



A Vengeful Passion

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A Demanding Proposition

Vito di Cavalieri is the last man Ashley Forrester ever wanted to see again, but her brother's fate lies in his hands. So she has no choice?to save her brother and protect her secret?their son?she must pay whatever price Cavalieri exacts...

His demand: Vito wants her in his bed, as his wife! But the passion he awakens in Ashley surges beneath her shaking defences and betrays her like never before. Just how will she be able to resist a desire so strong that it threatens to pierce her heart?

A Vengeful Passion Details

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From Reader Review A Vengeful Passion for online ebook

Chantal ♥? says

Omg so much pain! I really felt her pain and when she cried how could you marry her when you were mine!!! Also I called to tell you about the baby but found out you were just married I said nothing there was nothing more to say. I totally loved it just wished she had married and moved on as well just so he could understand her torment. How dare he talk about the baby she lost!!! I was mad I was read to give it up when the hero redeems himself. I hated him almost the whole book he was a total sexist pig but somehow it worked. Read again and recommend

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

Lynne Graham excels in getting the reader's juices flowing, particularly in her older books. I pulled this one off the pile as part of my Harlequin Presents Binge because I knew I'd get something cathartic. I wasn't disappointed.

I liked the fact that Vito is quite sympathetic. He is actually a nice guy, although he does tend to want things his way. He did and said things the wrong way to Ashley, but He had no idea about how traumatic her upbringing was. So I can't really hold that against him.

Even though Ashley was hard to get along with, I liked that about her. I get tired of the heroine who is the hero's dumpbucket, there to be kicked around except for in bed. Ashley isn't shy about standing up for herself or telling Vito what for. Her aggressiveness about certain topics is 100% linked to her past, and I think that if she had felt free to open up, I don't think they would have broken up in the first place.

I think Ashley is definitely one of Graham's most tortured heroines, despite her flaws. Frankly, her homelife sucked, and the abandonment she faced by her family was lousy. Because of her parents highly dysfunctional marriage and her father's abuse (both mental/emotional and at times physical), she has a low opinion of marriage and any sort of commitment, and she was raised to disdain anything feminine. I like to think that Vito could have been the family she lacked, if he had been given full disclosure on her past. Instead, he thought the worst of her instead of digging to the deeper issues beneath her posturing. He took her aversion to commitment and marriage as a sign of a moral failing in her, instead of a sign of emotional scars. They missed out on three years together as a result.

While Ashley is still argumentative and abrasive, she genuinely loved Vito and was heartbroken about their breakup and a loss she suffers shortly thereafter. She has the time to revisit her past strong opinions about marriage and family, realizing a lot of them weren't her own. But now Vito has cast her in the role of heartless jade, although he never got over her. I like that Vito still went after her, even though he thought the worst of her and knew she could hurt him. It showed that his love for her hadn't died. And this time, he wasn't going to settle for a non-committed sexual relationship. He wanted marriage, as he had before, and he wasn't afraid to blackmail to get it this time around.

There is a lot of tension, both sexual and relationship, and plenty of drama in this book. I don't know if I ever read this back in the day. I didn't own it, and I think I would have remembered if it had read it. The feels like Classic Lynne Graham and is worth having in the collection of serious fans of hers.

Leona says

I'm not really quite sure how to rate this book. It certainly is not one of my favorite LG books, but I still found it very engrossing. My biggest challenge was that I could find nothing redeeming in either the hero or heroine.

Vito and Ashley met four years ago. She was very young, not only in age, but emotionally stunted due to being physically abused by her father and having a mother that never cared enough to protect her. She enters the relationship with tons of baggage fearing that love would make her weak like her mother. Vito, on the other hand, falls like a ton of bricks and overwhelms her to the point that the poor girl can't function. Obviously, these diametrically opposed people explode and their relationship ends badly with her deserted, pregnant and Vito married to another woman.

Vito enters her life once again when she goes to him pleading to drop the charges against her younger brother who destroyed his \$400K pound Ferrari and family property. Vito is intent on pressing charges unless she marries him for one year and gives him a child. It seems his wife passed away without leaving the heir and he feels pressed to produce. The rest of the book is about their forced reconciliation and is filled with anger, vitriolic barbs and foolish behavior. At times, I found it very hard to read, but I did finish it and here are my thoughts:

Vito was a hard hero for me to find worthy of any heroine. A man that so EASILY walks away from a woman that he loves to marry the woman his family wants, isn't worthy of a HEA. At the end, his motives are explained. However, the answer made him appear more shallow and lessened him (if possible) even more. I think it would have been better left as a mystery, or simply him following familial duty. Ashley on the other hand, was so badly damaged that her anger and bitterness was so consuming I found her hard to love. Her wish washy ways annoyed me and her vitriolic spew left no doubt as to why Vito walked away in the first place.

