



The Other Brother

Jessica Steele

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Could love exist without trust?

Kathryn had been joyously anticipating her wedding to Rex Kingsersby... until she found him, one week before their wedding, in bed with his secretary!

Horrified, she returned his ring. Kathryn couldn't have known then that Rex's injuries in an accident would prevent the truth from coming out--that she'd be accused of callously jilting Rex!

Nate Kingsersby, Rex's older brother, was another surprise. He regarded her action as an insult to his brother and family--for which Kathryn must suffer.

The Other Brother Details

Date : Published July 1982 by Mills & Boon (first published November 1981)

ISBN : 9780263739671

Author : Jessica Steele

Format : Paperback

Genre : Category Romance, Harlequin, Harlequin Presents, Romance, Contemporary, Fiction, Contemporary Romance



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From Reader Review The Other Brother for online ebook

KatieV says

Good old school revenge HP. What I liked most about it was that the reveal of the H's revenge plot and h's innocence came more toward the middle than in the last 2 pages. So, the H had to work hard for a few chapters to get the h to forgive him and take him back. And, she held on to her pride like a vice instead of falling right back into his arms.

StMargarets says

Nice tidy revenge story. "Tidy" in the sense that the hero's remorse and groveling is nicely calibrated to make up for his revenges against the heroine.

Leona says

This is one of Jessica Steele's better books. It was so filled with WTF angst, I thought I was reading a Charlotte Lamb.

Kathryn is engaged to be married to Rex (first brother) when she happens to walk in and find him in bed with his secretary. She is devastated, breaks the engagement and runs off to be with her sister for the weekend. Rex on the other hand, recognizing the error of his ways, gets drunk and crashes the car seriously injuring himself.

In comes brother number 2, "The Other Brother". Of course, he has her pegged as one callous, mercenary bi#\$#@ who is just dumping his brother because she doesn't want to stick around for the recovery. Brother is the injured party. Brother can do no wrong. Brother shouts her name while suffering in the hospital. So second brother (poisoned by first brother) decides to take a little revenge on sweet Kathryn. Plan A: Get her to fall in love with him and then dump her sorry as#\$. Only this time second brother wants to leave her at the altar and give her the ultimate of humiliations.

This is where the story gets a little off track and why the heroine was really TSTL. First of all, she transfers her affection rather quickly to "Other Brother". She rationalizes her feelings as not having been in love with the first brother, but it still came off as fickle and cheapened her. Secondly, she continues to miss all the signs that he is setting her up...Harsh words, evil glances, hands choking her throat.

Luckily they decide to do the deed and alas he realizes since she was a virgin that everything his brother said was false. But too late, hero had his revenge and the heroine finally sees him for what he is. Of course, she continues to keep working for him, instead of walking out. Seems she feels some loyalty towards his predecessor. (Which I thought a bit absurd). She also goes to the 50th company reunion because she doesn't

want to hurt her other boss' feelings so she subjects herself to yet more of that wonderful Kingsbury charm. I kept scratching my head saying, really?

If the heroine had been just the slightest bit sharper, this could have been a ten star. But as it is, I still really liked it. It has all that WTF angst I so love in my HP's. I even didn't notice all those fragmentation and poor punctuations that JS is known for.

Aou says

Kathryn, h was incredibly naive for an intelligent woman. After a week of revenge promise, how could she have believed kindness and interest of him? Yes, I know that's Harveyland but Jessica Steel should have made them wait at least for a month. Lol

StMargarets says

Just read again because I was thinking of the jilting trope. The "other brother" in this one did redeem himself by placing himself in a position of humiliation if the heroine rejected him. That was nicely done as a symbolic weighing of the karmic scales. But it seemed too quick of a turnaround from a very upset heroine. I'm not sure if trust is regained that quickly. The sister's philandering husband sub-thread really underscored the notion of trust in a relationship. It was more ominous than reassuring.

