



## Mercy

*HelenKay Dimon*

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## Mercy HelenKay Dimon

*After she infiltrated his business and betrayed his trust, a disavowed CIA agent must seek sanctuary in the bedroom of a man who will either help her, kill her, or bring her to her knees...*

Becca Ford is on her own. Eight months after she headed up a sting operation to take down millionaire club owner Jarrett Holt, the other agents in her special ops team have been eliminated under odd circumstances, and she needs a place to hide.

Jarrett is a man who prefers darkness to light. He deals in the only truly valuable currency—information—and his supper club caters to an exclusive clientele. It was an uncharacteristic moment of weakness when he let a woman into his life. But it's not luck that the criminal charges disappeared . . . as did the evidence.

When Becca returns to the club seeking his help, Jarrett doesn't want to hear her story. But he does want her body, and demands that she give it to him. He'll keep her safe—for now—but it'll be in his bed and on his terms, until he says they're done.

## Mercy Details

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Author : HelenKay Dimon

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## From Reader Review Mercy for online ebook

### Angie Elle says

\*\*\*This book was provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.\*\*\*

Unfortunately this book was a miss for me all around.

First of all, I never felt the ‘love’ between the hero and heroine. There was a lot of focus on the fact that they had a past where they were in love, but that love just never came through on the page. The physical attraction between Becca and Jarrett was definitely there, and some of the sex scenes were hot, but there were so many of them they began to get repetitive.

As for the characters, Becca was a mediocre heroine for me. There was nothing about her that stood out, and maybe that’s why I couldn’t feel the love between the characters. She may not be remarkable, but there should be something about the heroine that the hero finds remarkable. Thoughts like this never crossed Jarrett’s mind.

Jarrett was a confusing character. I felt like his history and the way the people around him ‘saw’ him was not the man we saw. It almost felt like he was two separate characters—one man in his head, and someone completely different with his actions. I feel like this book may have been more enjoyable had it been written strictly from the heroine’s perspective. Jarrett would have been portrayed as more of a hard ass, which I think is what the reader was supposed to see.

There was a second story line going on that was just too similar to the first. I didn’t see the point of it, as it didn’t really further the plot. It felt like a bunch of gratuitous sex scenes strung together, and with as much sex as Becca and Jarrett were having, it was just sex overload. I think the book could have done without the ‘relationship’ story line of the second couple.

Elijah was another character that I didn’t understand. He was part of a secret ops team for the CIA, but the man was a walking time bomb. I just don’t see how he could have been part of an undercover team for so long. He would have definitely been a huge liability, and I can’t imagine anyone wanting to work with that when they were in such dangerous situations.

(view spoiler)

The entire book took place in one building; granted there were a few apartments and a club in the building, but I think the story could have been broken up a bit if the characters hadn’t spent all their time in a single location.

This one just wasn’t for me. I am giving it two stars, though, because as I said, some of the love scenes were hot, and I do think the ‘erotica’ portion of the books description was met. It was the romance classification that just wasn’t there for me.

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### Carol\*\*\*BeautyandtheBeastlyBooks says

3.5 stars

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## Jess says

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

Blog rating: D+

I have to start out by saying I didn't enjoy this book and it comes down to simply - too much sex and not enough plot and story development especially related to the main plot surrounding a threat on the heroine Becca's life...the resolution to this was so weak, it had no real impact other than just some conference room dealings that led to the main suspect being taken care of off page. I don't normally start a review with a summary like this, but it was a head shaker to me, which pretty well summarizes my thoughts on the book as a whole.