One final note, atypical of LG, there were a few threads left hanging and not well developed. If these threads had been further explored, I would have found it overall a much better read.

Vashti says

this was a reread for me which i throughly enjoyed.this is why i enjoy the lynne graham of old.

Jacqueline says

I liked this one even if the heroine was a bit more abrasive than I generally like my heroines to be. Lots of angst and a quite good grovel at the end.

Kaycee ♥? says

Too much drama. And found it a bit redundant for my taste. With all the sane problems, issues and fears surfacing almost on every other page. And what I really hate the most in this book was the heroine. She's irritating, vindictive, whiny, spineless bitch. She totally ruined the book for me.

Vintage says

Re-read

THAT couple you avoid at parties. Snipe, bicker, and flounce.

Yes, they are head over heels for each other, but they will never be happy. Never.

First reviewAn appropriate title. This is one tempestuous couple.

Four years ago, Ashely and Vito broke up. She was pregnant but miscarried although he never knew. He married within a month or so of their break up. No reason to see each other, but her younger brother has gone off the rails in defending her honor and destroyed Vito's bazillion \$\$ car.

Doing the ubiquitous grovel for clemency, V goads A into marriage and a baby. There is the typical sturm and drang over this from both parts, and the attraction that would not die pulls them both back in.

It was just too much of the same ole, same ole for me. Their bickering, mean-nees, and Ashley's shrillness was just unpleasant and exhausting.

Ashley, the heroine, had the requisite bad family baggage, but was so incredibly unpleasant and strident I could feel no sympathy for her or relate to her character.

Poonam says

I generally like h from Lynn Graham's novels but somehow the h in this did not click with me. I found her shrieking and fighting all the time. The H was wrong in certain places but h's behaviour just makes us pity the H. The fights got repetitive and made me skip through the pages. The last 5% of the book sorts out all issues between the couple making it a bit abrupt.

Read much better books by this author.

StMargarets says

Second Chance story with a secret miscarriage subplot and a spot of revenge to bring them together.

The H/h had an affair four years before. University student heroine was 19 and feeling freedom for the first

time from her bully father. Italian executive hero was uncharacteristically rash and seduced the heroine after seeing her at a party. She wanted no strings. He wanted a commitment, complete with marriage and babies.

His mother interfered by offering the heroine money to go away. The hero's father's dying wish was for him to marry a family friend. Hero wanted the heroine, but she turned him down after his mother's visit. Hero went on to marry the family friend just a few weeks later.

Heroine found out she was pregnant and signed up to get an abortion but changed her mind. Her father threw her out. She failed her exams and ended up sleeping on a friend's couch and then miscarried.

It's four years later and the heroine's brother has been in fights with the hero's nephew at their boarding school. Her brother stands up for her honor and then after being beaten up by the nephew's friends, steals the hero's car and drives it all over their lawn and crashes it. The police have been called.

Heroine decides she's going to confront the hero to ask for mercy for her brother. Hero demands a forced marriage and an heir.

(view spoiler)

I'm leaving out the many, many, many arguments, false statements, and misunderstandings that constitute the bulk of their interactions. This heroine is defensive, thoughtless, rude and stubborn. So is the hero. They are a matched set. The heroine's backstory explains her behavior beautifully, but I didn't like her very much. The hero has no excuse for his behavior except the heroine is a difficult person and it would take the patience of a saint to put up with her shrill tongue.

However, this hero was willing to let the heroine go – he married and then when his wife died, he had a mistress for 18 months. But that's okay she looked like the heroine. Be still my heart.

But even though the H/h were not endearing characters, this was still fun to read. LG knows how to bring the drama and the angst.

RomanceLover99 says

I would have liked this book so much more if there was not so much bickering between the MCs. I know the heroine isn't well liked by a lot of reviewers however, she is a product of the home she grew up in. Her father was an abusive bully and she really only had two options: either she was a walking doormat apologizing for breathing like her mother or she was going to be the exact opposite. Considering that she was treated way worse than her siblings I'm not surprised that she was as stubborn and confrontational as she was. It also didn't help that at the beginning of the book, she was dating the SUPER ALPHA older hero who was domineering and told not asked her to marry him.

There were a series of unfortunate events that lead to misunderstandings and confusion on the parts of both characters. Because the heroine was treated so badly by her father, I really wanted to root for her. I feel as though the hero should have done his due diligence in finding out everything he could about the heroine when they were first together. He was older and I felt he should have shouldered more responsibility in finding out why the heroine, his young girlfriend at the time, acted the way she did. So, I'm not going to lay

all the blame on the heroine. After their first night together, and he realized how young she was, he decided to continue the relationship even when he stated she was too young so yes, he is held liable.

