



To the Highest Bidder

Caitlin Ricci

Download now

Read Online 

To the Highest Bidder

Caitlin Ricci

To the Highest Bidder Caitlin Ricci

The Intergalactic Star Pilot Academy has accepted Thierry Leroux into the elite class of sky year 2231. But the academy comes with a hefty price tag, and there's no way he, a poor Sythe orphan, has the credits the academy requires. Thierry's brother, Corbin, a high-class companion, suggests Thierry sell his virginity for the cost of tuition. It seems like a ridiculous idea, but it may be Thierry's only shot, so Thierry asks Corbin to arrange a meeting on the pleasure planet of Wish.

On Wish, Thierry meets Corbin's boss, Monroe, and they agree to auction off Thierry's virginity. Thierry is grateful to the masked buyer he knows only as "Dragonfly," and Dragonfly is gentle, making Thierry's first time a good memory. When Dragonfly requests to see him again, and pay for the pleasure, Thierry returns to Wish. But in this game, falling in love is dangerous for the heart, and Thierry might not like the man behind the mask.

To the Highest Bidder Details

Date : Published July 13th 2015 by Dreamspinner Press

ISBN : 9781634761420

Author : Caitlin Ricci

Format : ebook 200 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Romance, M M Romance, Lgbt

 [Download To the Highest Bidder ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online To the Highest Bidder ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online To the Highest Bidder Caitlin Ricci

From Reader Review To the Highest Bidder for online ebook

llv says

[So the relationship starts off as a business deal and we're supposed to believe that they

BWT (Belen) says

Rounded up.

The first thing that surprised me about To the Highest Bidder is that there's a surprising amount of fluff *and* angst in it. It's...fluffangsty. Yeah, I just made up a word. Deal with it. The other thing that surprised me is just how invested I got in the story, the world building, and Thierry, Corbin and Monroe.

I listened to the first 60% with a huge smile on my face just really enjoying the story.

Corbin, Thierry's older brother, is a high-class companion who suggests that Thierry sell the only thing he has of value - his virginity - in order to pay for the tuition to an elite Pilot Academy. Thierry has only ever wanted to pilot a spacecraft and agrees, reluctantly, that selling his virginity to the highest bidder is the only way he'll ever afford to do it.

Corbin approaches the owner of the brothel he works, Monroe, about auctioning his brother's virginity. A virgin is incentive enough, but because Thierry is also a Sythe, who are highly reactive to another's touch leaving their lovers fulfilled and pleased beyond measure, Monroe believes Thierry will bring in even more credits than he needs. Monroe agrees to the auction, taking a 25% cut of the profits.

The auction goes extremely well, with the winner bidder requiring complete anonymity. The winner wears a mask, with only his mouth uncovered, and doesn't speak during their encounter. Thierry calls the man "Dragonfly" based on a tattoo the man has on his torso. The night is very special, with Dragonfly being a perfect lover for Thierry.

Dragonfly requests through Monroe, after their encounter, to keep in touch via letters with Thierry for an additional \$1,000 credits per month. Thierry goes off to school and he and Dragonfly communicate back and forth. Eventually Dragonfly asks to see Thierry again for an additional \$5,000, and Thierry eagerly agrees, not because of the money, but because he's fallen in love with Dragonfly. Thierry's enormously happy when Dragonfly admits he too has fallen in love with Thierry.

So, yeah - super fluffy, romantic, and hot. I'm swimming right along, enjoying the story thoroughly, big smile on my face and then **BAM!**

Oh. My. God. I did not see that coming. I mean, part of it I did, I totally called part of it, but the other part?

Nope, I did not see it coming - and it BROKE MY FUCKING HEART. Though it all works out, I was devastated and never quite regained my equilibrium with the story. **So, yeah...fluffangsty.** Then the story goes on...and yes, I could see why it was necessary for what happens next what with the 23 years age difference between them. I could see why it was all necessary and it made a sort of sense - but my heart didn't want it. My heart wanted a different path.

