



Guilty Passion

Jacqueline Baird

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Heartless seduction

Rebecca's shame and humiliation had been complete. Benedict Maxwell had never intended to marry her. He'd wanted revenge for his brother, and she, fool in love, had given him all the rope he'd need to hang her. It hadn't mattered that Benedict hadn't been aware of all the facts surrounding his brother's untimely death.

But that had been five years ago and now, when they meet again, Rebecca's a different woman. Now she's a mother with a young son to protect!

Guilty Passion Details

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From Reader Review Guilty Passion for online ebook

Debbie DiFiore says

Parts were boring but this book was very angsty at the beginning. His cruelty to her made me cry. The H plots revenge against the heroine because he thinks she caused his half brother to commit suicide by rejecting his love. This isn't true of course. But he gives her a ring and makes her think they are engaged when he never did really ask her which he points out after they make love of course. He treats her so badly it was hard to read. She really was a strong heroine too because she doesn't just take his treatment and roll over, she fights back and leaves him behind. Of course she is pregnant and five years later they run into each other again but she still doesn't tell him about the son he has. He tells her he found out that the brother had a terminal illness and was going to die and that he was sorry he misjudged her. Problem is she never got the letter. He then finds out about the boy from one of her students and he's back and mad and forces her to marry him. It was all anger sex and I just got a little bored with all the misunderstandings and such. Of course the little boy is thrilled to have a daddy and the H reveals his love and the end. Celibacy for the five years they were apart is never mentioned so I don't know if he was celibate or not. She was for sure.

April Brookshire says

Don't let the dorky outfit fool you that the guy on the cover is wearing. This asshole is one ruthless bastard. In my opinion he wronged the heroine BADLY! 5 years later he can just stop his whining and suck it up. So she didn't tell him she'd popped out junior. Could anyone blame her?

KatieV says

What can I say to defend myself? I love this ridiculous trope (seduction-o-revenge). It makes NO sense unless you are an HP tycoon, but I'm determined to read them all.

There's definitely a few similarities and a nod to Penny Jordan's infamous seduction-o-revenge book Response, particularly when the H came down with a recurring tropical disease that seemed a lot like malaria.

The gist:

Hero's younger 1/2 brother falls in love with the h when she is 18. He dies in an accident after writing in his diary about how he'll never get to have his wonderful Rebecca and his life is over. Turns out, he has discovered he has an inoperable brain tumor which means he can't ask Rebecca to marry him as he wanted to do. It also caused him to stroke out at the wheel and die shortly after making his last diary entry. Obviously a tragic accident to any normal person.

The H, Benedict, is in Brazil at the time doing anthropology work, which is his kick when he's not being an electronics tycoon. Apparently he's so deep in the jungle that he's assumed dead himself and doesn't even know that his step father and then his brother have both died until some time later because Rebecca was 22 by the time the book started.

HP tycoons don't do guilt, so he needs someone else to blame since he wasn't there for Mum who went a bit nuts when her husband died and then she believed she'd lost *both* her sons for a time. Benedict therefore latches on to her take on the situation, based solely on the diary entry and her extreme grief/emotionally fragile state.

Quite obviously, the younger brother was cruelly rejected by this hussy, Rebecca, and killed himself. Rebecca must pay and like any sensible tycoon he decides he'll seduce her and then break her heart. Not sure what a straight tycoon does when it's a man he wants revenge on... oh, wait, never mind - obviously he digs up a virginal (and attractive) sister, cousin, female childhood friend of the offending male and the plot continues without a hitch (what was I thinking? *hangs head in shame*).

Anyway... Benedict has a different last name from his 1/2 bro, so Rebecca will never know he's connected to the man she so cruelly pushed over the edge until it's too late (insert evil laughter).

Oops, she's a virgin.

So, the H says extremely cruel things to assuage his own guilt and cover the fact that he's fallen in love with her - the maybe-not-such-a-hussy his brother had loved.

The next day he immediately flip-flops and wants the h back. She pretty much tells him to 'go to hell' and goes her own way and becomes a teacher. Of course, she's pregnant from their one night together and in her hurt and anger she doesn't tell him.

5 years later, the h accidentally runs into the H again. Turns out he'd found out the truth about his brother and had written to beg her forgiveness years ago, but she never got the letter. When she didn't reply to his letter, he stayed away from her. This was odd and unprecedented since only a reasonable, non-HP tycoon would respect the h's wishes. But, don't worry, it was a momentary slip and the guy's not the ultra Greek HP tycoon. He's a mere English/French hybrid, so we have to give him a mulligan on that one. He'll definitely do better in the future and be getting extremely ruthless since he obviously wants Rebecca.

Rebecca, for her part, still doesn't quite trust him and knows he'll be PO'd about secret baby in any event. So she tries to avoid him as much as he'll allow.