Chantal ❤? says

Story goes she is engaged to the Hero's brother and she breaks it off with him after he is caught with his pants down and then he has an accident. The hero want to go down and make up with him and she is not going to do that so he set out to get even with her. He seduces her coldly her first time and he is tell her what he really thinks of her and she keeps going in to work for that asshole after he tell her off and she tell him the truth. He is a total judgmental asshole!!! If it was him would that be cool!!!! I did not like the hero he was not a nice guy at all and he needed to grovel more for my liking! She was way too sweet and I would not keep working for that asshole after he treated me like a Saturday night pick up. Seriously!

Tiff91 says

4 STARS

For the simple fact that she made him grovel I mean grovel not just a I'm sorry and bam straight back into it I mean make him beg on his knees. And plus the ending was quite sweet

Kay says

3 1/2 Stars ~ Growing up Kathryn knew her father had had affairs, and when her mother became ill and suddenly died, he had been off with one of his women. To further her resentment, only three months after her mother died, he remarried. Kathryn's sister Sandra has two young daughters and a husband who also has a roving eye. Time and again, Kathryn is consoling her sister over his affairs. Engaged to a wonderful young man, Kathryn is eagerly planning her wedding. It's a week before the day, and while moving some of her belongings over to her fiance's apartment, she finds him in bed with his secretary. Rex begs her to reconsider when she hands him her engagement ring, but infidelity is one thing Kathryn can never excuse. She heads off to her sister's for the weekend and when she returns on the Sunday, Rex's brother Nate comes pounding on her door. He demands to know where she's been and informs her that while she's been out having a good time, Rex has been seriously injured in a car accident. Nate assumes Kathryn will want to rush to Rex's side, but when he tells her that Rex's broken bones will mend in time, she tells Nate that she'd broken her engagement and she has no intentions of going to see Rex. This infuriates Nate, realizing that she's cold hearted and the cause for Rex's drinking binge that resulted in his reckless accident and so he plots revenge. He'll have Kathryn's heart and when she shows up at the church to marry him, he won't be there. But it all falls apart when he seduces her, discovers she's not the promiscuous bitch his brother had painted her, and then learns the whole story of his brother's infidelity. Horrified at how terribly he had treated Kathryn, Nate has a lot of crow to chew on to make things up to her.

This is one of those angst little stories that has a plot that is so over the top but it sucks you in anyway and you find yourself compelled to read to the end. Kathryn has a generous trusting heart and a strong sense of loyalty to those she cares about. Never could she betray someone even if it was detrimental to her own well being. Once the shock of Rex's infidelity wears off, she quickly realizes that she'd never truly been in love with him and that his actions actually stopped them both from making a huge mistake. Nate, always close to his brother, could never imagine that he'd been lied to about Kathryn and seeing his brother rejected and in the hospital, he rages at the injustice. He's quite brutal in his treatment of Kathryn but I was rather proud of the way she stood up to him and made him eat the humiliation he meant for her. Ms. Steele loves to write heroines that are complete misjudged and wrongfully accused, and she does it quite well. This one's a page turner.

Dianna says

Kathryn is getting ready to marry Rex. She'll be moving into a much higher socio-economic bracket, but she's determined not to be a moocher, so she's paying for and organising a whole lot of wedding things. Her sweet old boss, Mr Kingsby, gives her the afternoon off to do wedding stuff. Rex is also a Kingsby. There are seven Kingsby men owning and running the company where Kathryn works. I don't know what the business does, but it's been doing it for a jubilee-worthy number of years. From what I can tell, they specialise in nepotism, the kind of bullying where the union really should be brought in, and occasionally soothing a cranky client. And working all hours. Whatever it is they do, it cannot be accomplished within a 40-hour work week.

So Kathryn decides to take some of her stuff over to Rex's flat, since he's ostensibly off doing the 'Whitaker contract.' Actually, he's in bed with his blonde secretary, Maxine. There isn't much point in me mentioning

Maxine's name, other than to point out that this is her one and only featuring role in the book. What happened to Maxine became my obsession. I mean, I know she was only there to destroy Kathryn's trust in Rex and devastate their wedding plans, but where did she go?

