



## I can't believe we're already half-way through April.

This year's been crazy busy for me so far.

Launching my debut release and working to get it in front of as many people as possible takes up a lot of time, but it's been so much fun getting the opportunity to chat with so many new people along the way.

I want to take this opportunity to **THANK** anyone who's read and reviewed *Loving Summer*. If you haven't had a chance to post your review, I'd be forever grateful if you could spend a few minutes doing so.

If you could leave a review at your preferred store and then perhaps at **Goodreads** and/or **Bookbub**, I'd be most appreciative. Reviews really help new readers to feel confident they're not wasting their time and money on a new author.

### —CURRENT PROJECTS—

I've been working diligently to complete the first draft and first round of beta edits for my next release, ***Second Chance Summer***. It's currently with the editor.

•••• **The release date is** ••••  
**May 31, 2021**

If you're interested in receiving an **ADVANCED READER COPY**, please [reply to this email](#).

I've also finalised my contribution to the anthology ***Suddenly Forever***, a 20K-word piece, ***Forever Kisses***. This story features Roman and occurs soon after

Kate and Oliver return from their honeymoon. Kate and Oliver take care of the kids so Roman can take a week's vacation.

This book is also the beginning of a spin-off series that will feature side characters from *Loving Summer* and *Second Chance Summer*.

I got to see the cover for the anthology, ***Suddenly Forever***, and my particular contribution. They look AMAZING! I'm so excited to be part of the anthology with some really talented authors (shhh, don't tell them I'm a novice).



## Loving Summer

Remember the scene in *Loving Summer*, when Kate cooks Oliver's favorite meal, chicken and mushroom risotto?

*Allow me to refresh your memory ...*

This morning, he said he's going to try to get home in time to have a meal with me, so I've made a chicken and mushroom risotto—his favorite.

I've showered, washed my hair, blown it out, shaved, and scrubbed my entire body because tonight I'm ready to take our relationship to the next level. I'm wearing my sexiest red underwear beneath my lacy black dress. It has the cutest cap sleeves with a fitted bodice and flared skirt, landing just above my knees. On my feet, I'm wearing my favorite red wedges. I hope it has the desired effect because I'm pretty sure I trust him with my heart and my soul, and now I'm ready to trust him with my body. I even bought a box of condoms to be prepared. I'm nervous though because I get the impression he's a lot more experienced in this department than I am. I mean, it's not like I'm a virgin or anything like that. It's just that from our kisses and his touches, I feel like I could explode. The real thing is going to be something I've never experienced before. I'm hoping I'm able to keep him satisfied enough that he doesn't stray or get bored and move on, like my previous boyfriends.

While I'm making sure everything is perfect for tonight, a flash of light through my curtains signals his arrival.

*It's showtime.*

When I hear the knock on my door, my heart beats as if it's trying to escape my chest. Opening the door, I'm greeted by Oliver's arresting green eyes and a smile that seems to come more easily these days. My eyes blatantly roam his body. He's wearing his most comfortable pair of jeans, which shows off the definition of his strong thighs and firm ass, matched with a college t-shirt, fitting his torso like a glove. He's holding a gift box, which I'm guessing is for me, because he often brings me little treats and treasures he thinks I might like. He likes to spoil me, and I've given up trying to stop him. When my eyes finally make it back up to his, I notice he's checking me out from head to toe, and the heat in his eyes tells me he also likes what he sees.

"Hey, Sunshine. You look edible. It must be my lucky day to have you greet me at the door like this." He steps into my space, grasping one hip firmly. "I feel a little underdressed."

Leaning forward, he gives me a most spectacular kiss, making my heart race and my mind dizzy. "Am I unaware of a special occasion?"

"Nope. I wanted to look nice for you, since you only ever see me in my lounging-around-the-house clothes, or covered in paint with glue in my hair. But you're right, today might be your lucky day if you play your cards right." I give him a wink, closing the door behind him. I'm digging deep in an attempt to appear more confident than I actually feel. Following him into the main living area of my home, he notices that I've set the table, complete with flowers and candles. He gifts me a grin and then must remember the gift he has for me.

"Here, this is for you," he says while passing me the box.

"You don't have to keep bringing me gifts. I'm just happy to spend time with you."

He gives me a look I can't quite decipher—maybe disbelief?

Opening the box, I'm surprised to see a brand new pair of red Converse shoes like my battered pair. I can't believe he bought these for me. I've wanted, no needed, a new pair for such a long time. I launch myself into his arms.

"Thank you very much. My shoes were close to dying on me."

Holding onto each side of his face, I cover him with kisses, while he holds me off the floor with his arms banded around my waist. Oliver holds me tight to his body, as he laughs at my antics. His whole face changes dramatically when he smiles and laughs.

Watching me while I admire my new shoes, he simply says, "I know. I could see the rubber sole was nearly worn all the way through."

This is the thing; he's super observant and notices every little thing about me. Last week, he bought me new pillows, because he could see that I was struggling to fluff up my old pillows to my liking. The other day, he bought Margie a pair of binoculars, because she was complaining she couldn't see Pete and Joe up the street properly, to spy on them. Needless to say, Margie thinks Oliver's definitely a keeper. I tend to agree, but there's a small voice in the back of my mind which is still holding me back a little.

