



# Bad Romeo

*Leisa Rayven*

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## **Bad Romeo** Leisa Rayven

When Cassie Taylor met Ethan Holt at acting school, sparks flew. She was the good girl actress. He was the bad boy about campus. But one fated casting choice for Romeo and Juliet changed it all. Like the characters they were playing, Cassie and Ethan's romance seemed destined. Until he broke her heart and betrayed her trust. Now the A-list heartthrob is back in her life and turning her world around. One touch at a time.

Cast as romantic leads once again, they're forced to confront raw memories of the heartbreaking lows and pulse-pounding highs of their secret college affair. But they'll also discover that people who rub each other the wrong way often make the best sparks

## **Bad Romeo Details**

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Author : Leisa Rayven

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# From Reader Review Bad Romeo for online ebook

Jennifer Kyle says

*"You give me as little of yourself as possible, all the while driving me insane with how much I want you."*

Cassie thinks she has things under control when Ethan Holt costars with her on a play that will be both of their big Broadway break. The story goes from past to present and back again as we see Holt as the man he is now and the broody ass of a hottie he was six years prior.

*"Yeah, sure I can do a passionate play with my ex-lover, who broke my heart not once, but twice no problem."*

In the present, Holt is all apologies and begging for another shot. In the past, the author takes us through sarcasm, rudeness, hot chemistry and a relationship that develops among these two. Holt was a rude noncommittal guy with just slightest amount of kindness to hold a reader and funny naïve Cassie along for the ride in the past.

There are sparks when these two meet in the past as Cassie is totally taken with Holt. Holt the loner has the whole push and pull thing going on with her.

*"I've never had someone rub me the wrong way so intensely before. If I'm being completely honest, I kind of like the spark."*

Cassie has never had a serious boyfriend or a real good kiss and Holt it seems to have sworn off girls, friends and pretty much everyone. Cassie gets under his skin, they have amazing banter and they have an intense chemistry. Their chemistry is so strong that even their teacher notices and casts them as Romeo and Juliet. Holt would give Cassie just enough to hold even when his words would be saying differently.

*"I saw what I wanted to see. Felt what I wanted to feel. He just played his part. Sometimes he's behind my eyes, weeping and exposed, and he's the most beautiful thing I've ever seen. But it was an act. He's an actor. And he's very, very good."*

Cassie is more than willing to lose her virginity to Holt who pushes her away repeatedly not wanting to be special to her. You must take my warnings the author does make you wait to almost the end while they can barely keep their hands off one another the whole story.

Overall, the writing was refreshing and witty. Cassie was a great character and her sexual innocence but desire for more was really fun.

*"Taylor, you're the most forward virgin I've ever met."*

The push and pull in the past will drive you to drink and this does end with a cliffhanger.

Still this was a good read that will probably make some of my friends crazy, so you are warned.

*"We've never been over. You know it as well as I do. Even when I was halfway around the world and you hated my guts, we weren't over. You can feel it between us now. And the closer we are, the stronger it gets."*

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## Patrycja says

[ Not yet. (hide spoiler)]

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## Ilze says

This was pretty much my face expression during the 62% I read

I really wasn't impressed by this book. The cover and the title of the book is probably the best things about it. Note to myself: Stop reading books based on their pretty covers.

Anyway, at first I really thought it would be an interesting story with pretty unique setting, two persons with intense chemistry cast for the leading roles in Romeo and Juliet and sparks fly. Although, that was the case, I really did not enjoy it.

For one, the heroine. I can't even express in words how much I disliked her. She was a girl without an opinion, always saying whatever people wanted to hear and doing whatever was necessary to be liked. I felt like her whole persona was fake. I can forgive her for being young and maybe she hasn't found herself yet, but when we see Cassie after 6 years, it's the same bloody girl just a bit bitter. Another things about her I hated was how horny she was all the time, and when I say all the time, I really mean ALL THE FREAKING TIME. Her vagina was constantly aroused and she was turned on ~~the moment she woke up~~ all day every day.

Another thing, the hero. I usually find a lot of redeeming qualities in book heroes, even when I don't like the heroines, but in this case Ethan was almost as unlikable as Cassie. His mixed signals, his jerk attitude towards Cassie, his daddy issues, his 'awful past' and his 'i'm cancer' really didn't work for me. Plus he was almost as horny as Cassie.

