



Hartstrings

L.L. Collins

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Tanner Hart, the All-American bad boy bass guitarist of Jaded Regret, has one motto—play women’s bodies like he does the strings of his guitar—hard, in tune, and giving it his all until the show is over. The only strings he wants attached to him are the ones he plays on the stage.

He has quite the reputation, even with his own band, and he likes it that way. It keeps the truth of who he really is locked deep inside. But there's so much more to him than anyone really knows...

Now that he’s successful, he can afford to find out what really happened to the only girl who’s ever held his heart. The only thing is...will he really want to know the truth?

When Mackenzie ‘Mac’ Shepard finds herself in a situation she’s been in too many times before, she expects to do what she’s always done—cover it up, accept the apologies, and move on. She knows trying to get out is futile. What she doesn’t expect is for the world famous Tanner Hart to burst into her life like a knight in sexy armor.

When their lives collide and hearts get involved, can Tanner keep his hartstrings from being tangled up in his past, or can he make a new kind of music... with his heart?

Hartstrings Details

Date : Published by L.L. Collins (first published 2016)

ISBN :

Author : L.L. Collins

Format : ebook

Genre : Contemporary, Romance, Contemporary Romance, Adult, Music, Sociology, Abuse

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From Reader Review *Hartstrings* for online ebook

1-Click Addict Support Group says

There are just not words to express how deeply touched I was by Tanner's story. It dealt with such a serious topic—one which many of us have gone through, or know someone who has gone through it. This story captured my heart and attention from the prologue, and kept it to the very end.

Tanner's childhood was anything but wonderful, but despite that, he's grown to be a successful individual—and he refuses to let the past bring him down. One fateful evening, though, everything changes when he stumbles upon Mackenzie—the one who would help him redeem himself.

What Tanner witnessed as a child... Well, I myself did as well, and I thought the same—why doesn't she just leave him, why can't we just run away? Now a grown-up, I realize that it's never that easy. I had tears as I read Mackenzie's story; what she felt is what many have felt when going through a situation like hers. The fear, the hurt, the hate, the self-worthlessness and the hopelessness are just so real that they feel like there is no escape.

There is no way to really write a review that will do this story justice, you will just have to read it—and I ask that you have an open mind and heart when you do. Put yourself in Mackenzie and Tanner's shoes, and truly see it from THEIR viewpoint not from, *'well, I would have done...'*.

This was truly a powerful story, and it touched me deeply. So, thank you, L.L. Collins, for shedding some light on such a tough topic. Thank you for helping us see that we are not alone, that we are not weak. If anything, we are more powerful than we know. ~ Kara, 6 Beautiful stars

Sabrina says

The storyline for *Hartstrings* was interesting and the blurb had me really excited to get Tanner's story, but then the actual book fell flat. I was left wanting more from Tanner and Mac, and they just didn't live up to the expectations I had. It started out okay, but I soon lost interest in reading it, and that's never a good feeling. Honestly, I read the book two weeks ago and I already forgot most of it since it just didn't keep me intrigued at all. I haven't read the other books in this story, and they weren't really needed to understand this one, but now I'm not sure if I want to read them at all. I'll revisit later, maybe.

I think anyone that likes a playboy rockstar with a hidden, dark, past should give it a shot. It didn't work for me but I know that many will like it. Hopefully it will work out for you more than it did for me.

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

Natalie The Biblioholic says

L.L. Collins really knows how to create a tortured hero. I've met three of them so far and I've fallen for each one of them.

I just wanna squeeze 'em. Three men with tortured pasts that ruled their present. Thankfully Johnny and Beau found their HEAs with Bex and April. I knew it was only a matter of time for Tanner and I couldn't wait to see what the author had in store for his story.

Hopefully this isn't a surprise, but Tanner came from a physically abusive background. At 18yo, he changed his name and reinvented himself as Tanner Hart, bass player and manwhore extraordinaire. His reputation among the ladies was solidified back in Snared, but this book showed a different side to him. A side that was kind, considerate and protective. At least when it came to Mackenzie.

Mackenzie found herself stuck in an abusive relationship with her high school sweetheart. Although her thought process was very frustrating (i.e. "He loves me" and "He's the only one who'll ever love me")...

