



Once Upon a Dare

Jennifer Bonds

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Advertising guru Olivia Masterson is all work and no play. But on the eve of earning her dream promotion, her best friend dares her to drop her ice queen façade for one night and seduce a sexy stranger. Olivia's worked her ass off to get where she is—why the hell not?

Cole Bennett never thought he'd run into his feisty one-night stand at the office, furious that he stole her promotion. No matter how hard she tries to ice him out, they can't seem to keep their hands to themselves...or their clothes on.

Olivia's talented—maybe even more than Cole—so when his dropped hints to the boss net her a promotion of her own, he's ready to celebrate...until she accuses him of fueling office rumors that she slept her way to the top. She wants to earn her own way? Fine. So what the hell does a guy have to do to permanently melt an ice queen?

Once Upon a Dare Details

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From Reader Review Once Upon a Dare for online ebook

???s Xamante de los spoilersX says

I couldn't connect with the story, I think the hero had some old fashioned (sexist/misogynist) views about women.

Mandi Schreiner says

Wasn't a huge fan of the hero in this one. He came across condescending. Review to come

Danielle says

I love coming across debut authors and when they can tell a story like they've been writing for years? Even better! And let me tell you, Jennifer Bonds did not disappoint with her Brazen debut. Once Upon a Dare is quick, steamy, and has everything a forbidden office romance should have.

Olivia has been working really hard to get promoted to partner and hasn't had a date in years so when her BFF dares her to let go of the Ice Queen facade for one night and have smoking hot sex with a stranger, she begrudgingly accepts the challenge.

The last thing Cole expects on his first night in New York is to be seduced by the sexiest woman in the bar... But what guy would turn that offer down, am I right?! Surprisingly she bolts during the middle of the night and he's upset that he didn't get her number.

Well imagine both of their surprises when they show up for work and find out that Cole was given the promotion that Olivia worked so hard for. What follows is tons of bickering, sexual tension, and forbidden kisses in the office.

Once Upon a Dare would have easily been a five star read for me if not for the fact that Olivia's immaturity tended to get on my nerves. She was such a bitch to Cole most of the time, and while some of it was warranted, it definitely didn't endear her to me. Cole, on the other hand, was absolutely perfect!

Overall, it was a great read that held my attention and left me wanting to read future books by Jennifer Bonds (perhaps Chloe will find her HEA?). If you're looking for a steamy forbidden office romance then you should definitely check out Once Upon a Dare.

*ARC kindly provided through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Kim Reads (Read Your Writes Book Reviews) says

Reviewed for Read Your Writes Book Reviews

by Kim

For the past five years, Olivia Masterson has been working her butt off at Pritchard and Associates. She has been so focused on proving that she's more than just a pretty face that she has gained the reputation of being the "Ice Queen". Rumor has it that Olivia is finally going to make partner. In order to celebrate the upcoming event, she and her friend Chloe go out to celebrate. Chloe ends up daring Olivia to pick up a guy in the bar and have a sexual escapade with him. After a wonderful mind blowing night, Olivia sneaks out, never to see the guy again.

To her surprise, not only does Olivia not get the job, but she loses it to Cole Bennett, the man she had the one night stand with. Now to be fair, the two had never met each other and Cole had no idea Olivia even wanted the job. But Olivia blamed him all the same for taking her job.

Set in the competitive world of advertising with the forbidden office romance as the trope, Once Upon a Dare was a hot and fun read. I really liked Jennifer Bonds' writing style. There's no question I will read her again. I wanted to turn the page to see what was going to happen next. Olivia was so hot and cold. "I want you. I don't want you." The back and forth was really irritating. Once Olivia got herself together, the book got better for me. Cole is actually the kind of guy I usually fall for, but surprisingly, I didn't fall in love with him. He's been hurt by love before and has his sweet, tender moments, with a little cockiness included in the mix. The two actually are really good together. I'm looking forward to seeing what Jennifer has in store for this series.

Received a copy from Entangled Publishing for an honest and unbiased opinion.

Rating: 3.5

Veronica of V's Reads says

Olivia Michaelson thinks she's getting a promotion at her ad agency, and goes out for a drink with her bestie Chloe to celebrate. While there, Chloe dares Olivia to hit on a man, and have her first one night stand evah...

Cole Bennett has just returned to NYC to take a partnership at an ad agency. He's out for a drink, and captivated by the blonde goddess at a nearby table, and he's not averse to flirting when she approaches him. Nor is he going to turn down her very forward request...

Cue the hot sex, and early Saturday walk of shame.

Then, cue the Monday morning meeting where Olivia meets the newest partner in her firm, Cole Bennett.