Kathryn let's Rex know that the wedding is off, and goes to see her sister. Kathryn's relationship with her sister is the sole reason this book gets three stars. It's wonderfully supportive. Sure, Kathryn's judgemental of her sister Sandra's relationship with Sandra's husband Victor, but she's never critical to Sandra's face, and she never offers unsolicited advice. These two support each other as a unit. When Kathryn tells her what Rex has done, Sandra says 'so the wedding's off, then?' She doesn't try to influence Kathryn's decision in any way. She just helps her with the practicalities of cancelling the arrangements. This was such a rare and precious and mature way to have a relationship with a family member. It would be worth five stars, except I started doing the maths on how awful the hero was, and had to subtract stars for his general level of horribleness, and his inability to grovel in an articulately satisfying manner.

Kathryn spends the weekend with her sister. She gets home to her London flat, and discovers that Rex has been in a car accident and is in hospital. He's out of critical, but he'll need a lengthy stay in hospital to recover from his injuries. He's been asking for her non-stop. Kathryn knows that it's all too raw for her to go and see him just yet.

This behaviour is completely, bafflingly vile to Rex's older brother, Nate. Nate is 37. He's been heading up the US part of the business (whatever it is), and is back for his brother's wedding, and for the vote to replace Kathryn's boss as chairman. Nate shows up on Kathryn's doorstep, accuses her of being with her lover all weekend, refuses to believe that she's been with her sister. He couldn't reach her, and knows exactly the kind of person she is. He will strangle her! He puts his hands around her throat, but manages to restrain himself from further physical violence.

What a prince, right? Kathryn's terrified, but does that awful thing where she distrusts her initial fears for her safety. Without explaining that she found Rex in bed with another woman (which is personal, anyway, and none of their damn business), she manages to convey to her boss, and to Nate, that the engagement is broken, and that she will not be visiting Rex in hospital. Her boss is prepared to accept that this is a personal matter, and because he values her work he extracts a promise from her that she will stay on with the company for at least three months, to assist the new chairman to transition into the role. Of course, the new chairman is Nate.

Kathryn's stated motivation for keeping Rex's cheating a secret is that she is certain this will be met with disbelief by the men in his family. She knows they will close ranks against her. She suspects reprisals. She's correct: even without offering an explanation, she's very definitely persona non grata. The Kingersbys give her the silent treatment.

I will get to Nate and his complete horribleness, but the silent treatment is also a plot failure. Kathryn observes it, is hurt by it, but it's a small detail. The thing is ... it's not. With only one exception, the senior and most powerful men in the company engage in bullying behaviour, and it has no effect on the way the other workers at the company treat Kathryn. Sure, Kathryn may spend the majority of her time with Chairman Nate, but there is simply no way that the other workers won't have seen how she's treated, and won't have engaged in some bullying of their own. This is human behaviour. Kathryn is a target. While I'm glad for her that Jessica Steele doesn't fully understand how office politics work, it was a frustrating misstep.

Anyway, Nate spends the first week being completely horrible to Kathryn at work, until he discovers her weakness. After that, he's nice as pie and she falls in love with him. Of course this is terribly naive of her, but she's vulnerable and gets a pass.

Nate displays the emotional intelligence of a bratty 8-year-old. He jumps to a great many conclusions about Kathryn, and spends zero time considering how his conclusions don't match his observations. His first impression is of a violent and abusive man, and since I've read this revenge plot before, I'm pretty comfortable with labelling him as a sociopath, as I read about how he turned charming and managed to seduce Kathryn into first admiring, and then loving him.

I'm not sure that it's fully established why Nate is so down on women. Possibly, it doesn't have to be: this world has clearly established rules where the Kingsby men have all the power. There's a family legend that they fall in love once and completely, that all their marriages are happy, loving and faithful ones. I don't trust that at all. Nate's entire motivation is believing that his brother has been wronged by a bad woman, and he's determined to be the one to make Kathryn pay. It's all very old testament. He's 13 years Kathryn's senior, and I can't rate him much lower as a human being, really.

Which meant that, when he got to his grand gesture of grovel, I still thought he was being incredibly controlling in his approach, and bad at articulating his feelings. He falls into that category of grabby, shouty heroes who can't talk about their feels, but have still, somehow, convinced a heroine that they make a good everlasting prospect.

Kathryn's whole deal is that she doesn't like cheaters, and when on the defensive she can get scrappy and say mean things. Apart from her blindly optimistic acceptance of Nate's volte-face, she seemed fairly smart. She certainly had confidence in her ability to organise and deal with detail, and she was endearingly lovely to her sister.