For the main romance between Becca and Jarrett, it was all sex, all the time. I did like that this couple had a previous relationship, it did add an extra layer to their current and complicated romance. But at the same time, Becca was undercover and her mission was to get close to Jarrett, and did she ever. She got close as in, in his bed and was well on her way to falling in love for real when the mission came to a head and she accused Jarrett of being involved in drugs. He got tossed in jail and she disappeared. Through some dealings made in which Jarrett gave up information he obtained through his "club" he was let out but the sting of what Becca did to him cut deep. Jarrett doesn't open up to many people, none really, but he was on his way there with Becca until she backstabbed him. Now, Becca's team is mysteriously dying and she's afraid that she'll be the next one to be eliminated. Eight months after her betrayal to Jarrett, she seeks safety at his club and he's ready to give it to her. Trying to keep things completely impersonal, Jarrett gives her a place to hide in exchange for sex. But they're both in too deep with their feelings for each other and it doesn't stay impersonal for long.

My biggest issue with this story is the amount of sex that takes priority over any type of plot development. I guess my thinking about books in the erotic category is sure, I expect more sex, maybe more explicit sex scenes but I don't necessarily think that just because a book is erotic, there needs to be sex (sometimes more than one sex scene) in every, single chapter. And yes, I'm over-exaggerating somewhat, there were at least two chapters without any sex scenes. But on the whole, once I got to around the midway point of the book I started thinking, sex, again? Really? And it was then that I just started skimming those scenes. They became so monotonous and what I really wanted was to learn more about the suspense surrounding who was targeting Becca's old team and why. That, unfortunately, felt like it got shoved aside until the very end when everything got resolved in a neat and tidy way. I enjoy more of a balance, sex and good plot development and I felt that Mercy was way too heavy on the sex scenes and basically ignored the suspense plot that could have been really interesting had it been given more time to be fleshed out.

There's a secondary storyline involving Jarrett's number two guy at his club and close friend Wade and another one of Becca's teammates who's also being hidden at Jarrett's, Elijah. Wade and Elijah start a physical relationship as well and while they both fall deeper and harder for each other, Elijah doesn't go all in with his feelings. He says some hurtful things about Wade to Becca and when Wade overhears he's crushed and pushes Elijah away completely (as he should, I didn't really warm up to Elijah at all) and that's where we're left with these two. I assume that another book with new leads will follow, maybe for Wade's sister who's introduced, and that Wade and Elijah's storyline will continue.

I can't say I enjoyed this book overall. There were moments that had me interested, but they were few and far between and reading sex scene after sex scene got old fast when it was clear that the rest of the book was suffering for it. There was certainly enough of a set up for a few characters to continue in this world, but I'm not sure if I'll be back for more.

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### **Daniela says**

This erotic romance was gifted to me by the author as a contest win in exchange for an honest review.

First two chapters in and I was fascinated with this love story between a man who knows no boundary between right and wrong (in my mind a criminal) and a woman who is black ops CIA(basically good cop) yet also a person who teeters on the edge, kills without blinking if its for a good cause like national security. "Jarrett Holt, is tall, dark and so deadly his competitors literally disappear". Becca came back to him after she arrested him with her CIA team 8 months ago to ask for his help in finding who burned her. The story starts with her coming back to his club for place to hide. It was a great idea that there is a history between them. It helped to explain the quick turn of sexual play they immediately jumped into. The mystery of who burned her is the glue that holds the story in place. If not for the mystery as well as the secondary romance between Jarrett's friend Wade and Elijah, Becca's CIA partner, the story would have too much angst and mistrust for me to appreciate.

They are both mistrustful and rightly so. Jarrett is a powerful man with a huge amount of control, over his business and over his emotions. Becca is special ops, always moving always twitchy, never feeling safe, always needs to know exits. There is something about Jarrett I love!!! I think it's his weakness for Becca. He is so strong and in control but he touches her and his hands shake his heart explodes.

The ending was a little anti-climactic for me. I guess I expected a shoot-out at the OK corral. Don't get me wrong, the ending was good and it tied up all the loose ends. It was just more a "boardroom massacre" instead of the expected "barnyard massacre". (if you will excuse my weird analogies). However, I did not realize that this is book #1 of a series so I am doing the happy dance to find out more about these characters!

