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JUNE 2005

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## RED-HOT READ

From the steamy new novel *To the Edge*, by Cindy Gerard...

# Risking It All on Lust

**Studly bodyguard Nolan Garrett has one rule: Never sleep with a client. But when he brings a beautiful journalist to his houseboat to keep her safe, the tide takes a very tawdry turn....**

■ When gorgeous Florida anchorwoman Jillian Kincaid receives a threatening message on her answering machine, she brushes it off as someone's idea of a bad joke. But the sinister calls keep coming—each more terrifying than the last—and she can't ignore them any longer. Finally, her father hires hunky bodyguard Nolan Garrett to protect her. The moment Nolan and Jillian meet, sparks fly. Even though their attraction is intense, Nolan vows to ignore his urges because he wants to keep things professional. After someone breaks into Jillian's house and trashes her pad, Nolan brings her back to his nearby houseboat where she'll be safe for the night. Jillian finds it hard to sleep, though, knowing that Nolan is just across the hall. In the middle of the night, she pays him a late-night visit with some very naughty thoughts on her mind....

### The Lust Boat

Restless, Nolan shoved the bedsheet down to his waist. An ocean breeze drifted through the open porthole and cooled his bare skin. Even though he was exhausted, it was impossible to sleep. He kept thinking about Jillian's vandalized house. The disturbing im-

ages of every single room in her place utterly destroyed raced through his mind. Who would want to do that to her? he wondered. A deranged fan, a disgruntled ex-boyfriend, or an angry journalist Jillian had beat out to get her highly coveted anchorwoman position? Whoever the person was, Nolan knew one thing was certain: Jillian's stalker wanted her dead.

Nolan let out a breath and stared at his closed door. As much as he hated to admit it, his growing attraction toward her was also keeping him up. She was staying in the guest room on the houseboat, and all he wanted to do was walk in and kiss her. No, he reminded himself. It would ruin his focus. Besides, there was too much at stake right now for him to take any foolish risks.

But when he heard the door to her room open and her footsteps stop just outside his door, his heart beat faster. Temptation—greater than anything he had ever experienced before—overtook him. He swallowed and shook his head. At this point, he wasn't ready to start a relationship. He had to make her understand that.

When his door opened, he leaned up on an elbow and stared at her. Her long, flowing red hair shone in the moonlight that streamed through the

porthole. Her beautiful green eyes sparkled, and Nolan could see the outline of her full breasts beneath her thin cotton tee shirt. At that instant, Nolan knew Jillian would be harder to resist than he had thought.

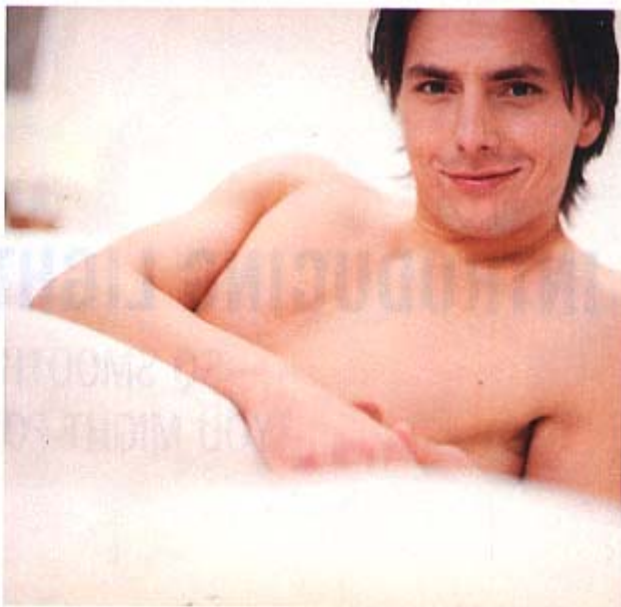
He yawned and attempted to act disinterested. "What are you doing here? Shouldn't you be sleeping?"

Jillian smiled and stepped closer to Nolan's bed. She wasn't usually so brazen, but from the moment Nolan was hired to protect her, she was undeniably drawn to him. While his smoldering deep blue eyes and thick dark hair were irresistible, he also had a raw masculinity that Jillian loved. After seeing her house vandalized, Jillian was scared—and she knew that a night with Nolan would be the only thing that could take her mind off her problems.

