

Mistaken Seduction? Audra Walker has no clue when she sets out to redeem her Bad Girl status that she'll end up in the middle of an identity theft ring, chased by the bad guy and falling in bed, and in love, with a hot cop. In the end, she learns what family really is, who she really is, and that sometimes, good boys are the best bet.

Excerpt of DOUBLE DARE
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May 2007
Harlequin Blaze #324
ISBN 978-0-373-79328-0

The waitress returned with his beer. Jesse reached for his wallet when a slim hand pressed against his forearm.

"Let me get that for you."

Jesse's brain, at least the independent gentlemanly part, shut down. Apparently his vocal cords did too, because he couldn't say a word. All he could do was stare.

Temptation and pure sin, wrapped in black leather. The still functioning portion of Jesse's brain cataloged the woman's features. Huge doe eyes with a thick fringe of lashes dominated a narrow face. Shiny red lips looked like she'd just eaten something juicy, tempting him to lean forward for a taste. Her short hair was jet black, the spiky ends tipped with magenta. Her body was a teenage boy's wet dream, all curves and sleek lines.

But it was her voice that had him in a trance. It was made for sex. The husky lisp brought to mind talking dirty in the dark. And he could tell in that one look, she definitely knew how to talk dirty.

The waitress snickered as she left and Jesse pulled himself together.

"Thanks for the offer, but I can handle paying for my own drink." He wished he didn't sound like he had a stick up his ass, but that didn't appear to be happening.

A slow, wicked smile curved those sleek red lips and she leaned in close to whisper, "You look like a man who could handle just about anything."

She waited a beat, long enough for the image of just exactly how he'd like to handle her to fully form in his mind, then she leaned back and winked. "As for the drink, call it a welcome gesture. I haven't seen you in here before."

"You're here a lot, huh?" Jesse mentally groaned. Could

he be any wittier? Of course she was here a lot, she obviously hadn't stumbled in on her way from a church social. For a computer geek like himself, she was the ultimate fantasy. Sexy as hell, and twice as aggressive. Not that Jesse didn't know how to please a woman in bed, he was damned good at it. But he was used to real women, flesh and blood. Not sexual goddesses like the one standing in front of him. Close enough to touch, but totally out of reach.

"Actually I haven't been in here in, like, forever. But..." She looked left, then right, then whispered, "Shhh, don't tell anyone or it'd ruin a great pickup line."

Jesse laughed with her, and just like that, she was within reach. He relaxed and lifted his beer to toast her.

"It'll be our little secret," he promised. "I'm Jesse."

"Audra," she said as she took his hand.

Damn. Jesse's body, all the vital parts, leaped to attention as sexual awareness surged through him at the touch of her hand in his. A hand that felt oddly delicate for a woman with such a powerful presence.

Which was closer to the real woman—the hot, sexy babe she appeared to be, or the soft, gentle woman both her fragile hand and her easy humor suggested? Unable to leave a puzzle unsolved, he knew his mind wouldn't rest until he'd figured her out. To say nothing of everything his *body* wanted to learn about her.

"The least I can do is buy you a drink in return," Jesse offered.

Her brown eyes lit up, then dimmed as her gaze slid away. "I'd love that, but I'm actually meeting someone else tonight. Blind date, of a sort, you know?"

Maybe it was ego, but he swore the regret in her voice was genuine.

"You don't sound excited."

"Hardly," she laughed. She got a naughty look in her eye, shot a glance over her shoulder, then leaned close. "But you can help me."

"How?"

"A little fun, kind of like that spoonful of sugar that helps the medicine go down."

Before Jesse could laugh, she'd stepped close. So close only a bare inch separated her breasts from his forearm. Seated as he was on the stool, they were eye to eye. He automatically shifted so his hand was on her hip and she winked her approval.

Then she kissed him and blew his mind.

It started as a soft brush of her lips over his, just a whisper. Her breath mingled with his a moment as their eyes met, then something wild burned in hers before the thick fringe

of lashes covered them. With a quick intake of breath, she slid her tongue along his lower lip. The act was so sensual in its simplicity, so seductive in its delicious temptation, Jesse almost whimpered.

Before he could respond, she stepped back and winked. "Nice to meet you, Jesse. I'll see you later, maybe."