

Lady with a Past By Lillian Cheatham The h explains that the money she got from the elderly writer was used to set up a pension for his aged housekeeper and that she was afraid the H wouldn't want her if he knew her past. (Thus explaining the H's economy size stock of male enhancers) He kept pushing and bullying her to make her trust him with her story.

Bully H who gets exactly what he deserves in the continuing annals of HPLandia. When she gets involved with a creepy guy she starts feeling guilty about taking his money without sexing him so she agrees to his request to keep a 'box of mementoes' at her place. If ever I was incarcerated for a crime I didn't commit that would be my plan too so it's reassuring that it's possible to go to jail without being shanked or forced to take up smoking. Sure she wants to sleep with Thorne because he's so hot but she's a bit conflicted about how she hates him for being such a bastard to her when she went to prison and how much of a bastard he's being to her now. With all due respect to Raymond Chandler I have to say LC does a credible noir pastiche without all the messy gun battles murders and ruthless thuggery- outside of the H's behavior of course. Six years earlier she was a beautiful young orphan who dyed her nutmeg tresses to a golden blonde and with a pocketful of dreams and a song in her heart made her way to the wicked bad city. Naturally the silly little virgin was eager to do the favor and thus was completely lost when the coppers showed up later that evening and arrested her for holding a box full of money that has mysteriously gone missing from the young man's employer's safe. The whole nasty situation went to trial and with a shabby public defender recommending the h throw herself on the mercy of the court instead of presenting herself to a jury things went down hill fast. The h was sentenced to 6 months in prison but as she was dragged out of the courtroom in chains she screamed out her agony over the betrayal and vowed to hate the H forever.) Over the years the h had heard all about BFF's nephew apparently he was rich but had a lonely childhood with a possessive father who taught him all about the evils of the fairer sex after the H's mum abandoned them both for a life of lurid parties and luxury yachts. The BFF manipulates a social dinner for the h herself and the nevvie- who is bringing his latest high-class bimbo in an attempt to ward off the aggressive penthouse popsie and save her nevvie from himself. The h had inherited a tidy amount when the elderly writer passed on to the consternation of his miserly sisters - who were convinced that no girl who looked like her could be anything but a bed-hopping opportunist. While the H is pretty sure his aunt stays on the opposite gender side of the street he too doesn't think that a girl who looks like her can be anything but trouble the really expensive kind. The BFF aunt is delighted - her astrologer predicts it will be lurve and heavenly cohabitation for the H and h after a period of trial and travail and by her own estimation the stars never lie. The H begins a determined pursuit but the h has some experience now and she's a good girl she is - so despite a perfectly nice young man to escort her around and because the H's fiery brutal kisses make her head explode- she demands marriage as her price to open the gates of delight and the H knocks the ground from beneath her feet when he accepts her proposal. They marry and the first passionate consummation doesn't go very well in fact for her it is pretty horrible and it looks like the uncharted waters of physical lurve will be abandoned forever more - the h asks for a divorce. She had planned to marry him and then announce to all and sundry that she was an escaped parole ex-con but the bug of love bit her in the hiney and now she is caught in her own trap. She can't confess her past because the H is so fine and morally magnificent (in spite of a taste for wild dolls of the expensive kind) that if he knew about her sordid story he would throw her out of his life forever. Indignant and brutal in his outraged possessiveness he angrily sets off to find and destroy the insidious worm - after telling the h she can work out her punishment in his bed. With a surge of remorse and self blame for his miserable behavior the H explains that he found the OM he estimated that if she did so voluntarily he would know she TRULY lurved him. Then the h announces she is hungry the H offers to find an all night burger stand and the bustle of life goes on with a million stories in the big city - enhanced by the hazy glow of the light of HPLandia. Overall this was a good one the H's brutality is a bit shocking but we HP voyagers know that true love can turn the hardest thug into a tender warrior and the mighty lurve club can be tamed by the virtuous yet passionate

kiss of a true HP h. An intense read with a believable satisfying HEA 0373108087 Another man in pursuit who knows how to ruin his woman's date with other man and send the latter running the opposite way. And who is so utterly brainless to expect the lawyer of the other party to defend her instead of his own client after she had confessed to committing the crime? Well this h is. it seems like a pretty lopsided relationship with her being the chaser and him being slightly annoyed by her - she's evil and snobby and he dispatches her quickly after she insults the h. - OM drama - the h has a friend she spends time with who the H is very jealous of - the H also assumes the h is gold-digging whore and has been involved with multiple OM - there are several OM sniffing around the h and it makes the H CRAZY- dubcon/nocon - the H forces several embraces on the h that eventually the h becomes an active enthusiastic participant in and their first time is by force while he is in a rage because the h says she wants a divorce - h (25) is a virgin - this is discovered The Old Fashioned Way - H (36) is experienced. if not a manwhore maybe a serial monogamist - no condoms or talk of sexual safety of any kind (published in 1984) 0373108087 His face his voice branded her soul,

