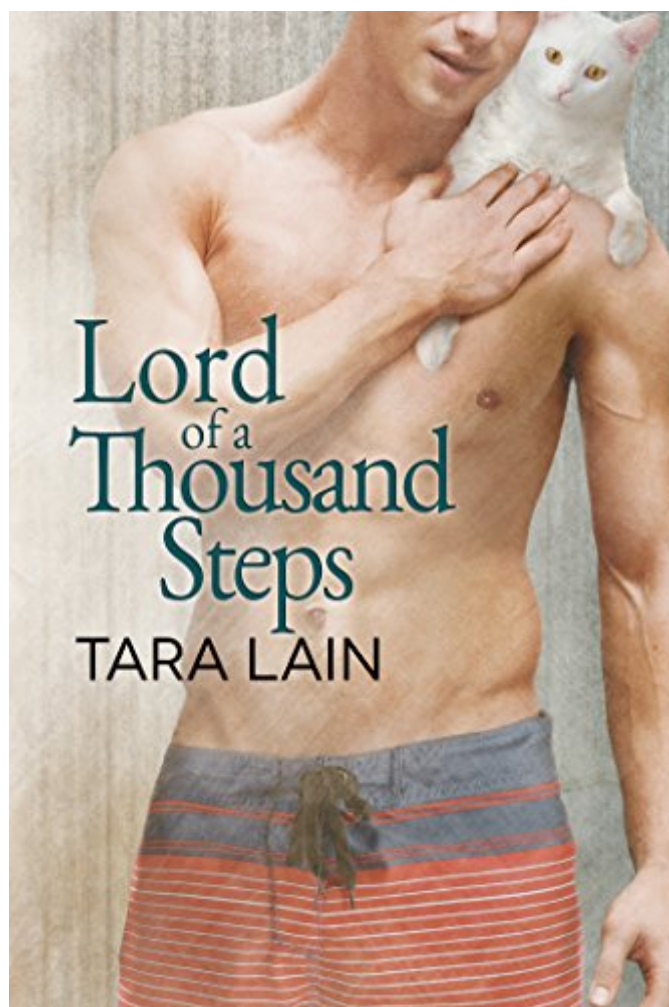


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Lord Of A Thousand Steps (Love In Laguna Book 4)



Synopsis

A Love in Laguna Novel To architecture student Ian Carney, family means everything. Taken in by his brother, Jim, when his father threw him out at eighteen for being gay, Ian yearns to create his own family with his boyfriend, Rico. But Rico's in Mexico caring for a sick father, Ian hasn't had sex in a month and a half, and his gorgeous boss, Braden Lord, CEO of the architectural firm Ian interns for, is looking better and better. Braden's life is chaos. Just out of the closet and going through an ugly divorce from his wife of fifteen years who's trying to take custody of his two children, he desperately resolves not to succumb to a completely inappropriate attraction to Ian—even though his kids adore both the man and his crazy cat. When Rico proves to be a snake in the grass and Ian exercises his powers of seduction, what starts as a fling turns into real life real fast. Can Ian give up his romantic dreams for an old guy who didn't come out until he carried a mountain of baggage? It'll only take a thousand steps.

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Customer Reviews

Lord of a Thousand Steps is a nice addition to this series. This one focuses on Ian, brother to Jim (of the Jim and Ken pairing). Ian is now 21, with his boyfriend of 3 years, a student at USC and an intern at an architect firm. Braden has met success after success in his professional life.

Unfortunately he has some problems with his personal one. He's coming out of a failed marriage, has kids, and of all things is attracted to his intern, Ian. Ian and Braden had a lot of hits against their relationship: Their age difference, family pressure, and then the work environment where Braden is Ian's boss. So the story takes us through all those situations. Along the way we get a deeper look at Jim and Ken and that part was well done. There was just enough to bring us back in touch without taking anything away from the main couple. This one didn't hit me as romance. Braden was too busy figuring out his personal life and couldn't commit. I didn't see him do one romantic thing for Ian. Every time they were together it was around other people. When alone it was guarded or rushed, nothing deep or lasting. Now Ian did step out and be there for Braden and his family, helping when he wasn't asked. Of the two Ian was the one more experienced in relationships yet he was angling for a humping buddy. Somehow from that they declare their love for each other. Some problems with repeated phrases: Sucking wind. Sucking a breath. 'A little intake of air moved across the whole group.' Yeah, I kept seeing variations of those words. Giggling during sex which is by grown men. I can see it when tickled. . . Mireille's 'airs' were a lot more believable because some little girls are that smart and precocious

I adored Ian Carney when I met him in Knave of Broken Hearts, book #2 in this series. So I was thrilled beyond measure to get his story and for him to get his HEA. Ian didn't disappoint! I couldn't have asked for a better story for Ian. Ian has been living with his brother, Jim, since he was 18 and their father kicked him out because he came out. Ian is wise beyond his years but he wants a family and the unconditional love he didn't get from his family. The desire for that enabled me to see his vulnerable side. He's smart and a gifted architecture student. And even though he's been in a relationship for 3 years - one he thought was going to last - he finds himself attracted to his boss, Braden Lord. Braden Lord - my goodness! He came with so much baggage. He's only recently come out and is currently enduring a nasty divorce. Yes, that's right. He's spent the last 15 years trying to convince himself he wasn't really gay. He has little experience, obviously, in gay relationships. And to complicate things even more, he has 2 children. But does that have to mean complications? I loved Ian and Braden together! They fit perfectly despite the age difference and baggage on both sides. And I adored Braden's kids. Mireille was adorably precocious, so grown-up in her mannerisms and speech. Jo-Jo was mature but also acted like a boy of 14. I appreciate when an

author incorporates kids in a story line in a way that adds depth and Lain delivered BIG. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Anderson, Ian's cat. He has few lines in the dialog *wink* but played an integral role in the story. One thing I admire about this series is Lain's inclusion of people who both accept and judge homosexuality. It's realistic and genuine and adds to the story overall.

With every new addition to the Love in Laguna series, I'm sure I've met my new favourite couple, and Lord of A Thousand Steps is no exception. Having been introduced to Ian as a scared teenager, rejected by his parents and cowering outside his brother Jim's door in Knave of Broken Hearts, I was so excited to see him step into the spotlight and living up to his glowing potential. When his internship brings him to the attention of Braden Lord, CEO of the company, they quickly forge a friendship that left me twitching for both of them to at least acknowledge the brewing attraction. With both men preoccupied, Ian by his boyfriend's long absence and Braden by his divorce and custody battle, the chemistry between these two men simmers unspoken between them, even as it escalates to proportions they simply cannot ignore. I really felt for Braden being so conflicted about his attraction to Ian, who is not only his employee but notably younger than him. Between that and having to deal with the venom his ex, Taylor, was spewing, it was easy to understand how carefully he took the first steps towards exploring his sexuality. As much as I could empathize with Braden, however, I still have that soft spot for Ian, who has such a good heart and so much blind faith in his boyfriend that when he shows such naivety while dealing with Rico it frustrated me enough that I was clutching my forehead. Regardless of the imminent disaster I could see coming, it didn't lessen the impact of his gut wrenching devastation when the truth surfaces, or prepare me for how close I came to cheering out loud when he took the first step to combat his heartbreak.

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