I read an interview (or her blog, I forget where) where the author admits to being nervous about this story. She went further than she normally goes. Well, I say to her she had the right combination of explicit sex, erotic love, danger and intrigue. and I can't wait for the next book to come out

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### **Lauren at Live Read and Breathe Reviews says**

3.5 Ass Kicking Stars!!

*eARC for Honest Review from Berkley Trade*

This was my first HelenKay Dimon book and it will definitely not be my last. In this book, the story line was a refreshing twist. It was like two stories in one where the middle merged together which kept me more intrigued than I would have been normally.

One part of the story is with Becca and Jarrett. Where the other part is with Wade and Elijah with the both of their stories being entwined.

Becca was doing her job but got mixed up with her feelings when it came to Jarrett. Now on the run he is the only one she thinks to turn to.

Jarrett tries to keep it just sex but he can't stop his heart from loving Becca.

Jarrett and Wade try not to fall for these hired killers but its inevitable.

I did like the story but I felt it didn't delve too deep because the only way to communicate for either couple was with sex. At times I thought there were fighting then all of a sudden they were screwing again which through me off sometimes with the substance of the story. What made me like this story was the different story line and the way it was written.

Becca and Jarrett's story line but we are left not knowing what happens with Wade and Elijah. We also get to meet side characters like Bash and Kyra whom we get to read more of in Only which is releasing Oct. 7/14. Pre-order here. Hopefully we will get to find out what happens with the boys in the back story of Only or maybe they will get their own book.

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### **MaggieReadsRom says**

I had been looking forward to this book ever since March when I came back from the big hiatus. From the moment heard about it, it went on the wishlist. Erotic romantic suspense is like my two favorite subgenres went and had a baby and I am always complaining that there aren't more books/series like Shannon McKenna's books. So when I heard about this new HKD series I knew I had to read it.

I love it when you, as the reader, you are privy to things the hero or heroine isn't and especially with Jarrett's POV HelenKay Dimon provided me with this privilege. I knew exactly what Jarrett felt and what he allowed Becca to see/know. On the outside Jarrett seems cold and hard cool but he deep inside he feels and

cares, no matter how loud he may protest that. I got to give it to him: the man demonstrates an admirable amount of self-control and 'I don't give a damn'. Jarrett's refusal to kiss Becca first had me a bit confused but it didn't last very long plus when it was explained I totally got it and holding back from the beginning made that first actual kiss in the book scorching.

Now let's talk about the secondary romance, m/m with Wade and Eli. I liked it but several times when they really got to the sex part ...the POV jumped to Jarrett and Becca. This kinda bothered me because although I can't say I'm an avid m/m reader (to the contrary even: I rarely read m/m), I think if you're incorporating it into your book, you should take it all the way.

While on the subject, this book was pretty hot. I loved the chemistry between Becca and Jarrett and their romance was complicated, erotic and intense. But have to mention that I noticed that like with Wade and Eli, Becca and Jarrett also had a few love scenes where the actual deed was kept off the page. Made me wonder if this was publisher/editor-induced or that the author intended for the book to have this much behind closed doors sex...

The suspense part kept me on my toes during the entire book. Like Becca, Jarrett and Eli I wanted answers and I had my suspicions but granted I flip-flopped a bit between the theories in my head. My first suspicion was right but I did think it was wrapped up rather too easily and I missed a big showdown with the person behind everything. However I really liked how the suspense and romance mixed together and made the book more powerful as a whole.

MERCY is the kind of book that makes you want to read faster so you can get to the conclusion and figure everything out. And at the same time you want to read slower so you can savor the sexiness of it all. Despite some minor issues I really enjoyed it and I look forward to the next book, which will be Sebastian and Kyra! YAY!

#### Memorable Scene:

- Wade and Jarrett discussing Jarrett taking Becca on a birth control > Funny and also a pivotal moment in the story
- the standoff scene in the conference room > this is where I felt the suspense and romance came together perfectly

#### Fave Quotes:

“I need to talk to you.”