Third, there wasn't any connection. They talked about the intense connection between them all the time, but I really didn't see it because all they did was talk about how badly they want to rip each others clothes off and

all they did was try to do just that, with kissing and humping each other on stage. There is a difference between chemistry and connection. Chemistry is more of a physical attraction while connection is something deeper such as trust and understand of each other. They were definitely missing that, because I didn't see why would they love each other if not for the lust.

Fourth, I like second chance romances and I don't mind jumping from past to present and back, but when it happens I expect to feel different emotions reading the past and the present. Please give me pain, regret and heartache. No, that wasn't the case here, those six years didn't change either of them much, and it really didn't feel like any time had passed. Yeah, Ethan asks for forgiveness and Cassie is hurt and angry, but all they still want to do is jump each other. Also, the switching from past to present was exhausting here. Past - Cassie chases Ethan, present Ethan chases Cassie. I can't even say if I disliked their past or present more.

Another new adult novel which is a utterly disappointing. This really wasn't for me.

*\*ARC provided by St. Martin's Press via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\**

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## **Aestas Book Blog says**

**::: FULL REVIEW NOW POSTED ::: 5 STARS!!! :::**

*Casting for Ethan...*

**WOW!! Holy sexual tension!!**

**This book had the ultimate hate-to-love-each-other, dysfunctional-but-can't-stay-away, love-you-forever-no-matter-how-painful type of love story. It just had this intense spark to it that made my heart race! It's a second chance romance with a moody, brooding, tortured bad boy hero and I loved every word. 5 STARS!!**

*While performing the greatest love story of all time, they discovered one of their own...*

The story begins when Cassie, a critically acclaimed stage actress is cast as a romantic lead in a Broadway play opposite the one man she'd ever loved. Ethan Holt was unfortunately also the only man who'd ever broken her heart, leaving her absolutely devastated. Despite their six painful years apart, and despite how desperately she wanted to hate him, their love for each other went beyond that. And even though he knew just how badly he'd hurt her, he also knew this was his one chance to win back the only woman he'd ever loved and this time he was willing to do anything to prove himself to her and win back her heart.

*I can do this. I can see him and not fall apart.*

*I can.*

*I sigh and press my forehead against the wall.*

*Who the hell am I kidding?*

*Yeah, sure, I can do a passionate play with my ex-lover, who broke my heart not once, but twice. No problem.*

***I bang my head against the wall.***

Ethan and Casse met in drama school. She was the good girl actress, and he was the ultimate bad boy, sending fuck-off vibes to everyone who crossed his path. He warned her to stay away from him and that he would only ruin her. But when they were cast as Romeo and Juliet in a prestigious play, their forced intimacy broke down the walls between them... giving room for their true feelings to show through.

***"We both know it doesn't work like that," he says so softly only I can hear. "As much as we want it to be the character's emotions, it's still going to be my arms around you, and my mouth on yours."***

Despite how strongly he fought it, they fell in love. Until he broke her heart. And six years later, when they were once again cast to play on-stage lovers, he was ready to do anything possible to make things right.

***"I want things to be different. If you want me to apologize, I'll do it until I lose my fucking voice. I just want things to be right between us. Talk to me. Help me fix this."***

I absolutely LOVED this book. This is a romance that you feel with all your heart and soul. They had the kind of love that didn't let go even after years of separation and heart break. Their chemistry was off-the-charts and their connection so intense that it kept my heart racing the whole way through.

I had quotes highlighted on nearly every page!! I loved the writing -- it captured the emotional intensity of their epic love while balancing it out with hilarious scenes that literally had me laughing out loud and other scenes that had me sitting there fanning myself from the hotness. It was the perfect balance!!

We're told the story entirely from Cassie's POV, taking us back and forth between their present day reunion and the tragic start of their relationship in drama school. It was seamlessly blended and I found it very easy to follow along even through it went back and forth. Each piece of the story added a layer that just kept me wanting more. I really could not put this book down!

NOTE: Just because I know a lot of you have asked me about this, there is no cheating and no triangle in the whole book. That is not the source of drama so you don't have to worry about that at all!

Ethan was the ultimate moody, tortured, bad boy. He was the polar opposite of a romantic. College Ethan didn't even believe in love at all. At first, I just kept wondering why he was so antagonistic but the more I read and learned about his past, the more the reasons behind his actions began to make sense. My heart broke for him even as I wanted to shake sense into him. As much as it hurt though, I could see why he was the way he was. I have to say, the title of this book couldn't be more fitting! Bad Romeo indeed!