It's my first audiobook with Jean Samson as the narrator, and, I think, his first as well. Though he brings emotion to the story, and I enjoyed the narration on the whole, he does have a few pacing issues and a couple of flubs, one memorable time even calling Dragonfly "Firefly". Though, for a first time narration attempt it wasn't bad and I'd certainly give him another go in the future.

All in all be prepared to be enjoying flufftastic sweetness followed by a huge shock and just go along for the ride. Don't worry, there's an HEA waiting in the end for you.

I know one other thing - I'm looking forward to checking out book two, Fantasy for a Gentleman!

Audio copy of To the Highest Bidder provided by Dreamspinner Press in exchange of an honest review.

This review has been cross-posted at Gay Book Reviews.

Erica says

I enjoy this author's writing style, but this story wasn't for me. There were a couple of plot points which made no sense to me, and I didn't like Thierry.

Elaine White says

Book – To The Highest Bidder (A Planet Called Wish #1)

Author – Caitlin Ricci

Star rating - ★★★★★

No. of Pages - 200

Movie Potential - ★★★★★

Ease of reading – very easy to read and follow

Would I read it again – Definitely!

I fell in love with this book right from the start. This is a high fantasy, truly beautiful May-Decemer love story. The cover is stunning and what's inside is even better.

To understand most of what I'm going to talk about, you'll have to know what the book is about. It's a little more complicated than the blurb entails, so stick with me:

Thierry is a 20 year old kid, who lives with his brother. He's just been accepted into a prestigious school, to become a pilot, which is his dream. To pay for it, his brother Corbin (a high end escort called an aspasian) sends him to his boss, Monroe, who helps arrange an auction, to sell Thierry's virginity. (Don't worry. I know it sounds weird on paper, but the way it's written, it actually makes perfect sense.) After the auction is won by the highest bidder (see where the title comes in?) they have their night together.

One night becomes letters, that his mystery man, only named Dragonfly (after a tattoo), requests and is willing to pay for. For each letter, Thierry gets money. But a bond forms, through those letters. With random visits (once a month) they see each other again, for dinner and sex. Dragonfly never talks or reveals himself, and finally Thierry loses patience. He whips off Dragonfly's mask during one visit and the reveal of his true identity is shocking!

PLOT

As a 1st person POV, I was apprehensive. This style and I do not always get along. It takes a very special writer and a very special story for me to like a 1st person, but this one did it. I barely remembered that it was a 1st person, because the story took over.

I initially cringed at the very idea of Corbin encouraging his younger brother to sell his virginity, to pay for pilot school, but the way the story is written gives the choice more credence. The Planet of Wish is a pleasure planet, where all the best brothels are. On it is the brothel Asiq, where Corbin works for Monroe. Both are equally important characters to Thierry and Dragonfly. Though the story is all about Thierry and Dragonfly's relationship, Monroe and Corbin are very important, both in this book and towards the next.

I love how proud Corbin is of his job. Although he's naturally more inclined towards feeling emotions (see explanation below about Sythes) I like that it's not about how the job feels for him, but what he does. He helps people, in many ways, and that's what keeps him loyal to Asiq. But, at the same time, as well as being the best in Asiq because of this enjoyment of his work, you get this really strong sense that he'd do anything for Thierry. Especially to get him his dream job.

There is such brilliant detail and creativity in this story. Not only in the back story of each character, but in the development of the world, the imagery of the travel between planets, as well as the entire concept. In any other book, the ideas inside this story might seem fantastical, unbelievable or just plain weird. But here, they work. They work really, really well. Nothing is over-emphasised, over-done or too dramatic or fantastical. Everything is perfectly balanced.

I did have to admit that I got a very slight hint of a dom/sub relationship, whether it was meant or not. For me, it just came across as a possibility that never went anywhere, though that's not a bad thing. It started percolating when Dragonfly made Thierry sit at his feet while he ate, then pinged again when Dragonfly sent Thierry a bracelet (with a tracker, camera etc) that would keep him safe. It felt as though these were small things that might suggest Dragonfly was training Thierry to be more submissive, but, like I said, it never went anywhere. They were nice touches though.

