



Luca

Gina Whitney

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“Anger is like a thorn in the heart...the roar of my courage and the cold sweat of my fear.” ~Luca

Pyromania is an impulse control disorder [1] in which individuals repeatedly fail to resist impulses to deliberately start fires, [1] in order to relieve tension or for instant gratification.

Damon Luca, or Luca as they called him. I thought of him more as Damien, the fucking devil within these walls that now is my life. Dark, broody, and deadly to any woman. Mind-blowing, soul-shaking, raw sex appeal. He was a tall statured boy with broad shoulders and a pair of green eyes that set my soul on fire. His inky black hair framed his hard, chiseled features. He had the type of body that had no business being on a seventeen-year-old. I knew that once he fully developed, he'd be nothing short of drop-dead gorgeous. As I said...deadly on the eyes...and dangerous for your heart.

My name is Allison. I met Luca through an unfortunate event when we were younger. I'm now twenty-four, and this is my story. My fucked up life. It's not a pretty one. Then again, the most interesting ones aren't...are they? This isn't your usual love story. Anything but. There are no blue skies, rainbows, or unicorns. Only him...my own personal arsonist. He had the ability to set my panties on fire, leave my body smoldering, and turn my heart into burning embers. He scared the hell out of me, made me feel. He opened my eyes to the world of twisted love. But love no less. This scary, beautiful man stole my heart from a young, tender age and refused to give it back. Here's our story...

This story is deep, dark, and deals with real scars and growth because of them.

*****Cliffhanger*****

Luca Details

Date : Published (first published April 5th 2015)

ISBN : B00VPRAPQ6

Author : Gina Whitney

Format : Kindle Edition 239 pages

Genre : Dark, Romance, Contemporary, Suspense

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From Reader Review Luca for online ebook

The Hopeless Romantics Book Blog says

2.5 stars

I loved the premise of this book but unfortunately for me, the delivery fell short. I don't think it was one particular thing but more a combination of various factors which lead to me not enjoying Allison and Luca's story. I struggled with the writing style in particular and I think this resulted in me not connecting with the story line which in turn meant I didn't connect with the characters which then meant I didn't quite believe in the relationships between the various characters either.

The way the story was told in two halves didn't quite feel right either. There were parts that felt really rushed and equally, there seemed to be a lot of detail that was unnecessary. This was a pretty quick read but despite this I still found myself skimming sections.

I know there are many readers out there that loved this book so I guess I am in the minority with my views but hey, reading is such a subjective thing and what works for one doesn't always work for another. Unfortunately this one didn't quite hit the mark for me.

Leslie says

2.5 Stars but I'll round up to 3 because I don't want to give it a 2. It's books like this that makes me wish goodreads had half stars!

I'm sorry to say I was disappointed in this book...that synopsis made me forgo my tbr list and skip straight to this book, I was so intrigued....

So did what happened? This is the part where I mention the word *flat* and say "*I didn't connect with the characters,*" we've all been there. I felt the plot moved a bit too quickly but it still felt tedious to read....so much so that I considered making it a DNF for the first 50% but it started to get better so battled on not no avail.

Spoiler rant...
(view spoiler)

To be fair...I have never read anything by this author before so maybe some of my problem was with the writing style and it's just not for me but I can usually separate that from the story to give a less biased review. In the end, the story felt disjointed and flat which is a shame because I thought there were some good underdeveloped ideas.

Carrie White says

Luca is all shades of crazy! A real page turner!
Allison has wound up in an institution after a brutal assault.
Luca has demons that run deep. Demons that are unknown.
Here is where they meet, a connection is made & a work in process.
Enter, Oliver aka Axel (lol I loved the witty humor)!
As they get closer, Axel worms his way into Allison's graces....
Both heal each other, bringing light to one another. Chemistry compatible like no other.
Sexuality sizzles, palms sweaty, heart pounding these sex scenes will make a sailor blush!!!
When Luca finally understands what his Ally has gone thru, continuing to go thru he makes a hasty decision.
Not thinking twice, he puts a request in to get his plan rolling. Only it comes with paying dues to the devil himself.
Misunderstandings, insecurities & self doubt run deeply.
Regret. Guilt. One night without a goodbye stays deeply rooted. Years of suffering, loneliness & longing cut so deep is beyond repair.
Years later, Luca's devoted plan he's determined to get his girl back. Old feelings & memories resurface.
A series of planned events take place but will it all be for nothing? Or will Luca redeem himself & win his girl back?
Omg what a hell of a cliffy!!!! I hope a book 2 is in the works, it can not end like it did!! Grr!!!!
I was graciously gifted a copy in exchange for an honest review.