***"I warned you," he says, breathing heavily and cupping my face. "Why the hell didn't you listen?"***

Cassie was a really great heroine. She was no shy, innocent virgin. Even though she was a little meek around

other people, with Ethan she was fiery, forward, bold, and not afraid to follow her heart. She challenged him every step of the way and I loved the way she went after what she wanted.

There was just this delicious push-pull tension between them. I loved all the scenes where they were rehearsing their plays. The contrast between the open intensity of their characters' love for each other versus the restrained walls behind which they hid their real feelings had me on the edge of my seat.

*"So..." I say, looking at him.*

*He nods and lets out a breath. "Yeah. So..."*

*"We're going to have fake sex."*

*"Yep."*

*"You and me."*

*"Apparently."*

*"I have to take your clothes off, and ... well ... touch you and stuff."*

*"Fuck this fucking play."*

This second chance romance was different than most in that, contrary to the way many of them are structured, this wasn't about trying to fix a broken relationship. As it showed clearly, whatever they'd once had was broken beyond repair. What remained was their love for each other that had never let go. Hurt, anger, separation, none of it changed that... and this was about considering the chance that just maybe, even after all the pain, they could start again and build something new.

*"We've never been over. You know it as well as I do. Even when I was halfway around the world and you hated my guts, we weren't over. You can feel it between us now. And the closer we are, the stronger it gets."*

Cassie and Ethan's full story will be told over 2 books (Bad Romeo and Broken Juliet). There will also be a third book in the series that is a standalone romance about Ethan's sister who you'll meet in this book.

This book leaves you in a good place, but also makes you desperate for more. That being said, I am SO glad that I read this now and didn't wait. This is easily one of my favorite books of the year. I loved the story. Seriously LOVED it. Absolutely freaking ADORED it. And I can't recommend it highly enough.

**Rating: 5 stars!!**

**Release date: December 23, 2014.**

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-

## **Geri Reads says**

### **2 stars!**

This book has been getting a lot of good buzz lately so I was excited when this book became available on NetGalley.

In fact, I got so excited I totally read it way ahead of my scheduled BR with Lana and Feifei.

The first 25% or 30% or so of the book, it was good. I was sucked in. The writing was above average, so although the characters were a bit annoying, I was okay with it. This is NA after all. Some of the characters are bound to get on your nerves.

But then 35%, 40% 50% 60% rolled around, and the same things just keeps happening over and over again.

Cassie: I love your penis, Ethan.

Ethan: I'm not good for you, Cassie.

Cassie: My vagina wants you so bad, Ethan.

Ethan: I'm a douche, Cassie.

Wash.Rinse.Repeat.

The past and present storytelling would have worked if not for the uneven pacing. Sometimes, the past takes 2 chapters and then the present 1 chapter. Sometimes, the present gets 2 chapters and the past 3 chapters. The narrative ended up being choppy and clunky to me.

But what eventually sunk the book for me were Cassie and Ethan. I've enjoyed some dysfunctional love stories in the past, but Ethan and Cassie just annoyed me too much to actually appreciate their dysfunction.

Cassie was basically a doormat. And Ethan is a world-class douche. The push and pull between them was cute at first until it wasn't. Cassie (view spoiler) and more than half of the book was about her wanting Ethan to (view spoiler)

And then Ethan...his reasons for being douche-y were lame. He acted like a brat throughout the book. I don't care if he's described as the hot, he was just mean. His hot and cold attitude towards Cassie was disgusting. And the worst thing was Cassie just kept taking it.



To be fair, there are positives to be found. The writing for one was really engaging. Second, present Cassie and Ethan actually acted like functioning adults. Those parts were good.

Unfortunately, this was too uneven, its characters too annoying for me to enjoy. Plus that cliffhanger ending...if you can even call it that, was one of the worst I've read in a while.

I thought I was missing some Kindle pages when I got to the ending. It just ended abruptly. Yes, there's a second book but would it kill to actually at least wrap some things up before ending it? Or at least answer some questions about why they broke up the first time. In my opinion, there was nothing at all about the why their relationship failed aside from the obvious.

Overall, this book is just one big tease. I don't know if I have the time or the patience to wait for the next book.

