and Joe got along so well.

And Joe, oh man...Joe...sexy and dangerous. Just how I like my alpha men! Joe is still reeling from a recent death in the family when he meets Marisa. Both of them connect through their loneliness and grief. Marisa slowly cracks the shell that is Mr. "I'm a big Mafia man who shows no emotions" Joe and it was done in such a great way. The walls built up around Joe *slowly* came down as Marisa got to know him more and more. This to me resonated a very realistic portrayal of how people in real life slowly let their guard down. I can't stand books where the dangerous alpha meets the beautiful heroine and BOOM- he would give his life for her after the first kiss and he leaves behind his entire life for her after one night of sex. It's just not realistic. The characters in this book remained true to themselves to the end and I LOVED it. They found a way to love each other while still maintaining who they were as people. It's the way love should be.

So let's cut to the chase because I REALLY don't want to give much away in this book...you will thank me for this after reading it!!

**Read this book if you:**

- LOVE Mafia romance books
- LOVE romance books with a bit of action in them
- LOVE sexy alpha men
- LOVE strong heroines
- LOVE steamy sex scenes
- LOVE books that you can't put down.

Do I recommend this book?

YES!!!!

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**Justine Wach says**

Read the full review here: <http://beautyandbookenthusiast.blogspot...>

You got Vincent and Adriana being all serious and matured because the hardship of their life in the first two books of the series but you got teaser Joe and cheerful Marisa in this book. This book is heavier than other books. It is loaded with information and story and it has a very strong plot. It's not focus on the couple themselves, it is about much more. They have the wars still going on even Carmine in the prison and they have feds bothering them and I really like how feds able to scare them and make them give up the casinos because I start to get a feeling of they won't get captured or scared about anything. They are still human and they will die when they got shot and they are actually freak out about prison. How normal and I like it. There is no such thing as powerful as you committed a crime without having risks of getting into a trouble. This is

basically so relevant and I like it, again.

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## **Abby McCarthy says**

Abby's 4.5 star review:

Vanessa just reminded me about one of the things that I love about blogging. I have never heard of her before and I received an email requesting a review. It sounded like something I would like so I said sure. I feel like I discovered some hidden gem. Something so cool, and now I get to be apart of shouting about the coolness of it. That's what this book is, really flippin cool.

What makes it cool??

Alpha male - Check

Fast pace that's written well- Check

Uniqueness-Check

Sexiness- Double Check

Violence-Yep that too.

Unicorns and rainbows- Nope

Predictability-Definitely not

Here is what I loved- This book has enough danger and sexiness to keep you intrigued but it's not so dark that I hate the characters. In fact I found her characters to be very realistic and very sexy. Marissa is even a little quirky with her Rhino slippers and lover on all things Disney. Joe he is all things bad-ass and I loved him.

This is the first book I have read of Vanessa Waltz, but it certainly won't be the last. Thank you for entertaining me, reminding me why I love to blog, and being a kick-ass writer!

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