When it came time for the big reveal of who Dragonfly really was, I'll admit, I hadn't really thought about who it might be. I was too wrapped up in the fact they were in love with each other and it was all so mysterious. But, when I found it, it was a total AHA! moment. Suddenly, certain moments that had preceded the reveal began to make sense. But, it was also really sad, because Thierry was so upset and things just went downhill after that.

~

CHARACTERS

I love Thierry, our MC. He's innocent, naive and completely unprepared for the world he's stepping into. Naturally, Thierry has some hesitations about the auction, which are nicely written, with real authenticity. Thierry is a Sythe, which means he's purple (think the cover) and feels emotions more highly than any other species. That makes him ideal to be an aspasian, but even more expensive as a one time experience, for selling his virginity. The constant doubt and confusion over what he's done and the brief moments of shame are understandable, especially in his situation – wanting desperately to afford pilot school, but not wanting anyone to know how he had to pay for it. He's a sheltered, very gentle soul and I fell in love with him right away.

As his brother, Corbin is a more open character. Emotionally closed off, he's happy to live his life as an aspasian and help anyone he can, with his work. Since it's not all about sex, we readers can see the side of it that he likes and it's written in a way that makes everything the aspasians do perfectly natural and okay. Even if it was all about sex, we know that Corbin is happy with that life. I love how strong his relationship with Thierry is, as well. There's nothing they wouldn't do for each other.

Monroe, the owner of a brothel (for want of a better word) is actually a wonderful character. He's gentle and kind, protective and quite the father figure to the men who work for him. He takes care of Thierry, as he enters into this unfamiliar world.

The last big character is Dragonfly. I loved him, even though he never said anything. And I mean that literally. He never spoke in the entire book. He wrote letters to Thierry which were heartfelt, sweet and encouraging. The chemistry they shared, both in person and in those letters, is beautiful. It made me smile every time they were together. The small smiles, the gentleness of their physical times together, were equally matched by the heat and the desperate need to be together.

~

OVERALL

For me, this was more of a love story than some I've read recently. The fantasy elements were perfect and the plotting was genius. There wasn't one thing I didn't like about it.

The ending was beautiful and perfect for the characters and the situation they were in. The Epilogue had me in tears with relief and joy. It's a very wonderful, innocent love story that wasn't at all what I was expecting. But I loved every minute of it. The best part is that the story is complete as it is, though I'll definitely be reading book 2, which focuses on Corbin's love life. I'm so excited to get started and I really hope there are more books in the series...like...about ten more!

I never want it to end.

~

FAVOURITE QUOTE

“A gentle hug between comrades turned into a kiss between friends. And then I knew I had found my way home as his skin touched mine, and I was once again his.”

Teresa says

****Reviewed for Prism Book Alliance®****

2.5 Stars

I had high hopes for To the Highest Bidder. The selling of one's virginity, set in space, a mysterious buyer – all a recipe for good times. However, I was disappointed with the execution and the outcome.

There were some good bits; Thierry and his brother's interactions were sweet and I could feel the love there. The brothel on Wish, in fact the whole planet, was intriguing and I would have loved to see more of it.

I liked Thierry's first interaction with Dragonfly; Thierry's nervousness, Dragonfly's mysteriousness both contributed to a sense of anticipation. However, when it came to it, I found the sex to be lackluster. For all that Thierry was supposed to be ultra-responsive due to his species; it just didn't come through to me. Adding to that, Thierry's "love" was unbelievable and made the rest of the book feel false, especially the ending. The author did not convince me that Thierry could have fallen in love with Dragonfly or the person Dragonfly turned out to be in the time they actually spent knowing each other. I did not buy the ending at all.

The writing was good and I found no editing mistakes, so that was a plus. I would love to see Corbin find love. I would have loved to see Thierry and Dragonfly have more time together as a couple to justify the love they claim.

Ann says

Audiobook Review

I'm a sucker for a good sci-fi love story and To the Highest Bidder ended up being a surprisingly sweet coming of age tale of intergalactic lust and love. This was my first time listening to Jean Samson narrating and I really loved his voice. His Thierry is perfect. Honestly, I could just listen to him say his name over and over again. . . .Jean SamsonJean SamsonJean Samson. The accent made me swoon.