*An ARC was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **Beverly says**

I went into this story pretty much blind. I just remember a lot of my friends read and loved this book last year. So when the story began I wasn't expecting how much I would love it. First, the story is awesome, but I am absolutely in love with how the story is told. Cassie and Ethan were college lovers, sweethearts, I don't know what to call them, there isn't really an adequate term for them. Regardless, they dated in college and while you don't know all the details when you get started you know their connection was strong.

We learn about Ethan and Cassie's past by the reflections back. See when the story begins they are both adults and have been cast in a play together. All we know is that they dated and do not get along, at all. I loved seeing where their current emotions came from and the reflections did just that. I felt like we lived that time with them. This way of story telling allowed me to really understand their motives and thoughts.

Cassie is a people pleaser and has always been what she felt like people wanted. She is unsure of herself and completely lost when she begins drama school. Ethan is the older, knows who he is and doesn't take anyone's shit. His first reaction to Cassie is frustration, he see's this beautiful girl trying to be anyone but herself.

This book is just so much. I loved seeing Cassie come into her own. I loved watching Ethan open up. I loved watching them fall in love. I loved the other characters, they added so much humor. Like I already said, I love the way it was told. This isn't my favorite type of story telling, but I can't imagine this story being any other way. It allowed my emotions, thoughts and feels to just go back and forth.

I can't believe I waited so long to read this fantastic book and I cannot recommend it enough, absolutely love it! The good thing about waiting, I can jump right into *Broken Juliet*.

*I am listening to the audiobook.*

*Teasers created by me with stock images purchased from depositphotos.*

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**Patty Belongs To Kellan~Jesse~Lautner~Miller~Jack~Racer~Rafe~Liam~Prince  
Nicholas~Hayes~Simon~Gianluca & Archer says**

\*\*\*\*\*2 STARS\*\*\*\*\*

{ARC Provided by St. Martin's Press via Netgalley}

I really had high hopes for this book. Unfortunately I never could connect with the story or the characters. I completely disliked the heroine and this has happened to me before, but the male character usually saved the story for me. If I had felt the slightest bit of the swoon factor for Ethan, I might have like this story a bit more.

Sorry but I have to break out my infamous sleeping bunny GIF because heck if I wasn't catching some much needed **zzzzz**'s on my couch for the past four nights trying to finish reading this story.

Cassie and Ethan meet at **The Grove Institute of Creative Arts**, a private college in Westchester, NY, that houses one of the most prestigious drama schools in the country. During their first meeting on campus, sparks are flying. Ethan acts aloof and spends a decent amount of time pushing Cassie away and telling her how bad he would be for her. Honestly, I kept wondering what is this character's deal. Why was he afraid to let anyone get close to him? When the truths are revealed, all I could say was **REALLY?!!!**

Don't get me started on Cassie!! I just completely disliked this character. There was really nothing sweet or endearing about her. I understood she was attracted to Ethan and wanted to lose her virginity to him, and I wasn't as bothered by her horniness as some readers were. I just never felt any kind of connection with her. No feelings of sympathy. This book goes from past to present in almost every alternating chapter. Three years is the time span. Well in three years, the girl hasn't matured at all. There was no growth with the character of Cassie. I was pretty much tired of the story early on and wasn't really buying the connection between Cassie and Ethan.

Switching from past to present has never really bothered me in previous books I've read. In this book, it confused me a few times. I didn't know if I was in the past or in the present. Maybe because the situations were similar and the characters pretty much acted like immature teenagers throughout the story!!!!?? I was just getting a headache from it.

I really wanted to like Ethan. He had the makings of a swoon worthy book boyfriend but just fell flat. Also the sexy time happens at about the 90% mark in the book and it wasn't even the tiniest bit smoldering. Nope...not one bit!

I usually love second chance romances but for once I was not rooting for the couple to have their HEA. Even though Ethan didn't "wow" me, I still thought he deserved better than Cassie.

I have seen some five star reviews for this one and some not so favorable reviews as well. It's definitely not my cuppa but don't let that stop you from reading it because there have been plenty of books that I have disliked that others have loved.

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## **Brandi says**

*Bad Romeo* is a wonderfully written, second chance romance that left me breathless. The sexual tension and chemistry between Cassie and Ethan was so thick, my heart was constantly racing.