“Last time we talked you were on your knees with my dick in your mouth while your team broke in and arrested me.”

Calling on his formidable will, he brought the shields crashing down again, careful to drain any show of interest from his face. With a thin-lipped frown back in place and the mental reel of her past treachery playing in his head, his control clicked together like a series of lock tumblers.

“Natalie.” He slid onto the stool next to hers while Wade took up his regular position behind the bar, only a few feet away.

“I’ve asked you to call me Ms. Udall.”

Jarrett nodded. “And I’ve declined.”

He kissed her. Not quick. Not searching for another round. This was long and lingering, testing her in small nibbles before deepening the touch to a blinding kiss she felt to her toes.

Despite everything and regardless of the passage of time and the festering anger, he loved her. Right down to the dark lonely place in his soul. And it fucking sucked.

The words rumbled against Wade's skin. This side of Elijah, a little rough and full of need, broke Wade's will every time. He didn't have a shield for this. Couldn't figure out how to say no and mean it.

Taking a slow walk around the room, he ended back at her feet. With one knee on the bed and his hands on her ankle, he drew her legs up until he lay between her thighs and her feet balanced against the mattress.  
"Now, we play."

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## Nicole says

Review originally posted here: [http://thebookpushers.com/2014/05/02/...](http://thebookpushers.com/2014/05/02/)

### 1. Thoughts on Heroine

MinnChica: Oh Becca! You poor, sweet thing. I love the idea of her having to crawl back to her former lover, after almost destroying his entire life, because she is now on the run. I love the idea of having to face the fact that she screwed up big time before, and having to ask the one man she loves for help, and tell him she was wrong. I thought she had some major balls, crawling back to Jarrett, and also accepting his wrath with the right amount of humility and spunk.

Lou: I really liked and admired Becca. She kept a cool head when her life was in danger, and had the guts to go back to the man that she loved—and betrayed—for help and protection. But when it came to close contact with Jarrett and sex, all that logical thinking of hers went out the window. They were both each other's weakness.

E: Becca had such a rough time of it; betrayed as a child, living a life of constant lies, betrayed once more, and left trusting her life to the man she betrayed. I loved how she was determined to figure out who betrayed her team and would do anything to get revenge. I also thought the way she continually pushed the boundaries Jarrett imposed a very telling sign of her personality. As much as I liked Becca, I also felt sorry for her because she was so steeped in lies and betrayal she had a hard time believing anyone but she was also willing to question if things weren't quite adding up.

### 2. Thoughts on Hero

MinnChica: Although Jarrett comes across as a bit of an asshat at first, I really felt for the poor guy. For someone who never let anyone in, he fell hard for Becca. To find out she was just infiltrating his life was a huge blow to his ego. Watching him struggle with finding ways to punish her was both hard and funny. I hated the way he treated her at times, and yet when we were allowed into his mind, and saw how much he struggled with NOT loving her, it was bittersweet.

Lou: I really enjoyed Jarret's character. Yes, he could be an ass at times but considering his girlfriend betrayed him and sent him to prison, I gave the guy a break. Like Minn mentioned, Jarret struggled with keeping an emotional distance from Becca. It was clear from the start it was an impossible task for him. A lot of Jarret's murky past was told but I never got a super dangerous or calculating vibe from him. But I liked

that he's now on the straight and narrow, and I loved the friendship he had with Wade and Sebastian. Loved the bromance going on!

E: Jarrett \*sigh\* poor wounded, secretive, broody, and so much fun. At first I was prepared to feel sympathy for him but then I wondered how Dimon was going to redeem him enough so I could believe him as a hero. Boy did she manage to play with my emotions as I alternated between loving him and wanting him to pull his head out and see what was happening. He was so emotionally torn and had a legitimate reason to distrust Becca but as I started to see what was going on in his head and some significant incidents of his past I became firmly on his side regardless of his occasional idiocy.