Michelle says

I was liking this one ok until around 15 - 20%. When Luca decided to let everyone know Allison was his.
Ummm...they had hardly talked in the chapter before so I thought damn...did I miss a chapter some where??
Ugh no!
This just wasn't for me. Add another to my ever growing DNF pile:((

Nate says

OMG! Loved this one from the first page. Wow. And the ending...OMG...you will be totally blown!! Hurry with the next book please. Wow...

Nina Guzman says

I love Luca!! But what did you do...I can't breathe my heart has been ripped out!! I need the second book ASAP!! WOW loved it

Heather andrews says

Luca is one possessive man, "Luca leaned over, bending to meet my gaze directly. "You're mine, Allison. And I don't want this trash speaking to what's mine. You'd do well to remember that." He's so considerate, "he grabbed the back of my neck. "Babe, when I take you. It won't be on the floor of a stairwell. Well, not the first time anyway." I loved how he was with his woman, "I love when your hands are on me, fancy-face. But if you continue to rub me like that, you'll have to pay the toll." I pointed to my hard-on that tented my shorts." I really wish I had a warning about the cliffhanger, and the sort-of-not-really-love-triangle. I really enjoyed Luca except for how it ended.

Rebecca says

Deadly on the eyes...dangerous on the heart

That's the perfect description of Damon Luca - the man who is a fire-starter in more ways than one. He may be a pyromaniac who gets off on causing damage by setting fire to whatever will go up in flames, but where he does the worst damage is when he sets Allison's body and heart on fire and then leaves her to smolder the pain and blaze on her own, never fully recovering or mending from the exposure.

Allison and Luca's story is told in two parts - their first encounters and then their reconnection seven years later - a reconciliation that Luca had been planning since he left her all those years ago.

From the onset, readers can tell that Allison and Luca are truly combustible together...their connection is instantaneous, and they set each other's bodies on fire from their first interaction. There's a darkness in both of them that also can't be denied, but together, they help channel one another's rage and depression. Despite how much their love burns bright, though, outside forced squelch it and seven years later, they threaten to do it again despite Luca's obsessive planning.

Luca is not a typical hero; his impulses and rage as well as his criminal father force his hands on numerous occasions. He reacts without thinking and is a bit of a stalker when it comes to Allison, but he also takes the steps that need to happen in order to protect the woman who remade him. There's much more to Luca than Whitney allows readers to see, and it's clear that despite his best efforts, he's bound by familial duty, especially when extenuating circumstances occur. Luca's a fireball who can blow apart at any time, and with the events that occur at the end of the text, I feel like Luca will become unhinged quite easily.

Betrayal is what forced Allison into the darkened abyss, creating a young woman whose fear and depression rules her life, but Luca sets her mind and body free at least for awhile until she finds herself once again trapped just with a different capturer. Allison is quite a dynamic heroine because her strengths and weaknesses driver he equally and just when it seems like she's crippled from depression, she finds the determination to carry on, which is what she's going to need to do, yet again, with all that goes down in the text.

I didn't know what to expect heading into Luca; I just knew that I love Gina Whitney's writing style and the way she allows readers to understand her characters and get into their heads with her in-depth character

development. In retrospect, I would have liked to have known that it ends in a bit of a cliffy because it would have thwarted by desire, albeit slightly, to throw my iPad across the room when I was finished reading. I'm not happy with Luca right now, and I don't see that changing anytime soon, but I also know that there's a reason for everything in the worlds and characters Whitney creates, so I'm just going to have to trust that she'll enlighten me when it's time, and I'll have to accept the circumstances she created.

A complimentary copy was provided in exchange for an honest review.

4.5 Poison Apples (The Fairest of All Book Reviews)

Snow says

3.4 stars

I am actually fucked up by this book...

for several reasons...