There's a lot of satisfaction in stories where the heroine suffers through great injustice and the hero, when her true goodness is revealed, grovels excessively. Still, this one missed the mark for me.

Kathleen says

I love how Jessica Steele creates conflict in her heroes, who end up loving the very one they despise and distrust. And threaten and bully. They realize they misjudged the girl. Then they must grovel -- and in this case, the "other brother" has to really grovel!! Her heroes can be so ruthless.

Others by Steele with ruthless gamma heroes who see the light (grovel scenes):

Devil In Disguise

Intimate Enemies

Innocent Abroad

Tethered Liberty

Pride's Master

Jessica Steele writes Harlequin Romances and some Hqn Presents. She is now about 85 years old, sad to say. Steele is one of the worst writers, in terms of syntax, grammar, etc. Her sentence construction is ... unusual. But IMO, she is among the best at Hqn in terms of storytelling and sexual tension. Her heroines are virgins,

and the wanting drives the heroes nuts.

I read this eons ago, and never forgot it, keeping it on hand.

Chitra *CJ* says

"The Other Brother" is the story of Nate and Kathryn.

Basically Kathryn is a happy bride to be, marrying Rex into the Kingsersby family, when a pre wedding apartment trip leads her to Rex with another woman in bed. Angry and hurt, she breaks off the engagement, and goes off to visit her sister.

When she returns, she realizes Rex has had an accident- and his family thinks she jilted him- not knowing the real reason behind calling off the wedding!

Nate his older brother now heads the company she is secretary in, and decides to take revenge from her for the wrongdoings!

Boring tale of how the heroine is screwed over by the two Kingsersby brothers. I wish she was less trusting with Nate, and I kept wondering how she hated infidelity, yet allowed her sister Sandra to remain with Vic, her pig of a husband. There is a lot of easy forgiving until the end, where a little grovel and clap back leads to a HEA.

Safe

2/5

Saly says

I didn't enjoy this book much to be honest I found the heroine naive and I never felt the hero grovelled sufficiently instead he felt she had a right to listen to his explanations even when all along he pretended to be nice to her, sometimes attacked her and then planned to jilt her at the altar not to forget took her virginity, not doing.

The only reason he realized that his beloved brother was lying was because she turned out to be a virgin. Not that the heroine was blameless, when she discovered that her fiancee was being unfaithful instead of telling his family, who also happen to employ her, she doesn't say anything and then even when the hero threatens to destroy her (her ex-fiancee was in an accident and she refused to see him), she continues to work there out of the goodness of her heart, that is just asking for trouble and she never questions the hero's sudden warmth towards her instead falls for him, acknowledging she never loved his brother only convinced herself she did.

She also has problems with infidelity because of her father and even when she sees the hero glaring at her convinces herself it is just a trick of the light, and is foolish enough to fall for him. Though she does freeze him out later when she finds out about his revenge plan.

Booklover says

Kathryn is engaged to be married to Rex and is happy but 1 week before she drops in to surprise Rex and she gets the shock of her life, Rex is in bed with his secretary Maxine and she catches them, Kathryn then breaks off the engagement, Rex says no he loves her and Maxine is nothing to him but Kathryn takes no

excuse she gives back the ring and goes away

Immediately after this Rex is in an accident and is injured seriously, Rex's older brother Nick thinks Kathryn is responsible for Rex's condition and plans revenge, he gives her a job of secretary in his office, Kathryn meets Nick, sparks fly and these two are attracted to each other, but Rex is a wall between these two and their love, Nick thinks Kathryn dumped and humiliated Rex cause she wanted revenge on men cause of what her father did to her mother, but then these two give in attraction and Nick gets shock of his life cause Kathryn is virgin and he thought Kathryn was Rex's lover and in heat of the moment he says what he had planned and Kathryn is hurt and humiliated

Kathryn also brings out the reason for breaking the engagement, she tells him about Rex-Maxine which leaves Nick more shocked and he is very ashamed of his behaviour and regrets his action but Kathryn is not giving any chance or excuses and then we have grovelling and Kathryn forgives him and HEA