### 3. Favorite Scene

MinnChica: Oh man... there were a lot of really good sexy ones, but I think the one I liked best would probably have to be the big standoff between Becca, one of her co-workers, Jarrett, and his business associate and lawyer. It gave the reader the chance to see just how far Becca would go for Jarrett, just how much the side romance between Wade and Elijah had developed, and another side to Sebastian. It was such a pivotal scene for everyone, and I loved the tension!

Lou: The sex scenes were super hawt. Like, really hawt. I especially loved that we saw m/m action. I adored Wade and I can't wait for him to have his book. I hope he gets his book, though I'm not 100% sure on Eli. He broke Wade's heart \*sobs\*

E: So I have to say that the drawback of adding your thoughts last is sometimes an earlier commentator takes the scene you were going to choose. In this case BOTH MinnChica and Lou grabbed my scenes. I LOVED the standoff because it really showed just how deeply a couple of individuals had begun to care about others. I also thought the m/m secondary relationship was very well done and I have hopes. I really want to see those two work through their issues and watch Eli perform a massive grovel.

### 4. Dislike?

MinnChica: Like I said before, Jarrett was a bit of an asshat in the way he treated Becca in the beginning, and I had a hard time liking him at first. He used sex as a way to try and punish her, and sometimes that came across as degrading. However, like I said, when we got to see into his thought process, it was all understandable. It was just a little difficult to get through at first.

Lou: Jarrest was an asshat at times, like Minn mentions, but I think he and Becca were on the same wavelength at times when it came to sex. I suppose my only dislike was that I thought Eli was sometimes whiny, especially towards Becca. I'm guessing he's Wade's HEA but I hope he stops whining and controls that childish temper of his because he hurt Wade pretty badly with his carelessness. I love Wade. Wade needs his heart mended!

E: I struggled a little bit believing the unexpected support Becca, Eli, and Jarrett received at the end. I didn't quite buy the motivation given the behavior of that individual through most of the story. I am being deliberately vague so I don't go into detail about what I consider a major spoiler. It was enjoyable I just wish I had noticed more of a transition.

### 5. Misc. Thoughts and Grade

MinnChica: All in all, I thought Dimon had an amazing first book in a sexy new series. I loved all the

secondary characters, especially Wade and Sebastian. I can't wait to see how Wade's relationship with Elijah develops throughout the series, and what's in store for Sebastian next. This book was super sexy, and had lots of intrigue. I can't wait to read the next one!

I give Mercy a B+

Lou: Mercy was a sexy romance with hawt smexing that was so engaging on an emotional level also. There is a lot of smexing in this book but for me it really worked because of the dynamic of Jarret's and Becca's relationship, which I thought was about power at times. I loved the secondary characters, especially Wade, and I'm looking forward to Sebastian's book.

I also give Mercy a B+

E: I thought Dimon really stepped up both the heat and her character development in this first installment. I found it an enjoyable and captivating read. Like the other reviewers I can't wait to see what happens with the secondary m/m relationship and the other supporting characters I grew to enjoy. I am looking forward to seeing what Dimon comes up with next.

I am also giving Mercy a B+

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### **Brianna (The Book Vixen) says**

*Review copy provided by publisher*

**Why I Read this Book:** The blurb seemed so mysterious, I wasn't sure what to make of it really. Is it a romance? Is Jarrett holding Becca hostage? Are we talking about Stockholm syndrome here? I had no idea, which intrigued me.

**What I Liked:** Not only is there a romance between Jarrett and Becca going on, there's a secondary romance (m/m romance) going on as well and it's pretty intense. The overall situation going down is intense, and that just adds to both relationships that are taking place. And I loved the banter and tension between Jarrett and Becca.

*Mercy* had a great ensemble of characters, from the leads to the main secondary characters. Wade, Elijah, and Sebastian all added interesting aspects to the book.