“Well, thank you, kind sir. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness. I’m going to take such good care of these, so they last me ages.”

After placing them carefully in the box, I invite Oliver to sit down at the table and go about serving our dinner.

He looks surprised as I place his plate in front of him. “Is this what I think it is?”

“Depends. What do you think it is?”

In a playful way, which is unlike Oliver, he smacks his lips together, rubbing his hands. “Chicken and mushroom risotto. My favorite meal.”

“Ding, ding, ding! Ladies and gentlemen, we have a winner. He guessed correctly,” I announce, applauding like a crazy loon, while he laughs at my game show host impersonation.

“It really *is* my lucky day. What have I done to deserve such special treatment?”

“I thought ... well, you’re always spoiling me; it was time to spoil you for a change. You’ve been very generous and extremely patient with me—I thought you deserved some special attention.”

Leaning forward, I gesture for him to meet me halfway. Our lips meet in a sweet, delicate kiss. His hand moves to the back of my neck and he quickly takes control—deepening the kiss until I’m lost and breathless. Our kisses get better every time, and I can just imagine the combustion that will erupt between us later tonight. I have to press my thighs together to control the tingles spreading through my nether regions.

Eventually, we eat our meal, chatting about our day. He praises my cooking thoroughly, making it clear how much he enjoyed the risotto I prepared for him. Wait until he gets a taste of the chocolate brownie I’ve made for dessert.

**Haven't read it yet? That's okay, you can get it here.**

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**Well ... I thought you might like the recipe.**

# risotto

- 2 cups diced and roasted sweet potato
- olive oil
- salt and pepper
- 2 cups of diced chicken
- 6 mushrooms, chopped
- 1 onion diced
- 6 cups of chicken stock
- 2 cups of arborio rice
- 2 handfuls of baby spinach
- 1 cup finely grated parmesan cheese

1. Peel and dice the sweet potato. Place on baking tray. Coat with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast at medium heat until soft.
2. Add oil to pan. Once hot, add diced onion, chicken and mushrooms. Remove from pan and store in a separate dish until needed.
3. Bring stock to a boil in a separate medium saucepan, cover; keep hot.
4. Cook rice in large heated oiled saucepan (*I use the same pan as I cooked the chicken mix in*), stirring until coated in oil and the outside of the grain becomes see-through.
5. Add stock to rice in 1-cup batches, stirring until absorbed after each addition. Total cooking time should be about 35 minutes or until rice is just tender.
6. Stir in the chicken, onion and mushroom mix.
7. Remove from heat and add the spinach and parmesan cheese. Stir through.

**NOTE:** *I add a little chili and garlic when I cook the onion, chicken and mushrooms for a little extra flavour.*

**SERVES 4**





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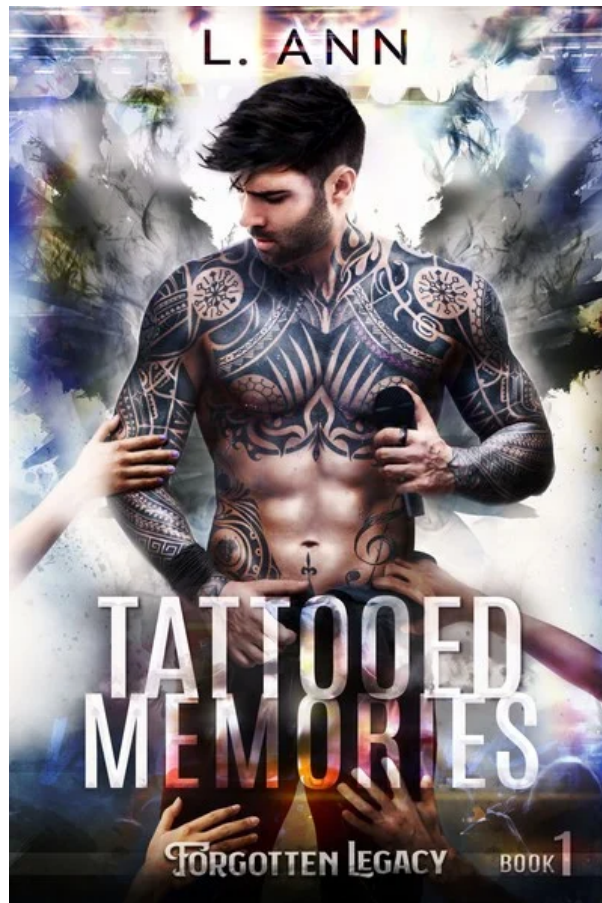


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He's the one thing from my past I've tried to forget.

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I'm happy being a nobody ... and I wanted to keep it that way.

*I thought I was succeeding until I came face to face with him once more.*

**Harper Jackson**

*Frosty, Unimpressed, Sexy as Sin*

She made my past bearable, kept me sane long enough to drag myself out of the hell I lived in.

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