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Stephanie James , Jayne Ann Krentz

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Alyssa Chandler and Jordan Kyle meet in Vegas. Alyssa is there to win money to support her sister and brother-in-law. She is a probabilities expert and would lose her job if she is found in Vegas. She meets Jordan there who is a professional gambler and their evening ends in one of passion.

Alyssa decides to live a double life: to see Jordan on the weekends and work during the week. However, things heat up when Jordan shows up at her door in the middle of a business party. Alyssa is not happy and fears that he will ruin her life. She soon realizes that her world and Jordan's is very similar in that they both have elements of illusions and that the players tend to get rough. It soon comes down to a choice that Alyssa has to make between these two worlds.

Gambler's Woman Details

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From Reader Review Gambler's Woman for online ebook

Laura says

.... ha wtf?

By the middle of the book i expected the "good guy" to show up and save the silly heroine from the beating Jordan gives her. It still felt like the guy was on edge when only a quarter of the book was left. And then BAM! they were in love

Left me open-mouthed and frustrated (in a bad way).

Jennifer says

Jordan sounds like he could be a sexy hero, but as you read on, you realize he's controlling, a complete jerk and probably a future-abusive mate. He shows up uninvited at her house and throws a tantrum when he doesn't get his way. Then he accuses any guy who talks to her of having an affair with the heroine. Could have been a better romance if he was more likable and not a psychopath in the making.

Mara says

I had forgotten Jacob's review. :(

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

JAK's earlier books are pretty bad either in gender roles characterization (and I can sometimes forgive that) or in the terrible writing style (cheesy, corny, purple and often copy and pasted from her other romances). They're often both.

This was mostly awfully written (in the come into me, darling variety) It was a pretty painful read.

Brantley says

This book was so terrible, it deserves negative stars!

Yes, the dialogue made me gag at times. Yes, there was insta-love based on similar skills with cards and a couple of orgasms, but basically nothing else. Yes, the idea that neither the hero (using the term extremely loosely) and heroine ever lost while gambling, unless they wanted to, is idiotic. Yes, there were way too much descriptions of food and drink (how many times did she mention that f-ing mushroom tart?!?). Yes, they got married after knowing each other for 7 days.

None of that bothered me over much. Give it a one star rating and move on to something else.

The thing that made me rage against the heroine and wonder how this book was ever published, even back in 83, was the fact that the "hero" was a classic controlling abusive boyfriend/husband. How can this be a happy ending when our hero, to the very end, is unrepentantly controlling and possessive??

After meeting and spending ~48 hours together in Vegas, our hero's reaction to the heroine pushing back their next rendezvous in Vegas by 12 hours is insane. He shows up unannounced on her doorstep the evening before they're to meet again and forces his way inside. Why didn't he return any of her phone calls all week? He was so angry at her schedule change that he couldn't think about her without wanting to beat her. He was sure she was cheating on him with another man. And though he's calmed down some, he might still beat her later. WTF?!?!?? It doesn't get any better -- he continues to manipulate and control the heroine throughout the book.

I really enjoy Jayne Ann Krentz's books in general, but this very early work should be buried deep and never see the light of day again!!

Jacob Proffitt says

The site I picked this audiobook up from marked it as a recent publication. After listening a while, I started digging into that assertion because it was... bad. Bad in a way that was *way* more common back in the day. Also, I kept wondering why they didn't have cell phones. So yeah, originally published in the early 1980s the sexism of this book was gratingly bad. Jordan is an abusive jerk and that Alyssa didn't immediately show him the door (and call in police protection if needed) just didn't work out for me...

Dianne McCorcle says

Ok story, but characters not believable.

Farah says

I should have guessed I wouldn't like it since the setting is something I don't enjoy "casinos and gambling" but I thought I'd give it a try anyways but at the end I wasn't grabbed by the book , the plot was a bit boring to me and the characters weren't intriguing or even a bit interesting , they lacked chemistry and likeability. Alyssa contradicted herself sometimes especially at the end of the book , maybe if it was done in a slower pace it would have made sense but instead her job turned from the most important thing she has into " I couldn't care less about it " I wasn't convinced. Jordan was a jerk and embarrassed her more than once in situations he had no right to interfere in , he was obnoxious. The whole gambling thing was handled very distastefully I thought there would be consequences for their actions but nothing happened , the whole thing was pictured as perfectly normal and okay. **Not my kind of book.**

LemonMarch says

Originally published in 1983, Gambler's Woman hasn't stood the test of time very well after two decades. As a result, what I would have rated as either a 4 or 5 star story back in the 80s, is now only worthy of an okay rating. For example, the hero unexpectedly showing up to crash a party hosted by the heroine for her boss and co-workers would have been wildly romantic and dashing. Nothing like back in the day of 80s romances of having the hero stake his claim in front of potential competition as to the fact that the heroine is "his

woman." This whole scenario now seems slightly creepy given that the hero only knows where the heroine lives because he was pawing through her wallet after a night of hubba hubba. Eeesh. In spite of elements such as that, the book as a whole was a pleasant read if only to see how the greatness that is Jayne Ann Krentz has developed as a writer.

fleurette says

At the very beginning I couldn't stop thinking that I have already read this book, which is nearly impossible since I note every book I read meticulously. Still, I had an impression that I somehow know it. So either I indeed already read it and missed to notice it or this book was so similar to some other one that I had a déjà vu.

It is a really short story with the idea of the lust at first sight. More like a category romance than a full contemporary romance. That is why, it is lacking in character and plot development. The events go so quickly that there is no place for any explanations or descriptions. The motives of the characters' actions are unclear.