Liked Kathryn a lot she is one strong, intelligent, caring, sweet woman who doesn't take any crap from any men, Nick is a caring responsible mature intelligent man and when he comes to know he has judged Kathryn wrongly, he takes full responsibility of his doings and also brings out what Rex did and sees to it Kathryn is not further judged wrongly and his grovelling aww such a sweet guy, these two are perfect for each other and made a great couple

Good read

Ivy H says

I am one of the few die hard Jessica Steele fans because I love reading about her urbane, bossy British alpha males in conservative Savile Row suits, with their stiff upper lips and other stiff parts too ! Lol. Ok, I shall behave ! This was one of my fav novels by this author because she amped up the angst and actually allowed her MC's to have sex too. Now that's a big deal for Jessica Steele since she's an author whose heroines always wait until after marriage before becoming *hymenally challenged*.

This heroine Kathryn, is, like too many of Jessica's soft English maidens, too self sacrificial. She protects her cheating fiance's reputation to avoid hurting his family's feelings. That bothered me a lot because these people are all adults and they deserved to know that Rex was a douche donkey cheater. Rex, Kathryn's cheating, rat bastard, dick of a secretary screwing fiance does NOT deserve her protection. At the beginning of the story, Kathryn walked in on Rex while he was banging the skanky secretary:

For long seconds her stunned brain refused to think—the couple sharing the bed appearing to be similarly dumbstruck. For the man she hadn't expected to see until they were in church rehearsing their responses tomorrow just sat and stared too, his chest bare while his blonde companion—his secretary, Kathryn recognised—tried to cover up her naked breasts.

Why does the heroine not tell his relatives the real reason she broke their engagement? Well, Rex was "traumatized" after Kathryn found him banging the *skanky* that he got drunk and was involved in a horrific car crash.

This is Rex just before the car crashes !

Kathryn the martyred maiden feels sorry for him and doesn't want to hurt his relatives with more bad news. I didn't agree with her. So what if the dickhead is in a coma with half his body in a plaster cast ? As far as I'm concerned, his meandering penis should have been broken too ! But, in HPlania someone always has to pay the price for a tragedy and in this instance it's Kathryn who has to fork out the penance dollars. Some of Rex's relatives think she's a cold and brutal bitch for jilting him 2 days before the wedding. Her reputation shouldn't be maligned just because she feels the need to protect his goody two shoes image in the eyes of his super doting relatives. This is one of the things I can't stand: self sacrificial or martyr type heroines, especially when they're protecting people who don't deserve it.

This brings me to the big bad hero Nate. He was Rex's big brother and he decided it was his duty to seek vengeance for how Kathryn had "destroyed" his sibling's life. He was such a fucked up chameleon to the poor sweet h. He hid his evil intentions and pretended he cared for her in an effort to break her and embarrass her. Why did I like this novel then? Jessica Steele manages to portray the H's tormented feelings because he has a great longing for this woman he is supposed to loathe. The build up to the climax (pun intended ???) was interesting. The poor sweet heroine is slowly falling in real love with Nate. She realises that her feelings for the rat bastard Rex were not in any way as intense or meaningful as they are for his hunky older brother. She's in love for the first time, while the reader knows the H is just playing a game.

An effective musical comparison can be shown here. It's like Kathryn's listening to the following song and she's all light and happy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnDtx...>

Yeah, for the poor sweet oblivious Kathryn, it's all about:

*Love is a many splendored thing
It's the April rose that only grows in the early Spring
Love is nature's way of giving a reason to be living
The golden crown that makes a man a king
Once on a high and windy hill, In the morning mist
Two lovers kissed and the world stood still*

Meanwhile, the H's vengeful feelings are more suitably expressed in the following song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpF8W...>

In fact, I'll even quote a few lines from that song since it's exactly how the H feels:

*Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth
A life for a life, it's my burden of proof
Revenge, just for you
Revenge
You ask forgiveness, I give you sweet revenge*