Of course, he finds out about seekret bb(tm) and forces her to marry him. Lots of punishing kisses, crushing grips, and sardonic glances galore before the HEA.

Good old school fun, if you like this plot.

Farah says

I hated Benedict's guts , he needed to suffer !! unfortunately it was Rebecca who suffered through out the entire book not him .. hateful bastard .. how she could love someone like him is beyond me .. I would usually condemn the whole hiding the child thing but Benedict was just horrid .. alright so it was wrong and the poor kid deserved to have his father around but could he honestly blame her after what he did ?!! He should have been grateful that she was willing to give him a chance .. because he sure as hell didn't redeem himself .. maybe if he grovelled for a few years .. just maybe.

iamGamz says

A classic Harlequin with an overly macho alpha male who believes that he is God's gift to the "lucky little woman" he decided to make his.

The hero, Benedict, comes off as being a total ass throughout most of the book. He blames the heroine, Rebecca, for a family tragedy and has decided to get his revenge. He makes her fall in love with him and then crushes her. But only after taking her to bed.

Rebecca's experience with Benedict changes her life in more ways than she expected. Now, after walking away from him five years earlier, he's back in her life and turning it upside down again. This time around she is older, wiser, and has so much more to lose.

I love these classic Harlequin Presents with their over-the-top alphas. They make for a much more interesting characters. My only problem with this book was Benedict's aggressive attitude toward sex. It was not sexy at all! In today's society his treatment of Rebecca would be called date rape. And when you take into account that Rebecca's tiny size versus his 6 foot size, the fact that he is significantly older and much more experienced. It became a bit uncomfortable at times.

I still enjoyed the story and would recommend it to classic Harlequin fans. All in all, a darn good read.

Vintage says

[She finds out he has been seeing her t

StMargarets says

Yay, revenge! And for the flimsiest of reasons that the hero could have easily checked out, but it's an HP and seduction-for-revenge is like catnip for loyal readers.

So the revenge formula is a delicate one. Too much bad behavior by one party and the scales of justice look lopsided, not enough groveling and the forgiveness looks foolish. I think author JB mostly pulled off a satisfying ending.

The heroine was no doormat and I liked how she didn't look back after hero had his one night in bed with her. Of course she was at fault for keeping the secret baby a secret for five years, so there's that. Hero made lots of threats about taking the son away, but then he came down with a recurrence of malaria so he had his moment of vulnerability. The sex seemed satisfying for them both, so all those encounters are neutral on the ledger. Hero gave a long explanation and grovel even though the heroine tried to cut him off. (Well done, revenge hero. You could teach your fellow alphas a thing or two about grovels.)

The only reason this isn't a higher rating is that I really didn't sink into the angst with the heroine. Could be my mood - could be that I could see it coming - hard to say. Buy it's well worth a read if you're in the mood for a revenge storyline.

Jenny says

Hero seduces heroine so as to humiliate her and avenge his stepbrother's death. Their night together has consequences but when heroine realizes she is pregnant she decides not to tell Ben hurt by his plan of revenge. Five years later he finds out he is a father and forces heroine to marry him.

I loved it. Lots of drama and angst. Both hero and heroine were imperfect and both did lots of mistakes but it was obvious they were crazy about each other. Their baby boy was adorable and it was touching watching Ben reunite with his son and being a wonderful father and a great husband to Rebecca!

boogenhagen says

Re Guilty Passion - Jacqueline Baird's fifth HP outing is an homage to the great Penny Jordan, with some Robyn Donald story accents thrown in.

Yes peeples, get excited here - we are getting PJ Patented SPONGING! (Which has been making rarer appearances in the line lately.) But we have to wait a little while for that.

This one opens with the 22 yr old Classics scholar h finishing up her First and preparing herself to get a teaching certificate to go with her degree. Her schooling has been delayed by the illness and eventual passing of her father - leaving the h an orphan as her mother died years earlier.

She is currently staying with two of her father's professorial friend's, helping the wife care for the new baby, until she finishes up her schooling and is ready to find a new home of her own. Between school and nursing duties, the h hasn't had much time for romance.

There was a young teenage romance when the h was 17 and on holiday, but it ended tragically when the young man involved had an inoperable brain tumor which hemorrhaged while he was driving and he died, then the car ran off the road. There was a nasty little tabloid story at the time, claiming the h was a pocket Venus Lolita, but the inquest and autopsy was very clear about the cause of death.

The h first spies the H when her host takes her to a lecture the H is giving. The H is an anthropologist who went to the Amazon six years earlier to research the indigenous tribes. An accident happened and the H was thought to be swept away in a river and killed. He was actually rescued by the local people and lived with them in the remote jungle for five years, until he was able to make his way back to civilization.