1) It ended in a cliffy twist

2) it's a fucking triangle, apparently (although the heroine doesn't know it yet)

3) the diversion separating PART 1 and PART 2 makes a 7 years look as long as the Siberian railway

4) PART 1 - they are 17 in a sort of a facility for mental disorders (where they are held for consultation and therapy Luca for his pyromania, Allison for her depression/emo posture caused by a sexual assault on which she feels guilty, ashamed) and then they have the most passionate thing between them - I thought that was like pretty fast considering the things she's dealing with - (Damon DeLuca/LUCA and Allison and there's a third guy, Oliver Sven - a rocker who wants her), then LUca leaves her - leaving her totally shattered and leaving me confused as fuck (cause I really didn't get the "reasoning" for doing that)

5) PART 2 - fast forward 7 years ahead, the trio is 24 years old, Allie finished college, Oliver is on tour but is frequently present in her life - he wants more and she still lingers on the shattered memory of Luca, and the man has been in the shadows watching her and setting the right scene for their reunion for the last 7 years, and when Luca steps into the spotlight again, Allie is prepped and ready to give her life into his hands (well, that didn't take long enough, afterall she still fucking loved him)

8)and we are back at the ending - he leaves her again and she calls Oliver to come back to her...

Now this bloody well sounds like a true soap opera! I thought this would be dark, but it turned out to be chaotic and fluffy with several a shitty twist, a lot of fucking angst and I am just left with very undefined emotions...

unfortunately, considering the soapy feeling of the plot, I am writing the shitty review ...
God, I had such a good feeling about this...

reading it as a part of a **Shh...TopPick of this week with Alessandra, Snow & Sabrina:**
Mar. 20: ShhLYT(F)BR week: DARK BOOKS!

<https://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/...>

I set fire to the rain, huh?

bwahahah

Stephanie GooglyEyes says

Truth?

I liked this book, but didn't LOVE it. I can't put my finger on exactly why. It was missing a spark I think. Everything happened so fast in the beginning. He was claiming her in 2 weeks and they barely seemed to have any dialogue between each other.

I Liked each character and there was a few LOL moments. I also really liked the Truth game, makes me want to play it with someone.

I will continue the series most likely, I feel invested in these characters and I need to know why Luca left...again. I'm not happy with her pulling Ollie back in though. Someone is definitely getting hurt in the end, Darn traingles! :p

sue says

Hm well, I am going to be careful what I say in this review as many haven't read it yet. So I don't want to give too much away.

There has been a fleet of Mental Health characters in books lately I see, which I support 100% when they are reflected correctly. Its great to have any Mental Health Issue out there in the open as its an illness like

anything else, same as physically, but unable to be understood by many or people in fear of it.

We have Lucas [as he is known] a good looking young lad but with a lot of demons and "issues" one of them being Pyromania which is setting fire to something which is a release of tension or arousal. Nearly always to do harm and totally out of control of that person suffering from it.

Allison too has her "crazy" as she refers to it. We see and learn how this craziness affects her and her social surroundings, her relationship with her parents and with others.

They are both in a Center which, I would like to suggest its like a rehabilitation place where Doctors, Nurses and professionals in their field are to help them overcome their problems and learn to be reintroduced to the outside world again.

This is where they meet and end up discovering each other.

My Thoughts:

At the start of this story I was wondering what to make of this. I am not a prude and like to think I am worldly wise at this grand age :) but I did find the language in this book sometimes needless. I have give this 4 stars despite my taste of the 'common' needless F words in this book, it seemed not one page was without it! Does a good story have to be told in this way to attract today's younger readers?

APART from that, I did enjoy the journey these two took me on.

I see this is book 1 in this series and hopefully the next book will be out soon.

My Reasons for 4 stars:

Because I am an avid reader and review a lot of books, this didn't stand out from other books I have read similar to others, so it was an OK read. I did LIKE this book A LOT and I personally feel that Gina Whitney has great talent and can carry on bettering herself which each book she produces. I just hope she writes for herself and not the masses.

Thank you for allowing me to read and review this honestly which I always endeavor to do with no intent to be hurtful or harmful.