Finally enough was enough. With Tanner's never-ending support, she found the strength to leave her abuser.

This book had a bit more suspense than the others and focused less on Mac and Tanner's physical relationship and more on their emotional connection. I love the friends to lovers trope and it was handled exceptionally well in this story.

I see there will be a fourth book, Exposed: A Jaded Regret Novel. Is this finally Natalie's story? And will it involve the mysterious Kai?

Recommended to those who adore closure with their romance

D says

Another great instalment to this series. I loved reading about Tanner and seeing him in a different light. His back story hit close to home so I found myself fully invested in the characters navigation and journey throughout the story to find their HEA and second chance a true love.

I absolutely adore how LL Collins gives that sense of family and the highest of loyalty between the band members. With each instalment, Collins manages to evolve the characters from the previous books even more giving the story all the feels. She writes with a good balance of angst, humour and OMG sexy times. I can't wait to delve into the final instalment Exposed.

D 4/5

Jamie Rhodes says

Wow. Fantastic. Emotional. Gripping. Deep. This is L.L. Collins at her best. I have read EVERY book that she has written. I can honestly say that I have enjoyed every single one of them. Sometimes L.L. Collins touches on sensitive topics. This is what makes her books so good. The topics are handled in such a way that they cause you to pause and think about things that most of us don't have to deal with, but others do. This book is about one of those sensitive topics. From page 1 you are given the impression that this is going to be

an emotional ride. It's a story full of depth, not fluff. As much as we the readers want to yell at the characters for how they handle some of the situations, we have to remember that there are real people in these same situations and the way that the characters handle it is the way most people in that situation would. L. L. Collins gives a warning at the first of this book that certain subjects included may trigger some reactions. I wonder if someone who read this book who may be in a similar situation wouldn't find strength from reading this book. I hope they may find the strength to overcome their situation. I found a bit of suspense as I read wondering what was coming at these characters next. This is a part of a series. If you have read the other books, then you will remember Tanner as being the member of the band who is has a line of willing groupies at his beck and call. This book is about Tanner. We learn about his past. We learn why he behaves the way that he does. Mackenzie will just endure herself to you. You just want to give her a big ole hug and tell her be strong. I love this series and this band. I love the individual characters, and I love the way they interact with each other. If for some reason you haven't read the other books in the series, I feel like you could read this one and be okay. But, you won't know all of the backstories and how these people became who they are. So I urge you to start with Sentenced and go from there. I promise you won't regret your decision. I even got my mom to read them, and she loved them too. No cliffhanger, but you know that there is one member left. I can't wait to read her story.

Konny says

Hartstrings by L.L. Collins is the third installment in the Jaded Regret Series. For better understanding I recommend to read the books in order.

Hartstrings is Tanner and Mackenzie's book.

Tanner Hart is a bad boy bass guitarist of Jaded Regret. His band mates are married and happy with kids.

That will never happen to Tanner, so he thinks. He loves his womanizing ways, his ONS and his free life. Or is it all a facade?

And then she comes Mackenzie- Mac- Shepard and puts his world upside down.

I really liked the characters and I liked to meet the other band members and their families.

I give 4,5 Stars.

Melissa Ann says

This book was deeply heartbreaking and so beautiful at the same time! L.L. has done a amazing rocker series extremely well! Tanner and Mac's story will stay with me a long time! This story broke my heart into tiny pieces only to put back together again, my heart literally felt their pain. "Hartstrings" greatly went above and beyond my expectations!!!

Amy says

I'm not going to lie, in the beginning especially when it switched to Mac's POV, I found this hard to read. That's just because I always find it hard to read a book for the victim's POV. I felt so bad for her and I cringed whenever she thought badly of herself or like she deserved it. I'm surprised this book didn't have trigger warnings.

But Tanner, he comes off as a womanizer because he doesn't seem to care, but really it's the exact opposite, he cares too much. To the point that he helps a woman he doesn't even know.

It ended up turning into a great book.

My only question is why didn't they get a proper epilogue like everyone else....