This book is part contemporary romance and part romantic suspense, which I loved. There's some mystery and suspense going on in background, though it was heavier on the romance.

#### **Memorable Moment:**

*"I need to talk to you."*

*"Last time we talked you were on your knees with my dick in your mouth while your team broke in and arrested me."*

**Overall Impression:** *Mercy* was an addicting read; I was hooked from page one and couldn't wait to find out how the story ended. And because I like Sebastian's character so much, I look forward to reading the

next book in this series, *Only*.

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### **Melissa says**

***"In return for protection, I get you. All of you, however I want you."***

What a breath of fresh air! This book was so different. It was full of suspense, hotness and Jarrett Holt.

Eight months after Jarrett was betrayed by Becca, she shows up at the door of his exclusive supper club looking for protection. Someone is after her and the rest of her blacks-ops team. Up until 8 months ago, she had been Jarrett's girlfriend. She was living with him at the supper club, he was smitten, and then boom, he's arrested. Taken down on drug charges by the black-ops team that Becca was working undercover for. It's such a twisted story!

Jarrett offers Becca protection in exchange for her body. It's just sex right? Jarrett keeps telling himself shallow, emotionless sex is all this will be. But there's one problem. He really, truly loves her. But the question is, does she love him, or is she just using him, again?

***"You were my girlfriend then. Whatever rights you had are gone."***

***"What am I now?"***

***"His eyes met hers. "At my mercy."***

It was so different, where this story started. In the midst of betrayal, after they had already been together. It created so much tension between them. So HOT! The dual POV's were great also. Especially, being in Jarrett's head and seeing his vulnerable side. He really had me swooning. I'm excited for Bast's book next!

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### **Sophia says**

A female black ops agent is on the run after someone gave the kill order for her whole team and she runs to the last place she should go- straight back to the man she betrayed and had sent to prison during her last mission. Becca knows that all she can expect from Jarrett is anger and a need for revenge and he can have that if he will keep her safe.

Jarrett can't afford to let Becca come anywhere near his heart again and he definitely doesn't trust her explanation of why she came to him in the first place. This time he'll do the using and makes that clear to her- anything he says and anytime. She agrees to his conditions. She has her secrets, but so does he.

Becca needs to figure out who set her team up and sold them out and she needs access to lots of information and intel to do it. Jarrett has it, but she just needs to persuade him to give her access. She can tell that he's not as unaffected as he seems, but that doesn't mean he plans to trust her or allow himself to let his guard down around her again.

Between scorching moments in bed, the two circle ever closer to a solution. A CIA agent is putting the pressure on and others are less than happy about Becca's presence in Jarrett's life. The danger is still out there

and waiting for everyone involved to make a mistake. Jarrett himself has finally come to the conclusion that there is only one way to save them all.

Alright, so I was excited to read this one knowing that based on the blurb that things were going to get intense both inside and outside the bedroom. In the beginning, it had all that for me. The angry, vengeful, powerful man who allowed his betrayer back near him to put her at his mercy and the woman running for her life not knowing who her enemies were. The power dynamics were part of the tension.

Unfortunately for me, the power shifted quickly when the gal went all femme fatale to grab the reins and the guy let her. The book shifted from a strong romantic suspense to an erotic romance with some suspense to break up the bedroom scenes.

There were some other things that didn't work for me. At times, a suspension of belief was required. It was tough to believe that this was a life and death situation when these two would rather play their bedroom power games then figure out who did and was still trying to set them up for burial. Then there was that scene at the end where all the CIA agent's threats just went away. Another thing that I'm not sure what was the purpose was the other romance between Wade and Eli. Oh, and I suppose this a good place to warn that there's some nearly closed door m/m action there. It distracted more than anything the way it was wedged in between things causing scenes to jump forward instead of transition smoothly.