Now the H goes on the lecture circuit to raise awareness about preserving the Native Amazonian way of life and Saving the Rainforest. The H has had some trauma too, he returned from the dead and found that both his stepfather and his brother had passed away and his mum was pretty much a basket case.

The h is awestruck when she sees him, she is a bit disappointed tho when she goes to the reception the university is hosting for him and he pretty much ignores her. She finds herself a cozy little corner and some mini sausages and prepares to feast her eyes from afar.

Then her host takes her over for an H introduction and the H perks right up when he hears her last name. The h assumes it is because he knew her father, who was a very popular professor himself, but there are lots of subtle hints that the h overlooks that things are not what they seem.

Soon the H and h are embroiled in passionate romance outings. The h is still petting unicorns, but she totally wants to advance to dragon riding. When the H gives her a ring, the h assumes he is proposing and eagerly proclaims her love. When it looks like the H's scheduling conflicts will keep them apart, the h takes herself off to his London home and throws herself at him. A big lurve club passion fest ensues, then the H drops the big bomb.

The H intended to seduce her and dump her to get revenge for his dead brother. According to the H's mother, the brother fell in love with the h, bought her a ring and she rejected him. The despondent brother then killed himself by driving his car off the road. After reading the last entry of his brother's diary, the H decided that such Jezebel Tarty Harlot needed to pay for her crimes - tho the unicorn petting was a surprise, the H claims that she is a Tarty Harlot Tease and can now make up for lost time by going on a multi lurve club banging binge.

He also throws in that the ring the h was given is too small and poor to give to a woman he really wanted to marry. The ring was bought by his brother for the h and tho she pretended to be ecstatic, he is sure that she is probably a conniving gold digger too. He also correctly claims that he never proposed and the ultimate proof of the h's Harlot Tarty soul is that she took the presentation of a cheap ring to be a marriage proposal.

The h is devastated, cause she really loved the H. She gives him the ring back and in a very dignified way, takes herself back to her professorial landlord's home. Then she takes a mini vacation and only returns when it is time for her landlady's baby christening.

She is confronted with the H again, as when the h's engagement was announced, the h's hosting couple asked the two of them to be godparents. In the wake of an attractive OW hanging all over the H and mocking the h for losing a wealthy catch who is also the CEO of a big business conglomerate, the H makes more tarty harlot accusations and the h let him have a HUGE verbal smackdown.

She tells him to read the autopsy report and that for a research professor, his skills are remarkably poor. She condemns his character to that of sub sewer slime gulper status and then she tells him to deal with his own guilt for abandoning his responsibilities to his family and not to dump his own skanky baggage on her. Then she takes herself off, ready to start a new life in a new home and she fails to mention that she is taking a little stork gift with her.

Five years pass and the H and h meet up again when he sails his big, fancy new yacht into the French port where the h and a group of her students are school tripping at. The H, with the help of some of the students, insinuates himself into the trip by acting as the h's relief driver when the other teacher injures herself.

The h isn't happy to see the H, but she needs the help and surprisingly, the H is really good with the kids. The h starts to feel the prickings of guilt when she thinks of her own son, who probably deserves to know that he has a dad.

The h is still resistant to telling the H about her child, but when the H sincerely apologizes for his accusations about his brother five years earlier and then tells her that he mailed her a quantum letter that the h never got, the h manages to forgive him.

Until the trip is over and the H shows up at her house demanding his son and marriage. One of the h's students spilled the beans about her child and the H is livid. We get the standard HP blackmail into marriage or I will see you in court trope and the h agrees because the H is really rich and she has to leave her son in nursery school while she works and she thinks that might help the H get custody.

A quick wedding is arranged and the h finds out that the H really did write a letter to her after his uncle explained the brother's death and the H's uncle also apologizes profusely to the h on behalf of the whole family.

While the is H jealous because he thinks the h has lover on the side who is trying to replace him as a father, the h is taunted with her impending divorce after the H alienates her son from her by the same OW from five years earlier -who is now employed by the H's big electronics conglomerate.

So all this tension leads to major lurve club events after the H drags the h out of the wedding reception. The h isn't too thrilled to realize that she still loves the H and things get really heated when the h dumps eggs on the snotty H's head and he has a big lurve club event against the refrigerator.

In the aftermath of all that fiery exposition of passion, the H is seriously ashamed of himself and he tells the h she can have a country house and he will stay in the city and only see his son when the h allows. Then the H gets a recurrence of the tropical fever that he caught in the Amazon.

We finally get the big desperate Sponging of the H by the h, with multiple basins and waters and an assortment of sponge styles as the delirious H begs the h not to leave. The h is very concerned and suitably spongetastic as she tenderly soothes the fevered H's brow.