Casey says

Find this review and more at Ramblings From This Chick

Hartstrings is the first book that I have read from L.L. Collins. It is the third book in her Jaded Regret series, but each book can be read as a standalone story. The characters are interconnected, but I had no problems understanding anything here. I really liked this book, and I will definitely read more from L.L. Collins again in the future. This book wasn't always easy to get through, and my heart broke for these characters at times. But I was so glad that I read it and stuck through the difficult parts.

Tanner Hart is known for being a player of more than just the guitar for the band Jaded Regret. Thought to be the All-American bad boy of the band, Tanner's life couldn't be more different. But no one knows about his past, and he is happy to keep it that way. But when he comes across a bad situation and meets Mackenzie Shepard, he can't stop himself from rushing in to save her. Mackenzie isn't looking to be rescued though and knows that trying to get out is impossible. But when Tanner refuses to give up, Mackenzie and Tanner begin to form a friendship that changes both of their lives.

I really liked Tanner. I felt so badly for him and all that he had been through. My heart really hurt for him and how alone he was. He might have looked like he had it all, but there was so much that no one knew about. I was glad that he found Mac and was able to open up to her. I have to say that I wasn't the biggest fan of Mac most of the time though. I have never been in her situation and I tried not to judge her. But there were times that I just didn't understand her and the choices she made, and it frustrated me a bit. I also found it hard to relate to her at times because of that. These two did have chemistry and you could see that they were building a connection and I wanted them to be together.

Ultimately though, I felt like their relationship did come off as a bit rushed. Things seemed to just steamroll ahead once they started to change, and it just felt like a switch had been flipped from friends to more. Don't get me wrong I liked them together and how things ended, it just felt like it changed overnight and I would have liked to have seen a bit more of that transition that it felt like we missed here. Overall though this was a really good story, and I am looking forward to reading more in this series. If you are a fan of rockstar romance stories with some depth and emotion to them, I would definitely recommend giving this one a shot. Hartstrings made my heart hurt at times, but it also built me back up and showed that there is always hope and love can always heal even the most broken of people.

****ARC Provided by Inkslinger PR****

SueBee★bring me an alpha!★ says

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Chrissy says

<http://rpm-bt-blog.com/rpm-bt/review-ha...>

L.L. Collins has done it again! Hartstrings is an emotional read that pulled at my heartstrings throughout the entire read!

Tanner is the bad boy guitarist of Jaded Regret who has a past no one knew about. A chance meeting with MacKenzie causes him to face his demons as well as help a girl who he never saw coming. Mac is in a bad situation, but in her mind unable to leave, but with the new budding friendship she has with Tanner, things seem to be a little brighter in her life.

Throughout this book, we get to see both Mac and Tanner fight their demons, come to terms with things that have happened to them in the past, and start to look forward. I loved how strong Tanner was for Mac and how much he helped her, but really in the end it was Mac who made the choice to help herself. Some parts of her story were hard to read for me, as it broke my heart and made me mad all at the same time. Her boyfriend is AWFUL and deserved everything that came to him in this book. Once Mac is on her way to recovery, it's her turn to help Tanner deal with his past and put it to rest finally.

Both of these characters were able to be there and help each other through some of their darkest times. They were exactly what the other needed, when they needed to be it. I loved how they thought they could just be friends, when anyone (bandmates, friends, and readers reading the book) could see there was so much more to them than they even realized.

Tanner is protective of Mac, and watching him shed his bad boy persona and become who I knew he could be was beautiful. He was a little slow on the uptake with figuring out just how much Mac meant to him, but once he realized it, he was all in, and I loved seeing this part of him. Watching Mac shed her defeated persona and become the strong woman she was at the end of the book was also amazing to watch.

This book may not be for everyone, as it does deal with abuse, and so much more, but if you can handle it, I highly suggest picking this one up. I really enjoyed it, but I felt as if there were still some unanswered questions for me that made this book a four star read instead of a five.

Melissa Mendoza says

Title: Hartstrings

Author: L.L. Collins

Series: A Jaded Regret Novel

Publisher: L.L. Collins

Release Date: June 2016

Genre(s): Contemporary Romance

Page Count: 275

Heat Level: 4 flames out of 5

Rating: 4 stars out of 5

Blurb:

Tanner Hart, the All-American bad boy bass guitarist of Jaded Regret, has one motto— play women’s bodies like he does the strings of his guitar— hard, in tune, and giving it his all until the show is over. The only strings he wants attached to him are the ones he plays on the stage.