Of course the climax to this revenge trope, is brought on by the sex scene. All Steele's heroines are virgins so our H sleeps with her, he discovers that his brother had been lying about certain things. It's perhaps the most apt use of virginity as a plot device. It might have taken a lot longer for Nate to realize the truth if Kathryn hadn't been a virgin. I know it's an old fashioned staple in the vintage harlequins but I guess it's the easiest

way for an author to solve a big problem. Kathryn was so in love with Nate that she broke her own rule about pre-marital sex and slept with him. She's filled with joy and bliss the morning after but the jackass H tells her that it was all for revenge. It was a painful scene to read:

'Hello, darling,' she said softly instead, staying near the door. She saw Nate jerk at the sound of her voice, and thinking only to wait to see his face, to see his smile before she rushed into his arms, stood waiting for him to turn around. Strangely his hands were now clenched at his sides, she saw, but she shrugged aside whatever that might mean as she anticipated his loving smile as he began to turn. But there was no smile on his face as he turned to face her.

Then it got worse:

'Darling, what's wrong?' and heard none of the loving gentleness she had been expecting as he grated harshly:

'Why the hell didn't you tell me you were a virgin before I became too—involved to stop?'

Only an old school British H would use a euphemistic term like *involved*, to describe passionate love making ! Then Nate bursts her romantic bubble by revealing the nasty truth about his vengeance scheme:

'God!' Nate exploded. 'Can't you see why? Can't you see this whole mess is based on lies?'

'Lies?' she repeated, dumbfounded, too stunned by his attitude being so different from what she had thought it would be to take in what he was trying to tell her.

'Of course lies,' Nate said, and Kathryn wasn't sure then who he was growing more furious with, her or himself, as he flung at her,

'Can't you see yet that every time I was the least bit pleasant to you it was false? Are you so dumb you don't know I've planned to make you pay from the very beginning?'

'Make me pay?' she whispered, stupefied.

'I looked for a way to make you suffer the way you'd made my brother suffer,' he threw at her. 'I watched you for days trying to see what made you tick. I watched to find out where you were most vulnerable.'

Suffice it to say that the dejected Kathryn was probably hearing this song now (but I doubt it was released at the time of this book's publication. Lol)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAGnK...>

OK I know the last song is a bit of a stretch but I just love Metallica and I am shamelessly gratuitous when it comes to the stuff I love.

It took this betrayal for Kathryn to spill her guts to Nate. She finally gets mad and tells him about Rex having sex with the bimbo secretary and they both reach an impasse for a short while. The H makes the H grovel. And that's why I enjoyed this novel. Nate was really destroyed emotionally when Kathryn refused his

apology and wanted to have nothing to do with him.

Kathryn was like this adorable dog who is reluctant to play with its owner:

Moving on from my second shameless example of gratuitous insertions of stuff not related to the story...

The man REALLY grovels and that's why it worked for me. Readers will have to read the book to see what he does that's so selfless, but his final act of grovelling makes up for his former shitty behaviour and they all lived HEA - even Rex, whose penis will still be working, unfortunately. This novel might not appeal to all readers, but I enjoyed it a lot in spite of my impatience with Kathryn's maidenly martyrdom and my anger at Nate's cruelty.

Safety: No cheating. No OW or OM. The heroine had never had sex with Rex Of The Meandering Penis.

This is the heroine, Kathryn:

This is the H, Nate:

Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says

Spoilers, yes

Formulaic JS with a cheating fiancé, an angry vengeful H and a poor misunderstood h, bravely trying to get on with life.

Only I dint like her completely forgetting/not going to see the seriously injured om. He might have been a jerk but a JS h is supposed to be a better person! Also, her complete idiocy in keeping the truth to herself and suffering the om's family's wrath was baffling and impractical.

Adding more to her idiocy was her turning a blind eye to the H's real motives in befriending/wooing her. Even as he kept throwing angry/hateful glances her way periodically, she explained it away, again and again, as a play of light!

And then those pages and pages without dialogue had to be skimmed and skipped over. As were the repetitive happenings at the office and the H's blow hot, blow cold routine.

Best part was that the book elevated towards the end. Even as the reader expected and got the revelation about the H's real motives, his remorse and grovel, the book surprised with its treatment of the same. It was no wham bam, sorry ma'am, but the H had to work for it - over a period of time. The ending with the surprise wedding was sweet and dreamy and worth it.