Now, it's not like I hated the book because I didn't. I found it enjoyable just not riveting like it started. The characters were likeable if not engaging for me. I was vested enough to want to see them through their situations and get their happy endings and I wanted to see the situation wrapped up. The romance between Jarrett and Becca had a long ways to go from its beginning of revenge and betrayal to full trust and love was a big draw for me. I loved how it took its time developing.

I figured out who the bad guy was early on, but not why so I did have that to chew on. (view spoiler)

I think my favorite part of the book was the camaraderie between Jarrett, Wade, and Sebastian. They are all long time friends and have each other's backs.

In the end, I was glad to have read it and look forward to more from this author. I will recommend this for those who prefer the balance in their romantic suspense-style contemporaries heavy on the romantic side and that the passion is hot and frequent.

My thanks to Penguin Group for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for my honest review thoughts.

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### **Debbie Lester says**

HelenKay Dimon brings readers a new erotic contemporary series, titled after the first book, *Mercy*. Readers looking for a fast-paced whirlwind romance, will love the energy and emotion that Dimon creates in this book. The character's are gritty and intense and the action is jam packed into the story. Jarrett and Becca have a lot of history, in fact she is the reason he was put in jail. But now she's in survival mode and needs his help. With multi-layered characters and deep seeded trust issues, this is book not to be missed by erotica fans!

What I liked:

It is not often that I enjoy a book that throws me into the middle of story, instead of the beginning. But author HelenKay Dimon makes it work in her new book, *Mercy*. The lead couple aren't meeting for the first time in Chapter one of this book, in fact their relationship begins eight months before the book does. Becca is a CIA operative who infiltrated Jarrett Holt's business and his bed. She was under deep cover and played the part of the adoring girlfriend so well, that he was completely in love with the woman who ultimately betrayed him.

Dimon gives readers just enough background in the beginning for them to understand the circumstances and what it would take for a woman like Becca to come to Jarrett for help, after what she did to him. As a reader, I found myself enjoying the tidbits that Dimon intersperses throughout the novel that pertain to Becca and Jarrett's previous relationship. They were little pieces of candy that gave the book the whole different flavor now and then. Readers were able to see the love between them grow, but all the while knowing what was to come. That was a really interesting plot idea that worked well with the story.

Becca is a strong woman. A woman who is used to dangerous situations and the kind of people who get things done, no matter the cost or the circumstance. When the rest of her team ends up dead, she knows she must take drastic measures to survive. Hiding in plain sight may be the only way and protection from a man she loved but still betrayed may cost more than she is willing to pay. She was a no-nonsense kind of character. She was able to guard her emotions where most things were concerned, including killing when she needed to, but she couldn't guard her heart against Jarrett and that's what made this book so good. Her vulnerability with him is palpable and readers won't be able to help being moved by it.

Jarrett is what I would call a ruthless man. Wealthy, influential and able to make things happen that the common man couldn't even fathom, let alone accomplish. He has a darkness about him that is both scary and sexy. Readers will be drawn to him despite his nature and his form of protection. He wants Becca to suffer in some ways and he thinks having her in his bed will do that, but he doesn't account for the fact that they both had real emotions involved in their relationship and that doesn't just go away. Watching him realize that he didn't care what had done to him was amazing. Seeing him start to understand that he loved her anyway.

What I didn't like:

This is a really intense and action packed book. Readers will probably feel a little spent after reading it. If you can suspend your belief in the fact that a CIA operative would probably never seek protection from someone they ratted on, you'll love it. I will admit that bugged me when I first started reading the book, but it all came together and it didn't matter once the emotions took over with this one.

Bottom Line:

This one has a lot going for it. Intensity, passion, some extremely hot scenes in the bedroom. But I think the best part of it, was the realization that forgiveness can come in many forms and love can conquer just about anything... including organized crime!

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**Shannon says**

\*DNF so no rating

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## Aly is so frigging bored says

3.5\*

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## Anne Boleyn's Ghost says

HelenKay Dimon writes **sexy, suspense-filled** stories. And while her trademark “secrets and lies” formula is in full effect here, it didn’t quite pull me in – especially when compared to her phenomenal Tough Love series.