But the h bravely endures the barren land of desire with no return on love - she just can't bring herself to walk away, The H works all day in the rarefied corridors of power and at night he wields the mighty club of lurve on the h. The former women in his life are all still pining for the rush of his clubbing and the insults and taunts fly at the h with monotonous regularity. Until the day the H comes home to tell the h that he is leaving on a big business trip to save his biggest client's company from a takeover, He remarks that surely she can control her (admittedly enjoyable) bodily urges for a week or so, The h sadly sees her emotionally distant lover off.

And that he knows the h is innocent, He has also known all along that the h was the woman from 6 years earlier. The evil OM finally admitted he framed her when he was caught embezzling again, The H was so distressed that he quit criminal law for the corporate takeover battle ground --after he got the h completely cleared of all charges: This astounds the H cause he figured a hot dame like her was only interested in him for his lurve club expertise, 0373108087 Really good story of a heroine who was falsely jailed because of the lawyer hero's actions, Several yeas later the heroine meets him again at his aunt's house and he doesn't recognize her, They marry and the heroine is on knife edge waiting for her past to be revealed. The hero thinks she's having an affair and says terrible things to her, The hero realizes what's going on - finally - and puts a stop to the blackmail before tracking down the heroine, He does a great grovel - both for putting her in jail the first time.

It was too deliciously angsty and edgy to complain: At least the heroine had enough wit and backbone to engage in amusing banter to distract me from her betraying body syndrome: 5 stars! Josey is convicted of a petty crime that she didn't commit: Thanks to the high profile lawyer she has to do some time with 2 years on parole: Thankfully she works her way around and makes a run with changing her identity and moving states. One fine eve she makes friends with a friendly older writer lady and things take a positive dip for her. Finally Josey has a confidante.

A friend and a mothering hen figure in this lady: I loved how Maud was outspoken and snarky in her pushy ways to hook up Josey with her charming nephew, It's only when Josey meets this man after years of avoiding it that she realizes he's the same man who wrongly had Josey convicted: What takes on is a toe-curling absolute dream boat of a hot romance between the h and H: He instantly falls for Josey who is a far cry from the clingy women around him, Josey is scared that if he knew her reality he'd prolly run the other way but Thorne isn't like other pu\$\$y men out there. He's hot on her toes as a raging possessive bull and doesn't leave her alone to have any second thoughts about him: With his heart and mind on her.

He proposes marriage with a forever kind of a premise: Josey could pretty much get away with anything and Thorne would still hold her and put her up on a pedestal. Both the h and H were kind and respectful of each other: Thorne was a patient husband who'd never get mad at Josey and

always be waiting for her with his arms wide open. Perfect book for a dowdy winter day if you want to be all warm and fuzzy: 5 stars 0373108087 Second part was better and because of the final I gave 4 stars: So if you want spoilers.