Nikki says

★★★★☆4.5 Stars for Luca by Gina Whitney ☆★★★★

Damon DeLuca....sigh

Some of us deal with our feelings of aggression by writing, exercising or even fighting. Not Damon DeLuca, he is a fire starter, a natural born pyro with a need to see things go up in flames. His need to see the world through burning embers lands him in court appointed rehab. This is nothing new to Luca, he will do his time and return to the life he knows beyond the walls of mental health facility, no problem. That is until She was brought in.... game changer!

Past trauma has landed Alison Anderson in the same treatment facility as Luca. Ali's world is black and dreary. She sees no light anywhere. When she meets Luca the sparks of unease and desire are ignited. Not wanting to be attracted to him, she tries to ignore his advances, but her body betrays her words. She can't hide her physical reaction when he is near, but she doesn't want to want him. Will her mind give in to her physical need for Luca? Will he burn through her armor and borough into her soul?

Ali writes in a journal as a form of self-therapy and Gina shares some of those poetic entries. Infusing poetry into the story, she gives the book an almost lyrical feel. As a poet myself, I was sucked in by this form of writing. Throughout the book, I found hidden song lyrics and that made me smile. I love when an author throws in little treats for us to find.

With Luca, Gina Whitney has written two very complex characters with intense history. Their lives and stories intertwined seamlessly and sucked me in from the beginning. She does not just dump all of the good stuff on you right away, she builds the story making you want to read "just one more chapter". Luca has a manic feel to it, the highs are...mmmmm oh so good and the lows...yeah they tear your heart out. But then the passion (sex) leaves you all...um...tingly inside.

There is no HEA in Luca, and when I finished reading I had to send a message to Ms. Whitney telling her I was shaking my fists at her. WHY GINA? Why?....I need to know what happens next, damn it! Ending the book with heartbreak, yet a promise for more, I know that when book 2 Oliver is released I will be at the front of the virtual line to get my copy. I give Luca 4.5 O's and a pout for the cliffhanger.

Buy Links:

Amazon US: http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_...

Amazon UK: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Luca-love-way...>

Amazon CA: <http://www.amazon.ca/Luca-love-way-yo...>

<http://tastywordgasms.theblogpress.co...>

Hooker Heels Book Blog says

Talk about the feels. Luca definitely gave me those. This book was crazy good. The character of Damon Luca was dark, brooding and intensely sexy. He was the perfect character to be paired with the beautiful, vulnerable and damaged Allison. Both characters were flawlessly written with an amazing toughness and openness that had them playing off of each other perfectly. I'll admit that the story does start off a little slow and there were initially some things that I didn't understand but as the book progressed, those questions were quickly answered and I realized that I had a real page turner on my hands. Sexy, engaging and wonderfully written, you are in for a great read with some major twists and turns that will leave you on the reeling on the edge. This is the first book that I have read by this author and it was amazing. I seriously need book 2 like

now.

Ann Marie says

I must start off with this is going to take you on a roller coaster! You have been warned! I absolutely LOVE Gina Whitney's characters, and Luca does not disappoint. If you love a good heart wrenching story of young love, finding it, falling in it, having your heart broken and then having it pieced back together to be shattered again.....this right here is for you. My heart raced at times, I felt so sad for Allison she really goes through it. Luca, I know in my heart he is a good man, sometimes good men make really bad decisions. You will also meet Ollie, I think he comes from a good place not sure yet. Archer, he is another one you will meet and well, honestly I have questions about him. But this story is all about Alli and Luca, *sighs Luca.....

What Luca does to Allison is unforgivable, it truly is. I know that she is heart broken I felt her pain. But I also know that she will live, she will get stronger and Luca will regret every single thing he did wrong, hell he may not even survive his own hell. Will Allie survive her heart break? Will Luca survive his own hell? Will Ollie finally win over the love of his life? Gotta read it!!!

*On a side note I noticed some reviews complaining about editing yes there are some typos, but I swear I didn't think they were a big deal and hell there is probably ten in my review (lol) I don't know, kuddos to you for having the courage to put yourself out there Ms. Whitney! I love your stories!! Keep them coming!!

Barbara Alvarez says

I can't breath ... Book two is ready right? Tell me it's ready please.

Omg what have you done?

#Luca is your BEST book ever ... That's all!!!