Why? The misplaced sex. There was sex where conversation was needed, sex where character development was needed, sex where plot advancement was needed. I never understood why Jarrett still cared for Becca when she (as far as he knew) set him up, showed no remorse, and never looked back. Neither Jarrett nor the readers learn that she harbored genuine regret and feelings for him (other than lust, of course) until 60%! Becca’s perspective often read as inconsistent, and their relationship often read as convoluted and confusing. While I still found Dimon’s writing sharp and capable, it wasn’t capable of making me care about Jarrett and Becca until late in the book.

**The secondary m/m story featuring Wade and Eli** hooked me, but it too lacked development. We get Wade’s point-of-view only, but I didn’t really mind because Dimon brought his feelings for Eli – the fierce draw despite the doubt – to life. Yet the two’s interactions rarely rose above (wink, wink) sex. What Eli did would have stung more had Wade revealed more of his feelings. *We* knew that Wade cared, but did Eli?

I’m used to explosions and guns and fisticuffs in a Dimon book, but **there isn’t much action here and the main threat is dealt with off-page**.

That said, I still devoured this fairly quickly. And I will continue with the series because my library has it, and because I’m invested in Eli and Wade, and because **even when Dimon isn’t at the top of her game, her writing still works for me.**

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## Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Javagirl’s review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

3 STARS

Review copy provided for an honest review

From the book description of MERCY, I was expecting more suspense, mystery and intrigue. While it definitely had potential for those things, for me it fell short. The characters are interesting and well developed, the plot is intriguing, and there are two romantic storylines with a lot of hot sex. In fact, I think that was one of my biggest issues with this book–too much sex and not enough moving the story forward. Both Becca and Eli were part of a CIA team assigned to Jarrett Holt’s supper club. Eight months after the operation ended with Jarrett’s arrest, the charges have been dropped and most of the team are dead. Eli and

Becca both end up going to Jarrett for help. Eli suspects Becca is behind the attacks. Becca is trying to stay alive and find out who is really behind the attacks on her team. She fell hard for Jarrett during the months they lived together when he was the target of their investigation. Jarrett was devastated to find that he was just a job to Becca. Of course, that wasn't the case at all. She was just as devastated as he, and turned to him for help. He offers her protection in return for being his sex toy, but is determined to separate his emotions from sex. Becca and Jarrett's relation was predictable, but believable. The issues that remained from their past relationship were credible and were dealt with in a fairly realistic way. I loved the two of them together and wanted their second try at a life together to work. The second romantic couple, Eli and Wade, Jarrett's second in command, I found less believable. I really liked Wade and wanted him to have his HEA. Eli, on the other hand, had no redeeming qualities that I could find. Except being good in bed...and in the shower...and on the couch. I'm a fan of m/m, so that isn't my issue with this relationship. My problem is that I really disliked Eli. For a seasoned CIA operative, he has serious anger management issues, he jumps to conclusions, and once his mind is made up, there is no changing it. I couldn't help but wonder how these traits could work within his chosen profession. Even though Wade questions his feelings for Eli, I never saw anything other than the great sex between them that would warrant his attachment and increasing loyalty to Eli.

My biggest issue with MERCY is that the main plot, who is behind the deaths of their team members and the attempted assassinations on both Becca and Eli, is so slow that it seems more like an afterthought. There is a lot of talking and accusations and a lot of meetings with a CIA agent and numerous threats, but very little investigation and no cooperation or sharing of information until about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through the book. The conversations and accusations are repetitive and do little to move the story forward. The ending, presented all wrapped up neatly, is predictable and disappointing. Not disappointing because I was sorry to find out who was behind the attacks, that was pretty obvious from the first mention of the character's name, but disappointing because this could have been a suspenseful story, but it just wasn't.

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