Thierry has a dream to be a pilot with no means to make that dream happen. His brother, Corbin, works as an escort on Wish, the planet where all the sexy things happen. I liked listening to the relationship between Corbin and Thierry. They've been orphaned since Thierry was quite young and Corbin has been his caretaker since then and, as Thierry gets older and more independent throughout the book, their dynamic evolves and I enjoyed all of their exchanges.

The brothers are brainstorming on a way to come up with the credits to get Thierry into the academy when Corbin finds out he's been accepted and they come up with the wacky, but thoroughly sexy idea to auction off Thierry's virginity to the highest bidder and letting Corbin's boss Monroe handle the marketing and transaction. Monroe runs the most successful brothel on the planet and if anybody can get top dollar for Thierry's cherry, it'll be Monroe.

The world building had just the right level of detail and creativity to keep me engaged and not overwhelmed. The sci-fi aspect didn't take over the character's personalities, but added to the overall arc. One of the bestest things about Thierry and Corbin is their heritage. These boys are Sythe and apparently that makes them seriously hot commodities in Corbin's profession, while also a little feared in the general public. There are not a lot of Sythe around, so the bit of mystery surrounding the particulars of their genetics makes them even

more appealing. The Sythe are very sensitive to touch and attention. Meaning, when a Sythe individual opens themselves completely they feel and react to everything x 10. So basically, super hot.

Thierry can't help but react to Monroe. Up until then Thierry had led a pretty sheltered life, the brothers didn't have a lot of extra credits floating around to entertain themselves and Thierry's only dream was to fly. So the interaction between the young and inexperienced Thierry with the more mature and jaded Monroe was tense and sexy at the same time. Not that they particularly get along, but that was part of then fun.

Thierry's virginity gets auctioned off, he ends up making bank and the man who wins is a mystery from the beginning. He wears a mask and does not speak, and he has a dragonfly tattoo on his side that Thierry finds fascinating. The time they spent together was steamy and pretty sweet. Dragonfly has his good time, but he makes sure Thierry does too and because Thierry feels so intensely, the sex is smokin'.

While that was supposed to be their only encounter, Monroe ends up acting as an intermediary between the two with messages back and forth once Thierry heads off to the academy. Thierry keeps Dragonfly posted on how he's doing, the two of them sort of get to know one another (Dragonfly is paying him for these letters too along with the additional meet-ups here and there) and the two of them fall into, what I like to call, "Pen Pal Love".

Pen Pal Love is very romanticized, very sweet, but not very realistic. Dragonfly knows this, but Thierry is young, passionate and impulsive. This is why I referred to the story as a coming-of-age tale as well. Thierry has a lot of growing up to do and when he finds out about Dragonfly he reacts like an immature man would. The author and narrator did a great job of capturing the self-righteous, self-centeredness of youth. Thierry is the least malicious person in the galaxy, but he's impulsive and has a lot of growing up to do.

I liked where the story went from here. A lot of time is covered and there was no convenient answer. The only solution was time and the author made sure her characters had it. I would have loved to have more of the MC's together after it all, but what I got was completely satisfying, especially from Thierry's perspective. The kid turns out all right and by the end I really liked and respected who he grew into.

a copy of this audiobook was provided to BMBR for an honest review

Lila Hunter says

4.75 out of 5 stars

To the Highest Bidder didn't pin on my radar when it was first published. The only reason I got to it is because I heard about Book #2 in the series, Fantasy for a Gentleman didn't pin on my radar when it was first published. The only reason I got to it is because I heard about Book #2 in the series, Fantasy for a Gentleman, and I prefer to read books in order. I'm glad I got to read this book, actually this series. Mostly everything in them worked for me.

The conversation between Thierry and Corbin about how to get the money for the pilot academy was the only thing I didn't like about the story. Being the first time we get to interact with them, I was concern about how this book will end, but I was pleasantly surprised by the turn of events. The more I learned about the characters, the easier it got to understand why selling Thierry's virginity wasn't such a big deal for the brothers to talk about. I was a little put off by the idea of Corbin being so relaxed about it until I understood

Corbin's views about sex.