At the beginning I just couldn't believe that Jordan can be a hero and I was expecting him to turn out to be a villain and for Alyssa to meet a real hero. Well, you can say that I am not very fond of Jordan, he is a possessive caveman with more than a little bit of alpha attitude who thinks a woman is his property. I can not respect a man who is likely to give his woman a lesson or to punish her for her believes. And Alyssa... I don't think I have any feelings about her, she just isn't described enough for me to know her.

Also, some of the expressions connected with gambling sound so funny I couldn't stop laughing. Especially when used as a part of dialogue when Alyssa and Jordan have sex. In fact, all the bed talks and other dialogues between Jordan and Alyssa are rather silly and eye-rolling.

I can't say that I liked this book, I rolled my eyes too many times.

Mindy says

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It's only when a book really disappoints or ticks me off that I write a review about it before I finish it. This one is ticking me off. I'm not sure how Krentz can salvage Jordan's obsessive behavior. Even if Alyssa and Jordan had been friends or in a relationship for a long time, he couldn't get away with his threats. His jealousy is ugly, not appealing or flattering to Alyssa in the least. I'm going to finish the book because I'm interested in seeing how it can work out – or if it only gets weirder. But I'm pretty sure no matter how it ends, this book gets a 1.

Finished.

Trite ending...bad dialogue...and no explanation for why Jordan was so creepy in the beginning...definitely a 1.

?Karlyn P? says

This was such a bizarre story - and not in a good way. It was down right awful. The hero was such a jerk that I kept waiting for her to get the restraining order and kick him and his dominating angry temper to the curb. But noooooooo, this brilliant modern woman must like the abuse - despite her desire for a good decent loving man. This book implies that he is a good man, but the story never shows it. And within a matter of days she turns her entire life upside down to be in this sick codependent relationship. I realize JAK is a popular author, but this early book of hers is not a great place to start if you want to read a book by her. They fall in love, but you never know why. He's emotionally abusive to the point of serial-killer scary, but she finds him charming. Ugh. She desperately wants a promotion, and then on whim (or what feels like a whim) she changes her tune completely. It's a bizarre awful book. Not my cuppa.

Luv_a_good_story says

This book had no plot, really stupid. I had to skip forward to see if anything was going to happen. It didn't!

Kathy says

Alyssa has a head for numbers and a prestigious job with a California firm. She also has a guilty pleasure - the ability to gamble and win. What started as a way to earn some extra \$\$ to help a friend has turned into her fantasy life. . .enter Jordan Kyle - professional gambler and one handsome man. Giving into temptation, Alyssa lets the fantasy take over. But when the weekend is over, both Alyssa and Jordan find it isn't that easy to let go.

This is an early Jayne Ann Krentz novel written in 1980s under one of her pseudonyms. It is a little heavy handed and lacking the sensitivity of later stories but I love anything Krentz.

Jane says

I like the work of Jayne Krentz whether she's writing as her, Amanda Quick or Jayne Castle so when I saw this for d/l at the library I grabbed it. Big mistake. It was written in 1983 and I think if she tried to publish it today, it'd never make it. I hope it wouldn't anyway. Her publishers have done her a disservice not letting this stay buried.

I started it and almost gave up within a few pages because the hero has 'antique gold' eyes and the heroine's are 'sea-green'. Oh yes. Brown and grey aren't good enough. The writing's florid, purple to the point of being violet, but I like a casino setting and though it was hard to wrap my head around making \$1000.00 in one weekend being particularly noteworthy (I got flashbacks to Austin Powers and the ONE MILLION DOLLARS! joke) I went with it. Hero (I use the word loosely) and heroine going to bed an hour after meeting was okay though no one mentioned birth control or condoms but fine, it's a romance, let's concentrate on the hot smexing.

Next morning she wakes up and he's going through her wallet. Needle scratch time. He's doing what now? Then when she protests he gets on the bed and menaces her. He does this a lot. We're told she's scared of him a lot too(the POV is all over the place, btw).

Because she's nuts, she agrees to meet him in Vegas next Friday, then, as her plane takes off realizes damn, she's hosting a work-related dinner party and she can't cancel. So she calls the hotel and leaves many messages saying sorry, will be there Saturday morning instead, getting no reply.

The jerk shows up at her house and crashes her dinner party telling her he was so angry with her putting off their meeting (for a whole twelve hours!) he wanted to beat her but she's not worth beating. Whew. What a relief, huh? He takes over the party keeping her on edge in case he reveals she's been gambling (except she has a system so she always wins) and she gets fired/loses the promotion.

Then the guests leave, he yells at her some more (did I mention he refers to her as his property when talking to his boss?) and they have sex.

Next morning a guy shows up with a check for her. She's helped him and his pregnant wife out when they were down on their luck, his paintings have taken off and he wants to repay her.

Cue Mr Insano storming downstairs threatening him with violence, refusing to listen to an explanation from either of them, assuming the money is for sex...got to say, he really thinks highly of his soulmate, huh?

He accuses her of being a whore, she slaps him, he grabs her wrist so hard he marks her up and calls her a shrew for being pissed at him (this is AFTER she explains).

That night she asks (ASKS! IN HER OWN HOUSE!) if she can sleep alone and he agrees, gets drunk, barges in to her room and fucks her because clearly wanting to be alone doesn't mean anything when he has some claiming of his woman to do.

Feh. Vomit. Never, ever have I met a character I seriously want to push off a high cliff so I can hear him screaming 'noooooo!' for a good long time as much as with this guy.

Take this book off the shelves, Krentz/Quick/Castle. You're not going to gain any new readers with it and I'm only letting it go because you're a good writer now and I like that you feature happy, committed gay couples in a lot of your books too.

But this one? Bury it. Bury it deep. Then salt the freaking ground.

Kesha says

This, seriously, may be the worst book I have ever picked up. Never finished it.