To say Olivia is shattered would be accurate. She's always kept pleasure FAR away from business, and she's just banged her new boss...

Okay, it's awkward, but hot. Olivia and Cole just fit each other sexually. Working together poses the expected difficulties, especially because Olivia is determined to make partner on her merit, not her back.

Cole and Olivia are assigned a joint project to land a multi-million dollar project, and the chemistry between them cannot be contained. They adopt a "no-strings" strategy, which goes to heck the second Cole catches

Olivia out on a blind date....

The tension is great, and the resolution is HEA, but the middle is a break-up-to-make-up, which was well done. This is an entertaining, sexy, quick read. I received a copy of this book via NetGalley.

Sheila says

I was fortunate to receive an ARC of this from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. It is a romance novel written to perfection, all other romances could be held to the standards of this one. It's my first book by Jennifer Bonds but it won't be the last.

Olivia is a professional, career-driven woman who puts work first and is so serious all the time that she's known around the office as an Ice Queen. Her friend Chloe tries to get her to loosen up by daring her to pick up a handsome stranger at a bar for some no strings attached, one night stand action. Olivia doesn't want to fail the dare so she does.

Cole has an extensive history of one night flings and is more than willing to spend that night having crazy sex with Olivia, who he finds extraordinarily beautiful.

They have an amazing night of primal and intense sex and the whole time they both notice that there's something between them. They have a chemistry that can't be ignored. Even so, Olivia knows that she can't invest anything more than this one night with him. She'll enjoy this night, then she has to prepare to dedicate herself even more to her work because of a huge promotion. to partner that she's certain will be announced on Monday.

Cole, on the other hand, is thinking that he might want to get her number and hook up again. The sexual attraction is too much to forget about and he wants to experience this again. He wakes up disappointed to find out that Olivia left before he woke without leaving so much as a goodbye note.

Monday morning all hell breaks loose inside the minds of them both when it becomes apparent that not only did Olivia not get the anticipated promotion, but Cole had been hired specifically for that partnership instead! So begins an office battle of the ages between these two, fueled by the lust and passion they can't deny for one another no matter how hard they may try.

I won't spoil the story, read it yourself and enjoy the witty and humorous banter between them as well as all the steamy scenes when they just can't hold in their carnal attraction to one another.

No matter how much neither one of them want feelings to get involved, it's inevitable that they will. Feelings cause complications and make a person vulnerable to being hurt. Their relationship is a roller coaster of awesome purely physical times rushing down to the realization that it isn't just sex anymore, which leads to hiding their feelings from one another in order to not give that other person power.

Their journey is rough but love really does win out in the end. It touched my heart towards the very end when Cole thought to himself, "This was what it was all about- the quiet moments with the one you loved. It had taken him a while, thirty-four years to be exact, but he finally understood." That line made all the angst and hurt throughout the book worth it.

Michelle says

[image error]

Maria Rose says

This sexy office romance is the story of Olivia and Cole. Following a friend's dare, Olivia discovers that the man who rocked her world one night is the same man she's going to be working with at her advertising agency. In fact, he got the position she had been expecting to be promoted to! There's no doubt there is chemistry between them but Olivia doesn't want to compromise her hard earned position by fooling around with the boss. Can they find a way to be together against the odds?

I really liked how this story started. I felt that the chemistry between Olivia and Cole was sizzling and there is no doubt that their scenes together are steamy and well written. I enjoyed the advertising agency plot and the way that unfolded. What I felt was lacking was a build up of sexual tension. There's lots of sex, and it's good sex, but the story would have been better for me if there had been (and I can't believe I'm going to say this) less sex and more teasing/tension to build up to their scenes. Olivia's character was interesting as a woman who has worked hard to get to the upper echelon's of the advertising business and it's understandable that she's upset with Cole getting the position she's worked for and expected. Sometimes I felt that she was overly emotional and her reactions somewhat extreme (particularly near the end) but having never been in that position I don't know how I would have reacted. Cole is strong, charismatic and good at his job, something Olivia eventually respects and appreciates. They play off each other well in the boardroom and the bedroom and felt like an equal match.

Overall I enjoyed the story and found it to be an entertaining read. I look forward to more from this author.
3.5 stars.

Note: a copy of this story was provided by the publisher via NetGalley for review.

Lana ✨Dirty Girl Romance✨ says

3.5 Stars

I kind of hate you sometimes."

"If that's code for 'I want to fuck you until I can't walk straight', then I kind of hate you, too."

If you're looking for a light and easy read with a super sexy office romance, looks like you've found your next book. What a fantastic debut novel from Jennifer Bonds. I never know what I'm going into with a new to me author, but in the case here I was very pleasantly surprised.