Cassie and Ethan's story is far from perfect, these characters are flawed and extremely frustrating, but that is what I loved about them. They are complicated and real, and I was completely wrapped up in their journey.

*"I warned you," he says, breathing heavily and cupping my face. "Why the hell didn't you listen?"*

When Ethan and Cassie first cross paths, she is young, and naive with big dreams, while he is jaded, pessimistic and determined not to let anyone in. But when they are cast opposite each other in one of histories most tragically, beautiful love stories, they find themselves unable to resist their intense connection.

Now three years later with tons of regret and heartache, Ethan and Cassie find themselves thrown together once again, will Ethan be able to gain Cassie's forgiveness, or are these two doomed to fail all over again?

*"Nothing was enough for me after you."*

*Bad Romeo* was a well-crafted, realistic love story, filled with humor, intense characters and scorching hot sexual tension. While this story may not be for some, I really enjoyed it. But then again, I tend to gravitate towards the cynical, stubborn leading men.

Ending - Cliffhanger? (view spoiler)

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## **Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says**

**2.5 stars!**

I really wish I could say I loved this one but sadly, I can't. I felt like I wasted hours of my time reading a book that was one giant tease from beginning to end. The only reason why I didn't rate this book 1 star is because of the author's addictive writing style and a few good moments scattered throughout the story, but other than that, both characters truly angered me, the setup of the story frustrated me, and that ending? Oh my god. One of the worst endings I have ever read, cliffhanger or not.

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Whether or not you will enjoy this book depends entirely on the kind of reader you are. You're either:

**A).** A reader who likes some sexual tension but with gratification and doesn't think of character stupidity as angst.

**B).** A reader who lives off of unresolved sexual tension, crazy high angst and seeing the characters suffer make you suffer but you love it anyways.

Choice A readers, you're going to struggle with the book. Choice B readers, this is the perfect book for you if you don't mind an abrupt ending. Now onto the actual review...

The book begins in present day where sensational actress Cassie Taylor is cast in a romantic play alongside Ethan Holt, the one guy who broke her heart 6 years ago. From her past experiences she's really hardened her heart and the once open, optimistic, and naïve girl has turned into a cynical woman who will never be

able to trust easily again. But her bad breakup with Ethan 6 years ago didn't stop her feelings for him and as much as she knows that a relationship with him wouldn't be practical for her heart, he also happens to be the one and only guy who stirs her emotions – good and bad – like no other and is truly *it* for her, but now she's the one afraid to take the leap because their past relationship failed miserably.

After all these years, bad boy actor Ethan Holt has cleaned himself up and decides to pursue Cassie, finally realizing that he can't live without her even though he's the one who ruined all the good they had before.

I struggled a lot with Ethan's character. The book unevenly alternates between past/present chapters where in the present Ethan's fighting for Cassie and in the past where Cassie is fighting for Ethan. There's a big difference between a lovable jerk and a flat out asshole and well, Ethan was the latter. His hot-and-cold behavior towards Cassie was frustrating when at times he'll say something like this:

But in another moment, he'll completely ignore Cassie and their explosive chemistry and continue on as if nothing happened between them. Repeat this process multiple times and by the halfway mark I was suffering from a severe case of whiplash.

Cassie was also a big reason why I struggled with the book. I have zero respect for female characters that let the hero walk all over them and because I didn't believe that Ethan's backstory (which is a clichéd and overused reason by the way) warranted his horrible treatment of her, Cassie was pretty much a doormat. She is also one of the horniest virgins I've ever read about who was either obsessing over her vagina, Ethan's dick, or both, whether it was through her inner monologue or her girly diary she kept that constantly referenced Ethan's "*award-winning dick*" and how it's enough to make her "*vagina start slow-clapping in anticipation.*" <-- wait what?

As much as I liked the author's writing style and the occasional humorous moments, the setup of the story really bothered me. I felt like the past/present scenes were unevenly represented and whenever I was starting to get invested in the particular chapter, the author would suddenly do a time jump and I had to try hard to refocus in the new chapter. There was no fluidity, no transition that linked most of these time jumps so they seemed random and out of place to me. Make no mistake, there were a few scenes that did get my heart racing and I felt for the characters, but the choppy time jumps along with major character stupidity overshadowed the good.