The relationship between Thierry and Dragonfly was lovely. Perfect for a first love. They had good chemistry in bed, and Dragonfly took good care of Thierry, but their long distance relationship was swoon worthy. Thierry got to experience what first love should be all about-- getting to know each other, walking on cloud nine-- even when the immediate outcome was not what he expected.

I loved their relationship. It was dysfunctional at best but was theirs, unique like them two. I'm glad the author kept their independent spirits all through the book and didn't have one of them submitting to the other wishes. Even with the age difference, which I normally not a fan, I think their love took them both by surprise, and they did the best they could to deal with it.

The world build is interesting, and we get to see many species interact without much trouble. All the characters involved had a purpose in the story, and we get to know enough of them to make a difference. The story has several plot points that moved the story forward at a good pace. Yes, some of the events are predictable, but the author did an excellent job incorporating them into the story.

I wish the author had ended the book without the epilogue. Don't get me wrong, the epilogue works great with the story. I'm just greedy. I wanted another book showing the time between the ending and the epilogue, and perhaps a third one after the events in the epilogue. I guess I'll need to wait and see how the rest of the series balances out.

Originally reviewed for Scattered Thoughts and Rogue Words.

ARC courtesy of Dreamspinner Press in exchange for an honest review.

S. says

I don't know what I just read. Did they actually love each other? I'm not even sure they tolerated each other. What about the ending? Is he going to stay with monroe on wish. After writing this I went from 3.5 stars to a solid 2.5 and a complete blank as to if I just read a romance novel or an on going argument between me and my spouse.

Amy says

3.5 stars.

Breann says

TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER is a surprisingly sweet love story.

Set in 2231, Thierry has been accepted into the Intergalactic Star Pilot Academy to achieve his dream of becoming a pilot. Only problem is he and his brother can't afford to send him there.

Thierry's brother works at a high end brothel and suggests that Thierry sells his virginity in order to pay for his pricey tuition. This really didn't come off as weird as it sounds. It was woven into the plot and world building naturally and came off as a logical choice for Thierry.

The person who ends up buying Thierry's virginity asked to remain anonymous and wore a mask. During their first encounter, Thierry noticed that the buyer had a dragonfly tattoo and started to call him Dragonfly. After Thierry and Dragonfly ended their night together, they stayed in touch. They wrote to each other and continued to make arrangements at the brothel. This eventually led to them falling in love.

In the beginning of the story I loved them together. But towards the middle and end, they became somewhat exhausting. There was a lot of bickering between them and I wanted to reach in and just smack 'em. The epilogue definitely saved it for me though. It couldn't have been more perfect.

I really liked this. It was an easy read for being sci-fi. There was enough world building for me to clearly picture everything, but the story mainly focused on the romance. Thierry and Dragonfly is a couple I'd love to read more about.

Reviewer Larissa says

Alright, I have a bit of mixed feelings about this book. Going in I thought it was going to be a bit of erotic fluff. And the first third of the book was exactly that. It was hot, erotic and sweet. If it had been left there, it would have gotten five stars.

But the author continued to try and built a relationship between an older man and a young guy who have nothing in common, but really want there to be. This happend through circular conversations that were really stilted and not going anywhere. In the end the author 'forced' the relationship through forced separation, forcing the young man to discover who he 'really' is. So in the end, despite the epilogue, nothing was really solved. In a way it was a story about building castles out of thin air.

Because the story was told through a first person narrative, we never get to know any of the characters except Thierry. Corbin, the brother was really interesting though and fun, but I already saw enough of the blurb for his book to know I don't want to ruin my view of him.

As a round up, I liked the fluff of the story. I saw what the author tried to do, but it never really reached its goal. All in all not really bad, but not good either.

Lorraine Lesar says

When love takes a grip, nothing matters - age, wealth, size or orientation, it's all consuming and this book proves that beyond a doubt.

Caitlin Ricci is a new author for me and when I read the blurb, I knew I would have to read it, it fired my imagination! and the cover? beautiful and so perfect for the book. I try not to do spoilers, but it's so hard with this book as the blurb covers the storyline so well, but I will give you a little insight -

Thierry and his older brother, Corbin, only have each other. Ever since he was small, Thierry dreams of becoming an off-world pilot, it's only a dream because they could never afford the fees to join the Academy.