I also blame him for not seeking out information on what she was doing during the years they were not together. He honestly hasn't seen her in years and decides on spot, she's going to give him a baby. Really!?!? Did he think maybe, just maybe something might have happened to her medically to prevent this from happening? He didn't even know her occupation. Yes, she lied but the hero still could have verified all of this information, especially since he keeps stating how disloyal she was. And how in the world does he have a creep of a nephew and not have one small inkling of the nephew's real personality? I'm starting to think this hero isn't as smart as he's supposed to be.

If you are a Lynne Graham fan, this book is worth reading however, go into knowing that you have a younger heroine from an abusive, oppressive background. Knowing all of this, I think you will be more sympathetic to the heroine.

Jenny says

Wow! I've read a lot of books featuring abusive heroes but this is the first time I'm reading a HP where it's the heroine that is abusive. Heroine was bitter, full of hatred, deceitful angry and immature like no other! She claims she is a kick ass feminist but she comes out as a deranged abuser.

Book is loaded with cursing, screaming, yelling and endless bickering! I'm convinced hero was a saint for putting up with this heroine.

boogenhagen says

Re A Vengeful Passion - Lynne Graham get the second November 1994 HP Plus spot and like Michelle Reid's Passionate Scandal this is a second chance romance set against the background of feuding relatives taking up fighting positions.

(In fact, this is one of the rare HP occasions where MR and LG both have books out together with identical tropes and a similar theme. I recommend you read both back to back, it really highlights each writer's style and both books show why these ladies are the brightest stars in the HP Firmament.)

The h is 23 when the book opens. We learn that she is an outcast in her own family. Her father is abusive and essentially kicked her out of the family because she lived with the H in her first year of uni at 19 and then the H dumped her after he told her they were getting married because his elderly father was ill and he had to return to Italy and she refused. He married another woman a month later.

As these things go in HPlandia when you have a 19 yr old h from a highly abusive background and a 28 yr old Alpha Italian Bully H, the h and H have a very fraught relationship and the H's family had a wife in mind for him already.

So it should be no surprise that the H's mother shows up at the H and h's flat one day and tries to pay the h off to leave her son. The bigger shock, (but not really), is that the h's unicorn status when she met the H leads

to a potential stork visit.

Unfortunately for the h, the H had already gotten himself engaged to the family's spousal choice when the h found out she was preggers. She calls his house and learns he is having his engagement party and really, what can an HP h say after that? Nothing, so the h contemplates having a termination.

(One of the biggest complaints in this story is that the h is a shrew. Which is true to a certain extent, she doesn't take the H's insults and accusations lightly AT ALL at Any Point. I like this h, she isn't a doormat. She reacts exactly like a real 19 yr old who has a strong personality and is used to fighting off a bully, (ie her father,) would act.

That makes her srsly acerbic and volatile, but when you have spent 18 years being tormented for no reason that you can understand and when the others in your family are not treated the same way, it makes you extremely wary and combative. The h learned from a young age that offense is the best defense and she acts accordingly.)

The H on the other hand, is a much more mature 28 and uncomfortably like the h's father in certain aspects. The h is 9 yrs younger, idealistic on the feminist manifesto, (which is mostly the passion of youth and lack of life experience) and the H is all Italian Condescending Patriarch Male in how he treats her. The ladies in his family are very subservient butterflies around him as well, so when the h directly challenges his assumptions about how she should be, he doesn't take it well.

Both of them have very set in stone ideas about how the other person is when they initially get together, because neither one of them realize that they are seeing each other through the filters of their own experience and really the only communication they ever do the first time around is in bed. The HP Lurve Force Mojo clouds their brains and their thoughts and they almost can't function in the chaotic tsunami of it.

The h eventually decides she can't face a termination, even tho the sewer slurper nematode slime crawler H obviously didn't love her and pretty much only saw her as a convenient tart while he waited around for the family approved woman he must have really wanted. So the h is fighting off family opposition to her pregnancy and trying not to fail her exams.

Sadly the h loses on all counts. She fails out of uni, has a miscarriage and is exiled from the family fold. Tho really the family thing was no big loss. The h has gumption tho, so when the H and h are ready to meet again, she has a job she likes working with kids and is taking Open Uni courses to become a teacher.