Advertising guru Olivia Masterson is all work and no play.

Ain't that the truth. The woman is as straitlaced as they come. The previous pageant queen has spent her entire career proving her worth and that it's not her looks that got her the job. She lives and breathes her job. Known in the office as the ice queen, she doesn't have time for the distractions of the male variety. But a girl's got needs. So when her best friend issues her a dare to sleep with a stranger from the bar, she decides to go for it. Specifically since the super sexy stranger at the bar has been eyeing her.

Cole Bennett is back in New York for a new job. But when a blonde beauty that he's had his eyes on approaches him with an enticing offer, who is he to resist? He's only a man.

When I see something I want, I find a way to make it mine. And I'll be damned if I'm going to share.

Unfortunately, what starts and supposed to end as just a sizzling one night stand, turns into something more. When Olivia sneaks out of Cole's hotel room at night only to bump into him at her office the next day, she's shocked. She's even more shocked when she realizes that he also got the promotion that she's been fighting to prove herself for months for. Now they have fireworks between them of the not so sexual variety. But that's not to say that the super hot chemistry they seem to share disappears. If anything it just burns even hotter.

A fucking dare, huh?

Sweetheart, it may have started that way, but in case you haven't noticed, we can't be in the same room without ripping each other's clothes off, so why keep fighting it?"

Jennifer Bonds certainly knows how to write one smoking hot sex scenes. Cole and Olivia definitely burn up the pages together. They have this hate-lust thing going on and it's absolutely delicious.

She was smart and sexy, the kind of woman you couldn't let go of once you'd had a taste. He was only human, for fuck's sake, and they had unfinished business.

Olivia is sassy and even a bit of a ball-buster, which I liked. She definitely gives as good as she gets. Though at certain parts I found her to be a little exasperating with how hard she was on Cole.

This was a quick and steamy afternoon read that I highly enjoyed. The ending was a little cheesetastic, but fitting for the story. I'm definitely looking forward to more from this author.

ARC courtesy of publisher in exchange for an honest review

For more reviews visit

Nicola says

If you're partial to an easy-read steamy office romance *Once Upon a Dare* is that.

When Olivia Masterson's best-friend dares her to have some fun before she gets her big promotion the following day, she does exactly that and proceeds to have a one-night-sex-filled-stand with Cole Bennett. He's not particularly happy when he wakes up to find she's fled, but then again she's not particularly happy when she discovers he's the new partner for the company she works for... and her new boss.

Jennifer Bonds has brought her readers a couple with a scorching chemistry. And despite Olivia's reticence to replay their night of sexy shenanigans, her resistance is futile because Cole has a bit of a dirty mouth and they can't keep their hands off one another. Both likeable, he's sexy and a sweetheart and she's a strong, sassy lady and with an engaging story accompanying the hotter content, it brought banter, humour and fight and was an enjoyable read.

“...I still intend to be very hands-on.”

“Yes. I believe we already established that fact.”

Whilst the ending was a little cheesy for my liking, I am looking forward to reading more from Jennifer Bonds and seeing where she takes this series. 3.5 stars.

Copy received courtesy of Entangled Publishing via NetGalley for an honest and unbiased opinion.

[~Ami~]♥Sexy Dexy♥ says

4 stars

I know I've got a good book when I tried to fit in a few pages here and there around RL. While I did enjoy the banter and hot sex I didn't think either MCs stood out as memorable. Also the end: cringeworthy!

Following so many unfinished books lately this was perfect for me. It was fun sexy and for a debut the writing was engaging. Recommend if you are looking for a quick smutty brazen title with office romance.

ARC provided by the Publisher

Release date: 7th April 2015

Claire Robinson says

3.5 - "I knew you'd be a screamer." Stars!

I really enjoyed this easy going, entertaining romance from Jennifer Bonds. Set in the world of advertising the author offered a refreshing take on the romance genre. The first novel in the *Risky Business* series, and the first book I have read by this author ticked most of the boxes in relation to my sexy romance requirements.

She knew what she was doing in the boardroom and the bedroom.

I loved the premise of this one, a dare that results in a one night stand that turns into Olivia Masterson's worst nightmare. Cole was the perfect guy for her on every level, in the bedroom, on the boardroom table, and especially in the office environment once he joins Pritchard and Associates, and essentially takes the partnership she was expecting for herself.

The strength of character that they both displayed through the story gave really great push and pull between them, Olivia was confident without being cocky, and Cole was cocky without being arrogant. The sexy times were hot, original and well spaced through the book; they kept the pace steady and the story moving.