### Desire Below Deck

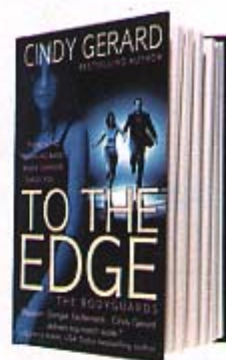
"Oh...I get it," he said, hoping she'd leave before he did something he'd regret. He decided to play it cool. "Still a little freaked out from today, are you? Figure a roll in the sack with a big bad bodyguard might take the edge off? Sorry. Last time I checked, that wasn't part of my job description."

Jillian stepped farther into his room. In spite of what he had said, she sensed



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the desire between them. He wouldn't be able to hold out while she was around. "You're a lousy liar," she said. "I think you want to spend the night together just as much as I do."

It was obvious that she could see right through him, but Nolan put up a fight. "I'm not interested. I was hired to protect you at all times, not sleep with you," he told her.

Jillian kneeled on the edge of the bed and pulled the sheet really tight over his hips, making them both achingly aware of the obvious tenting action going on beneath it.

She looked from his lap to his face. "Your nose is growing too."

He groaned. "I told you to leave."

She grinned. "I guarantee you won't be saying that for long." Before Nolan could protest anymore, Jillian slowly pulled her tee shirt over her head and let it drop to the floor.

### Making Waves

Nolan's pulse raced as Jillian crawled across the sheets on her hands and knees and straddled him...all golden limbs and berry pink nipples.

"I'm a big girl, Nolan," she whispered, her mouth inches away from his. "I don't need you to protect me tonight. I just want you."

Nolan paused and tried to move away. But the feelings welling up inside him were just too strong to ignore. Before he knew what he was doing, he leaned forward to kiss her. His mouth on hers was rough and greedy. With each dip of his head, each exquisitely tender caress of his lips, Nolan drew out the urgency until Jillian was delirious with arousal. Jillian's hands drifted

down his muscular back, then lowered to squeeze his tight buttocks.

Nolan delved further in with his tongue and matched the rhythm of his hips as they rocked against hers. He could have kissed her like that forever, just playing with her soft lips and swallowing her lusty sighs. He paused, then trailed his fingers up her rib cage and cupped one supple breast in his hand. Her breath caught as her nipple hardened against his touch.

"You're gorgeous, Jillian," he whispered before he lowered his head and pressed his mouth to her flesh. He flicked his tongue against her breast. When he moved his hands along her body, she trembled with anticipation and parted her thighs in a wanton invitation for him to touch her there. Ever so slowly, he peeled off her panties, then teased her by trailing his hand up the sides of her legs. Finally, he slipped a finger inside her, and she released a cry. Her body writhed while he stroked her, bucking against his hand, moaning her pleasure. Soon he slid down her body and let himself taste that part of her he'd been craving most.

He nestled deep, made a long pass along her with his tongue, and felt her hands caress the back of his head. He teased her with warm, luscious licks until she was all but screaming.

### Buy It Now!

Want more? You can order a copy of *To the Edge* (\$6.99) or any of the other books mentioned in *Cosmopolitan* at [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com).

### A Boat-Rocking Finale

At last, Nolan crawled back up her body, taking his time to linger and nuzzle. It took every ounce of Jillian's strength to wrap her arms around his neck and pull his mouth to hers for a lazy lingering kiss. Minutes later, she seductively stroked his flat abs, then slipped off his boxers. While she ran her hand against him, Nolan's body throbbed with need. "Jillian," he whispered. "I can't wait anymore."

He parted her legs and entered her in one slow thrust, and the pleasure she'd been feeling started anew, taking her even higher than before. All she could think of was him. Inside her. Filling her so full she could barely absorb the pressure. She felt like she was flying as he drove into her over and over again. Deep. Hard. So absolutely male. She no longer knew where her breath ended and his began. No longer knew if she was earthbound or soaring. And when he thrust one final time, lifting her with him, taking her along, she no longer cared. All that mattered was the mind-blowing sensations and the moment.

When he collapsed on top of her, she welcomed his weight. She held him tightly against her, loving the heat of his body, satisfied with the steady cadence of his breathing. He didn't want her going anywhere now. She could sense it in the way he buried his face in her hair and breathed her in. Even though Jillian still didn't know who was after her or what she would do next, she did know one thing: She was falling for this sweet, sexy man in her arms. ■

*Adapted from the novel TO THE EDGE, © copyright 2005 by Cindy Gerard. Published by St. Martin's Press, LLC.*