Now for that ending. \*drags hand down face\* I wouldn't call it a cliffhanger. Cliffhanger implies that we have an inkling of what to expect in the next book but in here? It literally ended in between a motion and for a while I thought I must've received a bad copy from the publisher. But no. After checking with another reader who read the book, that's the ending. Just...ugh! Imagine my feelings. I wasn't really enjoying the book much to begin with but towards the end it got better and I would like to know the reasoning behind their breakup (which is never revealed by the way), only to have the book end in such an abrupt, inconclusive manner. I feel cheated to be honest. Cheated because the book was one huge tease that started and ended with me knowing the same things. Nothing new happened.

I do want to end positive by saying that this is a book I would still contingently recommend to others based

on the type of reader you are (see A & B above). And because of the way the story ended here, I am kind of forced by my own curiosity to check out the next book, even if my only reason is to find closure so I can finally move on.

Bad Romeo is the first book in the Starcrossed series and not a standalone. Cassie & Ethan's story will be told over the course of two books, concluding in Broken Juliet. There will also be a third book which is a standalone romance focusing on Ethan's sister.

ARC provided by St. Martin's Press via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Rachel Reads Ravenously says**

**4.5 stars!**

*"Sometimes people put up walls, not only to keep people out, but also to see who cares enough to tear them down."*

So, guess who loved this book when most everyone else didn't?

Guilty as charged. To be fair, I am a total angst whore and gobbled this book up. Want to know what's even scarier? For all of the angst this book doles out, I've read angstier!

This is the story of Cassie and Ethan, who met when they were young aspiring actors. The book begins in the present, three years after Ethan shattered Cassie's heart, and the two of them are cast as the leads in a new Broadway play. Ethan, after all of the shit he put Cassie through, is desperate to get her back but Cassie won't let him back in easy.

This book alternates between the present and the past, giving the reader both sides of Cassie and Ethan. Cassie who in the past was a horny, naive virgin and in the present a jaded and bitter woman. Ethan, a dark storm cloud in the past more closed up than a tight clam shell, and in the present a man who had worked through his issues and wants to be redeemed.

I think one of the reasons I enjoyed this book so much was because I went into it with the absolute lowest expectations. I also read the spoilers ahead of time and knew the ending would be a cliffhanger and many questions would not be answered, so I came into this book prepared. So many people hated or disliked this book, but I still gave it a shot because my local library has a copy. And if it's free, why not? Well, I'm glad I did. For me, this book was unputdownable.

I will say I did not care for the whiplash, but in order for a guy to redeem himself, he has to be a dick right? Yeah, Ethan was a dick. But, I felt like he really did change by the time he was an adult. I just really wish I knew what horrible thing he did to Cassie BECAUSE THE AUTHOR DIDN'T TELL US IN THIS BOOK!!!

And the other thing I didn't care for? That vagina slow clapping line. My god I cringed when I read that. I

think it was supposed to be funny, but this was me reading it instead:

Anywoo, if you like angst and men trying to make up for their colossal mistakes, this book is the one for you! I'm actually really excited for book 2 and some answers.

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## **Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says**

### **2 Stars**

*Love is weakness. That's not the only thing Holt taught me, but it's the thing I remember most.*

I've had this book sitting in my kindle for months now. At first I put off reading it because I realized it was a cliff. Then when the final book came out...I'm not really sure why? I've seen it making the rounds on Goodreads and so many friends loving it. It promised angst and an epic love story...yet the only thing I got was a mad case of heart burn.

But wait! Before you get out your pitchforks and torches, allow me to explain....

See I loved the premise of this book and I truly enjoyed the writing style. Leisa Rayven clearly has incredible talent and I'll happily read all her future books. This was a case of the characters doing absolutely nothing for me. So let's talk about that, shall we?

### **The hero.**

Now look, I love me an asshole. Nothing better than an alphahole finally falling for the girl and changing his ways. **BUT** and this is a big but, there's a big difference between a redeemable asshole and a downright douchebag. And Ethan Holt? Oh he was squarely in the douchebag category. On a scale from 1 to stabby he was somewhere around Justifiable homicide. I couldn't stand his treatment of Cassie, and this is coming from someone that usually swoons with every insult. But there has to be some semblance of a justification for the treatment and in the case here, while there may have been one, I just didn't buy it. He's almost cruel to Cassie and his reason for it didn't redeem him in the least. As a matter of fact it was downright lame. Sure I can understand his reluctance to get into a relationship, but he was a dick from the very beginning when he just meets Cassie. Suffice it to say it did nothing to endear him to me.