I tracked this one down through Abe Books after a friend recommended it on Goodreads and very glad I did. This is a crazy old book with a mean hero and a secretly ex-con heroine, 19 year old Josey leaves her small town to pursue her dream of being a singer, Unfortunately she can't sing loud enough and she's starting to run out of money: Turns out the box is full of stolen money and Josey's in big trouble. Huge trouble actually because her public defender is hopeless and creepy guy's lawyer throws her under the justice bus and she's sentenced to two years in prison, She makes friends with a nice rich lady and starts work as a rich guy's private secretary, Eventually the rich guy dies and leaves Josey some money which she deals with in typical romance heroine fashion, She gives most of it away and then is forced to endure people thinking she did sex things for cash: She wants Josey to break up her nephew and the scheming hussy the nephew is currently seeing: It turns out the nephew is the horrible lawyer Josey once vowed she would kill/make pay for sending her to prison. Josey now looks completely different so the lawyer doesn't recognise her. The lawyer's name is Thorne which is very clear indication that we're back in another romance era. As are his anger management issues and the fact that he likes to tell the heroine that she's a bitch and occasionally a slut. His seduction technique is to invade a girl's personal space and growl: you will sleep with me now bitch! It's been super successful so far: He's got a string of evil hussy women desperate to get him back to prove it, He is SUCH a charmer and it's no surprise Josey immediately falls for him: See he suspects that she's a gold digging ho out for everything she can get: Josey has no time for his stupid so she just rolls her eyes about it and tries to ignore most of the name calling, When he gets really insistent about the sex stuff she delivers her ultimatum: she wants a wedding ring. This is a great plan: either he'll back the hell off or he'll go for marriage. And if he goes for marriage when she gets really angry at him she can reveal that she was marrying him for revenge suck it! So much win for Josey. They get married and head off to the Bahamas for a savage deflowering, See Josey chooses to start the 'I have a hymen' conversation just as Thorne is ready to explode and he doesn't take well at all to Josey calling a time out, Actually he's a bit more brutal about how Josey has been stringing him along and she really ought to have started conversations before they started sex, He's sort of remorseful about her first experience being so rough but Josey's a trooper about it, Which would be fine if Thorne didn't also insist on introducing Josey to a succession of awful people. The only people Thorne knows are awful people which probably reinforces his world-view that everyone is horrible especially women. I really hope that after Josey and Thorne have their love declaration happy ending that they ditch everyone Thorne knows and get nicer friends, Oh and Thorne gets counselling or something for his anger problems. This was such an entertaining read! Josey was feisty Thorne was over the top mean: It's not quite possible to like Thorne but he was amusing and he turns out to be almost sweet at the end, Added to the keeper list! 0373108087 Re Lady With A Past - Welcome to neo-noir HPlandia style. It just wouldn't be HPlandia without those punishing

kisses and this H takes it new levels: (Yes I know that true gritty noir happens in the big coastal cities of New York or Los Angeles but this is HPlandia and even noir gets a rosy glow:) She has a golden voice that just quite didn't make the audience roar and as time went on she began to rely more and more on her somewhat dubious only friend, A young man with his hair slicked back with a dab of brylcreem an aggressive smile and somewhat shifty eyes: He took her out for meals and lent her money for rent and naturally the day came when he felt a return on favors granted was overdue: The h still a wide eyed innocent refused to offer payment in kind - so the sly young man asked her to hold on to a box of mementos for him. There was one moment of brightness before the dark came crashing down. The H makes an appearance as the attorney for the young man: The h felt the hope at his magnificent appearance and competent demeanor slide into her heart like a hot knife slicing through butter. The H tells the court that the shifty eyed young man was misled by a cruel and greedy brassy haired woman, She tempted and tormented with her beauty and cold responses until the young man was driven out of his mind by unrequited love, So he stole the money in order to buy her expensive but morally cheap favors. She quietly served her sentence resumed her mahogany lustrous curls and changed her name to escape her parole after her release, She met a nice lady 40 years her senior who helped her find a live-in job with a nice elderly book writer. The lady sensing the deep wounds that tormented our lovely songbird's soul became her best friend. So when the elderly book writer moved to a new plane of existence our h's older but still sprightly BFF offers a job as her assistant. The h has never met the man but the BFF is very concerned as her intrepid nephew has a taste for the sophisticated beauties who like to make you pay before you play: The h walks into the exclusive party with her BFF and sees the H fortunately he doesn't appear to recognize her from her previous court appearance. However he does take her to task for grifting reclusive elderly male writers and offering total house services in the physical sense as well: He is determined to run her off but he would like to buy a taste of her favors before he banishes her for good. The OW is seen off in a classy mocking style by the aunt and she too vows revenge against our beautiful young h who has usurped her place in the H's dark desires, She gets a nice lifestyle and all the passion she can handle and he gets a beautiful new toy who makes other things besides his head explode. The H is somewhat astonished that the gate was locked to the tunnel of love but he knows his skillz and soon has the h begging for more, The H is demanding and he starts all kinds of little fights in a demand to make her trust him. The h is bewildered initially she married the H for revenge: She is now a junkie with a taste for the essence of the H and if he rejected her the withdrawal process would probably kill her. She just adapts to whatever he wants and he seems to want a lot but only in the limited physical submission of the h to his mighty lance of lust: This hurts the h inside and then runs into the no-longer-handsomely-young man who got her into this mess to begin with, He now sees how much more beautiful the songbird has grown and he devises a wicked plan of blackmail to get his hands on the body he coveted so many years earlier, The h will have none of it after a sneaky but public rendezvous where the evil OM makes his nasty demands the h decides to walk away from the fiery passions of love. She tells the evil one where to go and prepares to leave but then the H gets home in rage of fury, Another evil wanna be other woman the trophy wife of his client had called the H to inform him that the h was out exercising her sensual skillz with another man. The h calmly sells a painting she had bought for the H as a wedding present and take the bus back to her small hometown: She finds a place to rent from an old acquaintance who is now a widower and her sympathetic understanding of his distress helps her cope with her own: She spends a lot of time wandering the highways and byways of her youth trying to plot her new life path. She returns to her lonely little cottage to find the H lying in wait in her favorite chair: They both leap into each others arms the misunderstandings dissolved and cast themselves together upon the transcendent shores of passionate love, Give it a go when you need some drama or just want a ring-side seat in the taming of an arrogant and for the suspicions he had about her: He knew about the jail time and was waiting for her to tell him and it never occurred to him that she was worried he wouldn't stand by her: Both the H/h were damaged people but they were entertaining in their damage: Heroine had a quick wit and could hold her own with all the beautiful people. Hero was a