Corbin works as a aspasian in a club on a pleasure planet for the notorious Monroe. They come up with the plan of selling Thierry's virginity to the highest bidder - it's the only way to get to the Academy. Monroe arranges the details.

The highest bidder wears a mask and Thierry has no idea of who he is, the only identifiable mark? a Dragonfly tattoo. From that night on, Thierry refers to him as the Dragonfly. Their night was supposed to be a one-off gig, however, this is a love story.....

There was a lot I liked about this book and a few things I didn't - I thought the author lost a great opportunity when Corbin didn't talk Thierry through what was to be expected? Corbin works (and is very good at it), in the Pleasure Industry, who better to talk and prepare him? there was times when I wanted to knock Dragonfly and Thierry's heads together - who was the so-called immature boy here? but there were other things I liked as well - the storyline, the simple way the author explained the sci-fi elements and the secrecy over Dragonfly, yes I guessed who it was, but the waiting to see if I was right.....and the way she handled the ending was excellent, as I said, love is love!

****I would like to thank the author for the privilege and opportunity of reviewing this ARC. My review was an honest opinion of the book****

www.threebooksovertherainbow.com

Andrea says

I enjoyed the writing style and most of the story but I didn't like any of the characters. I assumed that would change as I got into the book but it didn't. Don't think that's ever happened before. Also, the ending was too rushed. I would have liked to read more about the different planets and Thierry's maturation. Instead, there was a 30 year gap.

Even though this book was a little disappointing, I'll buy more books by this author because I really did enjoy her writing.

Relly says

4 ??

I've struggled the start of this year to get interested in reading anything, so I decided to tackle my reReads list.

This one is still surprising, as it holds up on the re read.

I still enjoyed Thierry and Corbin as characters and Monroe grew on me. It kept my interest still on the second read even though I knew who the buyer was.

I liked that Thierry had a definite plan for his future, and was prepared to do what he had to, to get it. I also enjoyed the letters between Thierry and his dragonfly as it gave them a chance to connect and get to know each other outside of the bedroom. Monroe's influence while at times annoying was always in Thierry's best interest and helped Thierry grow as a character.

Onto Corbin's story

Serena Yates says

‘To the Highest Bidder’ is a fascinating story set in the year 2231, and I liked it for many reasons. On the surface, it seems to be a simple case of a man deciding to sell his virginity to raise enough money to pay for his education and training as a pilot. It’s not the first time this has happened in history, and apparently, it is still happening in this version of the future. Digging a little deeper, the novel is also about appearances, deception, and how the main character/narrator, Thierry, deals with an unexpected twist around the identity of his benefactor. What made the story even better for me was the setting in outer space, the fact that both main characters are aliens and some excellent character growth. But I think, above all, I liked the sweet love story that only gradually unfolds as the story develops. All in all, this is a multi-layered novel with more than one surprise.

Thierry is driven by his ambition to become a pilot, and he even manages to pass the test for entry into the academy. But as a relatively poor Sythe orphan, he has little chance of finding the money – until his brother, Corbin, who works as a high-class companion, finds a solution. Thierry has difficulty dealing with the idea of becoming intimate with a total stranger, but ambition wins out, and he goes ahead. The man who hands in the winning bid in the auction is surprisingly gentle – but he also guards his identity by wearing a mask and not speaking at all.

Over the next few months Thierry and the mystery man stay in touch, get to know each other, and Thierry begins to fall for the man he calls “Dragonfly”. Thierry believes he has fallen in love, but when he finds out who “Dragonfly” really is, he is shocked, disgusted, and wants to run. What follows is the intense and suspenseful process of Thierry dealing with his expectations, ambition, and dawning realization of what is really important in life and to him personally.

If you like stories about aliens with a couple of extra abilities but very human-like emotions, if you want to find out more about two men who are very different in their outlook on life yet uniquely suited to fit as a couple, and if you’re looking for a read that is as sweet and romantic as it is full of mystery and suspenseful, then you will probably like this novel.

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.