### **The heroine**

Just keep your pants on for the love of gawd!

This girl gave new meaning to horny virgin. Sweet baby jebus but she had an eager beaver. Her vagina went from 0 to panting in the span of a breath. Why? Hell if I know. Holt was downright cruel to her, but yet she kept coming back for more. Maybe she saw something in him that nobody else did but I wasn't sipping from the kool aid so I wasn't buying it. Allow me to sum it up so:

*I want you.*  
*No. I'm bad for you.*  
*\*vagina pants\**  
*But I still want you.*  
*No. I don't want you.*  
*\*douchebagery intermission\**  
*OMG my vagina weeps for you.*  
*No. You have to stay away from me.*  
*But my vagina! \*humps\**  
*You're different. I can tell, because....reasons*  
*No. We can't.*  
*\*more douchebagery intermission\**  
*\*pause for fantasies of Holt's penis\**  
*Rinse. Lather. Freaking repeat.*

As much as I hate using the term doormat, that's exactly what Cassie was. Her simple acceptance of Holt's treatment of her was nausea inducing. Why? Why I ask you? He gave not a semblance of a hint that he was worth any of it. \*rips hair out of head\*

### **The Pacing**

The story is told in alternating past/present with a diary entry from Cassie's journal thrown into the mix. However, when I'd normally love that sort of thing, the pacing here was...off. Sometimes the present was a couple pages, sometimes a couple chapters. There was no consistency and I found it threw off the balance of the book.

The older versions of Cassie and Ethan were a lot more tolerable, but unfortunately it was overshadowed by the Cassie and Ethan of six years ago. I found nothing angsty about this book. Sure I wanted to rip my hair out but not because the angst. To be quite honest, it felt more manufactured than natural. The sexual tension of will they, won't they, OMG they're about to, nope false alarm drove me out of my ever loving mind! Their back and forth of I want you/I can't lasts for the entirety of the book.

For the love of my ovaries! I wanted to chuck my kindle at the wall by the 90% mark!

I wanted to love this book but sadly it fell totally flat for me. Aside from the premise of the story there just wasn't much I enjoyed about it. I just don't think I'm cut out for these types of romances. Clearly my douchebag meter is malfunctioning and my tolerance just isn't what it used to be.

While I'm not sure I'll continue with the story because I just don't think I care that much what happens with these characters, I do plan on reading more from this author. This was a case of wrong story for the wrong reader, you know? And so I'm writing it off as that. You never know what you'll think, though, so give it a shot and see for yourself. Who knows? You just may love it.

*ARC courtesy of publisher in exchange for an honest review*

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## Christy says

### 5 stars!

"I desperately want someone else to ruin me the way he does, but they don't even come close."

*Bad Romeo* is one of those books.... one of those books that makes me want to kick myself. Why oh why did I wait so long to read this book??? And why the heck didn't more people try to force me to? LOL! This book was absolutely fantastic. I started it on audio, and found myself neglecting all the books I was supposed to be reading because I couldn't stop listening! I am not always a fan of second chance romance, but this one was done perfectly. It was the perfect mixture of fun and intense and I hung on every word while reading.

"Yeah, sure, I can do a passionate play with my ex-lover, who broke my heart not once, but twice. No problem.

I bang my head against the wall.

If there were a Nation of Stupid People, I would be their queen."

?Cassie Taylor's ex-boyfriend is cast opposite of her. Is there a worse work place scenario than that? When Cassie was in school for drama years ago, she met Ethan Holt. A young, tortured, and brooding man. Ethan found it hard to let anyone in, but somehow, Cassie was able to break through some of his walls.

Obviously, this was temporary. Ethan wasn't in a place to handle being in a relationship with her and he broke her. Now, years later, he's changed. So has Cassie. Ethan wants her back and he'll do anything he can to get her. He knows that their love was real, strong, and there is no way either of them can ever 'get over' the other.

"Don't even try to tell me you'll ever love someone as much as you love me, because as arrogant as it is to say, that's bullshit. And I feel the same way about you. Everyone else is just going to be second best for us. Don't you get that?"