He has quite the reputation, even with his own band, and he likes it that way. It keeps the truth of who he really is locked deep inside. But there's so much more to him than anyone really knows...

Now that he’s successful, he can afford to find out what really happened to the only girl who’s ever held his heart. The only thing is...will he really want to know the truth?

When Mackenzie ‘Mac’ Shepard finds herself in a situation she’s been in too many times before, she expects to do what she’s always done— cover it up, accept the apologies, and move on. She knows trying to get out is futile. What she doesn’t expect is for the world famous Tanner Hart to burst into her life like a knight in sexy armor.

When their lives collide and hearts get involved, can Tanner keep his hartstrings from being tangled up in his past, or can he make a new kind of music... with his heart?

Review:

“I took her back to my hotel room, bathed her, then we fell asleep, and when I woke up, she was gone. Now I have to find her.”

5 pull my heartstrings stars!!! I’m in love with Tanner!!!

Tanner is the bass player for Jaded Regret and he’s a total bad boy! His motto he lives by is “play women’s bodies like the strings of his guitar.” Yeah I know, but still swoon!!! And the last thing he needs is a girlfriend. He likes being free and single, you know to “play” women. But deep down inside of this bad boy is a story that will break your heart! And now that he’s made money he’s ready to find the only girl he ever loved. Mac is in another horrible relationship and she’s just dealing with the abuse, which is the only way she knows how to deal. But her world explodes when Tanner steps in to rescue her. Can these two get over their past and make it work or will his reputation and their past be too much for them both?

I love this series, but I think this book is my favorite! I fell in love with Tanner and his bad boy ways! He's sinfully sexy and I loved his knight in shining armor ways!!! Mac, while a total victim, is amazing and hard not to love! I can't really say more, because I don't want to ruin it for everyone. Just go grab this book and read it!

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review. Reviewed by Melissa from Alpha Book Club

Jennifer Sons says

I loved Tanner's story! Every book I read of LL Collins, I fall in love a little more. I can't say enough about this book but it's hard to put into words how strongly I feel about it either! Mrs. Collins never fails to deliver an emotional, exciting, heart-stopping masterpiece that will keep you entranced from beginning to end!

In the other 2 books, Tanner appears to be nothing but a man-whore but I KNEW he had a story! WOW! Is all I can say! His story is one I'll always remember! As the story progresses, I had this gut-wrenching twist in my stomach! The anticipation of what's to come kept me on edge & thirsting for more! My heart broke into a million pieces but slowly mended as it came to an end!

I love the author's writing style & the way she makes me fall in love with every single character! I can't wait for Nat's book!

Connie says

Wow! Extremely disturbing story! I love rock star, Tanner and Private Investigator, Mackenzie but I am puzzled about how much control they allowed these psycho men to have over their lives. How about run far, far away and get HELP?!!! Tanner has a big, generous heart and wants to save Mackenzie from her abuser. Mackenzie is allowing the abuse in order to protect her father when she should be protecting herself. A lesson to be learned for all of us!

Sybil aka Lala says

I love the Jaded Regret Series and I love all these boys so maybe it was because I saw Tanner with someone else or maybe it was because I didn't love the start between Mac and Tanner that cause this one to fall a little flat for me. Not to say I didn't enjoy this book, because I did, it just wasn't my favorite of the series.

Hartstrings was also quite a difficult and frustrating read. Even though I was screaming for both of these people to wake up and move on from a terrible situation I have to admire the author for not taking the easy way out. She handled a difficult subject with the brevity it deserved and all the many confusing feelings that go hand in hand with this situation. This book was every bit as emotional as the others in this series and getting a deeper glimpse into what makes Tanner tick was altogether satisfying and heart-breaking.

So even though this wasn't my favorite of the series, this book still had me furiously turning pages to see

how everything would work, what secrets would be revealed and how other characters would react. After all my frustrations and misgivings, I still had a giant smile on my face after the last page.

(ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review)