A great start, I am looking forward to seeing where Jennifer takes the *Risky Business* series going forward, if the *Once Upon a Dare* is anything to go by, future books are likely to be well worth the wait!

”I. Dare. You.”

ARC generously provided via Entangled, in exchange for the above honest review.

◆*Arianna◆* says

3 Stars!!

Olivia is a 28 years old professional career woman who tried to prove all her life that she's more than a pretty face. She's hard working, putting work first before anything else, even her personal life. Known as "Ice Queen" around the office, Olivia is determined to become partner before her thirtieth birthday. Needless to say she's not interested in dating. All she wants is to reach her goal. But one night, her friend Chloe trying to make Olivia to loosen up a little dares her to pick up a stranger in a bar and to have an one-night-stand with him.

Cole is back in New York for a new job. It's his first night in the big city so he's determined to be on his best behavior. But when he sees the gorgeous blonde woman at the bar all he wants is to get her into his bed. Burned in the past, he doesn't fantasizes about a happily-ever-after, only wanting one hot night.

“When I see something I want, I find a way to make it mine. And I'll be damned if I'm going to share.”

For Olivia is lust at first sight. From the moments her eyes laid on Cole she knew he's the guy for her. The man is gorgeous and he's perfect for what she needs.

What was supposed to be a hot one night stand becomes more the next Monday when Olivia and Cole meet again. Unfortunately for Olivia, Cole is the new partner at the firm. Obviously she's shocked and all she wants now is to stay away from him. Too bad Cole has other plans. He wants more hot nights with Olivia and if he's lucky enough some hot days as well.

Olivia and Cole try in vain to stay away from each other, trying to deny the sizzling chemistry between them. But when the attraction between them is off the charts they don't stand a chance.

**“A fucking dare, huh?” The smile that twisted his lips was anything but pleased.
“Sweetheart, it may have started that way, but in case you haven’t noticed, we can’t be in the same room without ripping each other’s clothes off, so why keep fighting it?”**

If you’re looking for a light and easy to read novel, “Once Upon a Dare” might be what you’re looking for. The story was good enough for me, but nothing was spectacular. This was my third or fourth book with an office romance so I knew what to expect. I’m not really a fan of them , since I find them very predictable. Unfortunately this one was exactly that. Anyway...It was what I wanted, something sexy, smutty and easy to read.

Both main characters were just ok for me. Nothing remarkable. While I really liked Cole, I found Olivia’s character exasperating. She’s one of the most annoying heroine ever. I swear! My problem with her character is the fact that she’s too defensive for my liking. She accuses Cole stealing her job, when the poor man didn’t have any idea she wanted his job. Duhh! I lost count how many times i wanted to slap her. She’s 28 years old, but many times acted like she’s 16. I love an independent woman, but she was way too feminist for me. The only thing I liked about her is the fact she’s determined and hardworking.

I enjoyed the bickering between Olivia and Cole and I found the sexual tension and the chemistry between them well done. The ending was nice enough, but very, very cheesy.

Overall, a nice read!

**“You know... “I kind of hate you sometimes.”
“If that’s code for ‘I want to fuck you until I can’t walk straight’, then I kind of hate you, too.”**

Alison says

3.5 stars

Really easy to read I got hooked straight away but about 80% in really started loose interested as the heroine was getting on my nerves.

Janey says

ARC generously provided by entangled publishing in exchange for an honest review..

3.5 I don't get out much stars

Crowned Ice Queen of Pritchard and Associates ad agency, Olivia Masterson finds herself in a NY bar contemplating her imminent promotion to partner. She's destined to get it, she's worked her arse off to get it, she is that archetypal dull girl after all.

So in complete contrast to her usual behaviour, she is challenged by her BF to launch her inhibitions and enjoy a one night stand.

Cole Bennett was fresh home from a stint in London, and about to walk into a prized position. Contemplating his new adventure in a bar, he spots Olivia across his martini and commences an eyeball conversation.

Needless to say, Dirty Martini's were the order of the day, and the two commence the one night two step.

What neither of them expected was to see each other at their workplace the next morning. What Olivia didn't expect, was to be pipped at the post for her Partner status by one carnal Cole.

This was my first read by this author, and I can say she certainly conjured up a great start to this new series. I certainly engaged with the characters, whilst they romped their way through this story.

Olivia was able to relax and let herself go with Cole, having been a stalwart throughout her working life. But she didn't expect any hand outs, or leg ups, and was constantly concerned about her perception of her colleagues.

Cole was smitten, having been an illusive hustler in the relationship department. He had been blindsided by Olivia, and it was great to watch him melt....until the end...which was a tad gooey for my palate.