Then her younger brother runs amok with the H's serial killer in the making sociopath nephew. Dubious set ups by the little sociopath lead the h's brother into police arrests and court appearances. When the sociopath gets his friends to beat the h's brother and the h's brother retaliates by driving the H's massively pricey one of a kind sports car all over the H's lawn and then wrecks the car, the h's snail snot sister blames the h and the h knows her parents will too.

In classic vintage HP blackmail style, the H agrees to drop the charges against the h's brother. The price will be marriage to him and an heir and the H is utterly offensive and deserved some serious skilleting in the proposing of his bargain.

The h frets, fights and has several very bad words to say about it, but the entirely predictable outcome is that the misogynistic, tart shaming, wildly possessive, nasty nematode H and the vituperative, shrewish and very loud h marry. After the h meets the H's mother again and establishes a tentative truce.

Then we all go to Sri Lanka and see some elephants. The h also manages to get into an almost fatal car accident when she and the H start taking swipes at each other again, but the fighting is actually facilitating some real communication between them.

The H consistently makes these nasty and tart shaming comments and the h's responses force the H to continually reevaluate their earlier relationship through a different viewpoint. For every one of the H's accusations, the h vehemently responds with a few home truths - so while the verbal fighting is intense, it is also constructive, because LG shows the H and h moving to more compatible points of view.

After the car accident where the H thought the h might have died, but finds her safe instead, things calm down a lot and the H and h start enjoying their time outside of bed together. The H agrees to hold off on the pregnancy attempt and the h figures he is placing his revenge on her over his wanting an heir and resolves to hide her love, so he can't use it against her.

Too late tho, cause the h is already preggers. The h gets more freaked out. Her mother had a ton of miscarriages and the h already had one, so she is sure this pregnancy is due to end unhappily too. Plus she can't bring herself to tell the H about the baby, until we all get back to England and the H's serial killer sociopath young nephew shows up.

The sociopath thinks the h is home alone and starts bragging about how he set up the h's brother and making really nasty threats to the h. The h tells him that the H is there, but the sociopath thinks she is bluffing, until the H has his hands around the sociopath's throat. The h faints when she realizes that the H knows she is preggers and the H is pretty much beside himself with how hugely wrong he got everything.

That doesn't stop him from trying hard to fix what he broke in the h's life four years earlier and so he drags the h to her parent's home for lunch. The h is not wanting to go at all, she never wanted the H to see how poorly her family treated her and of course the H can't conceive of the kind of abuse the h endured.

The h's father goes ballistic and starts screaming and shaking the h. The H loses his mind and hits the h's father and then offers the h's mum a home. It finally comes out that the h's mum had an affair and the h's father thought she was the OM's kid. The h is biologically the father's, but he hated the h because she reminded him of his wife's infidelity and he punished the h ever since and her TSTL cow of a mother was too weak to protect her children.

The h finally feels released from her burden of inadequacy that she has struggled with all her life and in true LG h style, she even feels compassion for her betrayed father. The H, on the other hand, finally realizes the full extent of his very bad behavior. He believes the h sees him as a clone of her abusive father and he decides he should leave her and let her rebuild her life, even if it is with another man.

The h, now that her baggage is minimized, finally gets that the H's motivations are because he really, really loves her and just can't let her go. She puts an immediate stop on the H vacating the marital home and she convinces him that she loves him back and that there ain't no other man.

We get a very nice epilogue where the H and h are in their vacation home and the h has had twins and is going back to school for an educational degree while carrying their third child. The H and h are very much in love and mutually supportive of each other. The h and her father have a tolerable truce and the H has a remarkably great time making fun of the h's father's anti-everything ways. The h's mum and sister are more relaxed and enjoyable and the h's brother is in med school for the big HEA.

This one is an outstanding book in drama and how fighting between two people can actually be constructive. Plus I really like how LG presents two people in positions 180 degrees apart and then convinces me that they really have met in the middle.

If you don't like bickering or h's that will get in the H's face, this is not the book for you. But if you can tolerate the fighting, this is a great day's outing in HPlandia.

Sneha Jaiswal says

very sad book!both hero and heroine suffered due to insecurities and misunderstandings.I found the heroine to be a little closed off! I mean the hero wanted to talk and solve the problems but she gave him the cold shoulder.it was a little gloomy for my tastes!

sb20112011 says

Very angsty, but good. I always like stories where the H/h were in love in the past. And I like it when you can see that the H loves the h all along, is concerned about her feelings, doesn't like it when she cries, etc. Pretty good one!

KatieV says

2.5-3*

I like the 2nd chance HPs. Some of LG's are my favorite. This was a bit too much of a bickerfest for me. L.G. can write some quirky heroines who really give it to the hero, this one was a bit shrill.