Eventually the H recovers and the h's obvious caring forces the H to make his big declaration - he loves the h and has at first sight, but his guilt over stealing his brother's girl made him an unmitigated donkey scum slurper. The OW has never been his OW, she was the university chancellor's mistress for years and the H felt sorry for her and gave her a job in another country when she realized the affair was never going to lead to marriage.

The h explains that the man the H believes was her lover was actually another couple who are old family friends and that there has never been anything loverlike between them. Big huge lurve declarations are shared and we get a happy little family scene of the H and h snuggled in bed and their son wakes them by banging a drum given to him by the H's uncle for the big sparkly clean sponging HEA.

This one was great and there was really, really excellent sponging in the best PJ traditions. The H's big lurve declaration was a poetic ode to Robyn Donald and JB gave her own unique twist by letting the h stand up for herself and providing lots of calcium to grow a pretty strong spine. This one is great day in HPlandia and is definitely worth the price of admission if you run into it.

Aou says

He was not cruel enough for me but dumb enough to be JB's hero. Lol. Thus 3,5 stars.

Leona says

This one pushed all my HP hate buttons. Ruthless hero out for vengeance on young innocent woman. He exacts his revenge, but realizes oh noes!!! he must be wrong since she is a virgin.

Heroine is a smart, witty and capable woman, who all of sudden becomes dumb as rocks every time she is within a 10 yard radius of hero. Her otherwise high IQ goes for a hike as she gets led around by the nose (or other body parts).

I gave it 3 stars simply for the drama, but am thinking I am being overly generous.

Chitra *CJ* says

“Guilty Passion” is the story of Rebecca and Benedict.

Innocent and naive teacher Rebecca falls for the enigmatic Benedict, and gives her virginity to him- thinking they are engaged when it turns out it was all a ruse as he thought she was responsible for his brother's death. Throwing the truth on his face, heroine runs away and discovers she is pregnant..

Five years later Benedict re-enters her wife, and demands his son Daniel!

Extremely predictable plot about revenge, secret baby and custody battle. Was not a big fan of this choking and nipple biting filled saga.

Lots of “yes-no-yes” filled lovemaking, mild resolution of issues and sweet ending.

Safe?

2/5

Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says

Not as big a trainwreck (despite the plot) as many of other JBs as the H shows some flashes of sensitivity and niceness. Flashes, mind you. He is still an a**hole out to make her life miserable for all her assumed sins.

So he leads her on and dumps her in a nasty way for her supposed role in his half brothers death 4 years ago. I liked that instead of breaking down and letting him rub her nose in it after his humiliating revenge, she collects herself admirably well to land him some home truths.

What was a stretch was how he dint try and contact her for 4 years even when he realizes she was innocent after all. He says he wrote a letter (that she never receives). Which self respecting Harly H ever writes a

letter?

So they meet again and he tries to win her back in the time honored HP jerk way. The secret son is revealed and he goes ape shit on her again. All the h's earlier spunk and spine seems to have deserted her as she allows him to get his own way. Still we can tell he is more thrilled at the excuse of marrying her, than really furious. And I also liked the one admission he makes which is rare for the HP's newfound dads.

I'm just beginning to realise how hard it must have been for you, looking after him on your own.'

Usually the H may compliment the h on doing a good job raising 'my son' but acknowledging that she may have had a tough time of it is not usually seen.

Anyways it winds down the usual way with a last minute flimsy 'ow scare' and then they get their happily.

Tia says

Hero thought heroine was responsible for his brothers death, so he set out to sleep with her and seduce her like he believed she did his brother. Only to find out she was a virgin, he confronted her about his brother and she turned her love to hate. Five years later they meet again and she has born him a son, now he will force her into marriage because despite everything else, he is in love with her. The heroine has other plans though, he broke her heart and she refuses to try again, until he threatens to take away her son.

Such drama, I enjoyed it. Perhaps these are my favorite type of harlequins but secrets ALWAYS come out in the end.

Roub says

i can't fault JB's style of narration! she made this hateful book very enjoyable! i still rated it one star however bcoz i hated benedict and never understood how rebecca cud just fall back into his arms and after their wedding night, was instantly madly in love wid him and all was forgiven ! she was supposedly a strong woman, yet she cud not stand up to benedict. she cud atleast have looked for a lawyer on advice for custody purposes. sorry, but i'm not dat forgiving and some things just kill love for me! benedict's behaviour was despicable! seducing a young woman and fooling her wid promises of marriage.even producing an engagement ring! later telling her dat he wud not buy a cheap bauble like dat for a fiancee of his! disgusting! it really made for drama and was hugely entertaining! but i wud have liked more comeback from rebecca in the second part! i wanted her to crucify him, to tame him!to get the upper hand on him which never happened! benedict was a beast in bed, practically raped her which she enjoyed very much!? was she a masochist!?