poor little rich boy and - as his servant told the heroine - he was a one woman man. ☐☐If only Josey had been more bloodthirsty and executed the revenge Thorne clearly deserved. I just want to say that this book proved one more time that in Harveyland revenge is nearly impossible if you are a heroine: She's a virgin he's a cruel besotted possessive alpha male lawyer: She is often dumbstruck and she just goes along with everything other people want her to do: She lies a lot for instance that she was the mistress of her former employer, ☐☐☐He's cold mean pushy bulldozery not at all afraid to take what he wants not afraid to get physical or go for the forced seduction. ☐ He's obsessed and determined to get Josey however he has to, ☐ He's jealous and possessive and he lays down the law on other men: And when the h doesn't tow the line he has no problem at all date-crashing and creating a scene: ☐☐☐☐This was my first book by this author and now I'm wondering if this was a one-off masterpiece or if she has other books that are exactly my flavor. ☐ I guess I'll have to take one for the team and read her entire back catalogue to find out: ☐☐♀☐Even though it's written in the mid-80's it had more steam than I've come to expect in the vintage Harlequins, It's definitely not erotica but I appreciated the bumped up steam: ☐Was there anything I didn't like?- well I could have done with a little more OW drama: ☐☐☐☐☐SAFETY SQUAD SPOILERS☐- no cheating or sharing- OW drama - the H is involved with another woman when the book starts, There are OW interested in him and not afraid to make waves but he never returns their interest. It was the sort of mad unbelievable coincidence that one swore could never happen, Through her devotion to Maud Josey had blundered into her worst enemy! Six years ago Josey had pinned her last desperate hope for justice on brilliant trial lawyer T. Macallan only to be dragged down for the sake of his guilty client, Now he didn't even recognize the innocent he'd helped put behind bars: Much to his dear Aunt Maud's delight however Thorne took note of Josey's animosity. The h begs to go along but the H harshly refuses. He is attracted. She resists until she can't anymore. Finally the guy who framed her tries to blackmail her. She runs away. ☐Warning: a brief non-con scene. 0373108087 Fabulous read. A straight 4. Thorne is the stuff of every woman's dreams. I'd say they had a beautiful marriage. Of course this was an HEA that could never be lost. 0373108087 3. @Boogenhagen 's review was detailed and great as usual.The Big House doesn't change Josey. She spends her time reading quietly and avoiding drama.Josey gets out on parole and changes her name. She's kind of nervous about that given it's illegal.Rich lady invites Josey to come and stay with her. What he does recognise is that she's super fine. Josey however is no push over. 'Spread 'em slut!' he growls. Ok. Not quite. They work it out and have lots of great sex. 0373108087 4.75☐The ending was so good better than I anticipated. Left me feeling that warm fuzzy feeling it was great. Our story starts with the sadly maligned but innocent h. In this case it was Atlanta Georgia. Then the H began to speak and her world ended. Then a bright spot appeared in her life. (The BFF is a romance author herself. Thus begins a marathon of physical proportions. She just wants to save the H's public reputation.The explanations and reunions now begin. It was obvious he needed the heroine for his happiness. I'd have given the story trillion stars. Nevertheless read hers. Lol 0373108087 This is a good oldie from 1985. The story has a good pace so it doesn't get boring. For an 80's romance it's pretty steamy. All good. Because of the h it is 4 stars and not 5. 0373108087 Thorne Macallan was deeeeeee-lish. So. in other words he's my fictional dream hero. It was a nice bonus. I felt like it was slightly unresolved. ☐Bottom Line? I loved it.J. In fact he found her resistance irresistible. Lady with a Past.