I thought the back and forth aspect of this story was well done. It really showed the characters changes and it was perfectly paced. Ethan is so broody in the past (which I love) and perfect in the present (which I also love). I could see where the heroine could have irked some readers, but in all honesty, she never bothered me. Past Cassie is hilarious, understanding and fantastic. Present Cassie isn't exactly the same person. I completely get why she is the way she is though, and I don't fault her for that.

Side note- I especially loved the drama/theater aspect. I was the proud president of Thespian Troupe #5035 in high school. Yes. I was a bit of a drama geek and I loved every second of it. That connection just made the book that much more special to me. Honestly, I felt a major connection to both characters from the start, which is yet another reason why I loved this one so much!

I listened to this audio in a few short days. I had planned to listen to a new release I got next, but after the ending, you know I'm jumping straight into the audio of *Broken Juliet*. I can't wait to find out more about this couple's past, and see them get it together in the future! If you're looking for an addictive NA read that's fun, sassy, angsty and steamy- pick up *Bad Romeo*!

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### Colleen Hoover says

Where for art thou readers who hath eyes in thine heads? For this tale of love and hardship was surely meant for you.

My heart doth trudge thy depths when it clings to thy verbiage of Leisa Rayven. For it is not the weight of thy wallet that deems one a wealthy man. A pauper is a rich man if he carries with him a good book.

And this, my dear friends, is a good book.

Go forth and purchase *Bad Romeo*, my friends! Let us all be rich in knowledge together!

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### Pearl Angeli says

*"We've never been over. You know it as well as I do."*

I absolutely, totally love this book! A story about ex-lovers rekindling their spark, the book opened with an introduction of main characters **Cassie Taylor** and **Ethan Holt**, two renowned stage celebrities who had a high-profile relationship when they were at drama school. Three years after separating, they reunited again, with Ethan pursuing Cassie to bring back the old romance and start all over again.

**Bad Romeo** is a perfect novel for readers who are looking to breeze through a quick, easy, and enjoyable read. It's delightfully addicting, with a great chemistry between the characters that you just find yourself rooting for them until the end of the book. This novel was also coupled with a humor that will keep you entertained. I expected myself to enjoy this book before I started it but little did I know that **IT'S SO MUCH BETTER!** It's sweet, sexy, and emotionally driven. It's a completely out there kind of take on *Romeo & Juliet*. For New Adult romance readers, this book is a real treat! I highly recommend!

Rating: (more than) 5 Stars!

(I had the pleasure to interview Leisa Rayven. Find out more about her in my Author Q&A with Leisa Rayven --> <https://bibliopearl.wordpress.com/201...>)

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### Lucia says

*"This is what love feel like. To no longer belong to yourself. To be pulled from what you know into what you feel. No wonder people live and die for this feelings."*

**Phenomenal writing, scorching chemistry, great plot. Bad Romeo easily became one of the best contemporary romances I have ever read!**

Stories like Bad Romeo are reason why I read. Its intensity made my heart flutter and gave me goose bumps. I love being transferred right into the story and experience it all through brilliant writing. It's the best kind of magic. And in this case, Leisa Rayven is a true magician.

*"Sometimes people put up walls, not only to keep people put, but also to see who cares enough to tear them down."*

Bad Romeo is story about finding your true self and losing your heart in the process. Plot development and development of the characters is truly remarkable in this novel. Author tells us two stories simultaneously. First one is about how Ethan and Cassie met in drama school, became friends and formed complicated relationship. Second storyline is set 3 years after the end of drama school, Ethan and Cassie being cast together in new stage play but having huge unresolved past issues between them. This concept of connecting past and present was incredible and it made quite an addictive read out of this book for me.

Attraction between main protagonists of this novel is so palpable, I could almost taste it. Sexual tension between Ethan and Cassie was off the charts! To tell the truth, I'm not sure if I have ever read about the couple with more intense chemistry (and I don't say that lightly). And even though they pissed each other off regularly, it really worked for them. Moreover, in this novel you will find the best make-out scenes. Who would know that simple kissing scenes may be so hot?

*"I've never had someone rub me the wrong way so intensely before. If I'm being completely honest, I kind of like the spark."*

I have to admit that even though this was not my first time reading this story, I couldn't put it down and still felt this giddy excitement of reading great story for the first time. Yes, it's that good and I can't wait for the continuation of Ethan's & Cassie's story in Broken Juliet. If you like unforgettable romance stories, believe me, you do not want to miss this one!

*\*ARC provided by publisher as an exchange for honest review\**

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