



After the Storm

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"You are still legally my wife," Rad pointed out bluntly. "All I'm asking is that you resume those duties once more."

Lainie stared at him. What a fool she had been not to accept his previous offer. But that refusal had been dictated by her pride, and now need had replaced pride.

What frightened Lainie was that she still loved him. She was beginning to wonder if she had ever stopped!

After the Storm Details

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From Reader Review After the Storm for online ebook

Melinda says

No way did this book make sense. No explanation for the way the husband treated the wife, never once saying he loved her before their separation and only admitting it on the last two pages. He was mean, vindictive and sarcastic.

Jen says

I really really love the Mills & Boon cover for this book, but the story was pretty mediocre. It's usually the case with me...

Ivy H says

That's my impression of the MC's, and the heroine's awful mother, in this novel. This story was set in Colorado and it's a second chance romance for an estranged married couple who had gotten married a few years ago when the heroine, Lainie, had been 19 yrs old. Lainie had been a spoilt rotten only child of parents who belonged to the old moneyed class. Her mother was an inveterate snob who hadn't wanted the heroine to marry Rad (the nouveau riche industrialist H). Snotty mommy thought that her beautiful genteel princess daughter deserved to be wed to a scion of their uppity country club pals so she did everything in her power to belittle the H and to put a spoke in her daughter's newlywed bliss. Lainie had been the beautiful young debutante with lots of male admirers and Rad (in his early 30's) felt she would be the ideal trophy wife. These 2 got married in their big society wedding but didn't live happily ever after.

Both MC's were equally culpable when it came to the breakdown of their marriage. There was no adultery but the heroine had been jealous of the H's vile and possessive PA Sondra. The PA had obviously wanted the H for herself and she played upon the insecurities of his young wife. In addition to this, the heroine was also a very petulant social butterfly type of wife who often argued with Rad when he had to devote a lot of time to his business and was unable to worship at her dainty feet or escort her to all the social functions to which she'd been invited. The H grew impatient with Lainie because of her childish demands for attention and because he felt that she prioritized her friends too much:

"I've had a rough day. That damned party isn't all that important."

"No, it's my friends who are giving it, so naturally it isn't important to you," Lainie had retorted sarcastically.

"Your constant bitching is getting on my nerves." Rad's jaw had been tightly clenched and Lainie had

blanched in spite of her air of defiance.

"I am not going to that party tonight, and that's final!"

"Well, I am!"

"I'd think about it if I were you," Rad had said coldly as Lainie had turned to leave the room.

Janet Dailey. After the Storm (Kindle Locations 355-359). e-reads. Kindle Edition.

Their marriage finally broke down after Lainie threw yet another tantrum and Rad refused to give in to her demands. In fact he hurt her immensely by telling her that he should've made her his mistress instead of his wife since she didn't know the first thing about being a wife. When Lainie threatened to leave him, he coldly responded that he didn't care what she did anymore:

The petulant, mommy's girl heroine packed up her stuff and ran off back to her parents in a huff. Lainie did aggravate me immensely but I felt that Rad was too arrogant and cold. He also failed to see that her concerns about his PA Sondra were warranted. He seemed to think that as long as he wasn't interested in his PA, then his wife had no cause for complaint. He made the biggest mistake of disrespecting his wife's feelings; Sondra was obviously just out to cause trouble and the H should've fired her or reassigned her to another department in his corporation. PA's are not indispensable and this simple act of goodwill would've saved the marriage. Lainie also needed to stop heeding all the crap her snobbish mother pushed down her throat and she should've put her husband before her friends. I think it was the age difference between the MC's that made their issues so insurmountable; the heroine was a young party animal and the H was a sober businessman who didn't have time to engage in such entertainments on a frequent basis.

At the start of the novel, Lainie's financial and social circumstances have deteriorated. Her late father had made a series of bad investments and lost all his money. His mother is also suffering from cancer and is bedridden. The formerly spoilt party girl heroine has been forced to face up to the reality of life and she's become a lot more likable and mature. She has only a few friends now because (as is often the case) the fair weather pals dumped her after her father lost all his money. She meet the H again, after all these years, at the opera and his attitude to her is disgusting:

"The years haven't treated you kindly," he sneered, his gaze picking out the shadows under her haunted eyes and the pallor in her cheeks. "What a pity to be robbed of your beauty so early."

Her face flamed immediately with anger and rage. "You haven't changed, Rad. You're still a ruthless, cold-blooded male swine!"

Janet Dailey. After the Storm (Kindle Locations 209-212). e-reads. Kindle Edition.

He doesn't even stop to wonder why she's looking so tired; she's been spending all her nights looking after her invalid mother and her financial worries haven't helped either. His comment is uncalled for and low because he obviously knows that the one weak spot with women is their physical appearance. It's the kind of comment I would expect from another woman, rather than from a man. Their reunion encounter is one of the nastiest I've ever encountered in a second chance story and Rad was utterly malignant and hateful at this

point:

They eventually reconcile because she needs money to pay for her mother to be hospitalized and snobby mommy wants a luxury private room. Rad gave Lainie an ultimatum: he would pay all her mother's hospital bills if she returned to him. Their reconciliation is very bittersweet because they're both filled with pride and reluctant to show any weakness for each other. Rad was also jealous of a wannabe other man who was in love with the heroine. Lainie hadn't dated anyone during the years she'd been estranged from Rad but she had been willing to start dating this OM, so the H's obsessive jealousy was at a peak. The author didn't clarify whether Rad had been celibate during these years apart but there had been no relationship with the PA Sondra. The MC's started sleeping together again because they couldn't keep their hands off each other but the H treated Lainie more as a mistress than a wife. I swear, it's like pulling teeth to try and get these old school alpha male H's show a tiny ounce of human feeling and affection for their heroines. Lol.

The MC's relationship continued to spiral downwards in the last part of the story because the mindless sex they were having made each realize just how empty an loveless marriage can be. There was a great deal of angst, bitterness, jealousy, frustration, resentment, false pride and a total breakdown in verbal communication. It eventually became too much for the heroine so she once again left him and that's the catalyst that put him in touch with his inner feelings. The heroine returned to the apartment in the final scene and was shocked to see him holding her wedding ring and **crying** !

The rugged features were contorted with pain as he stared back at her, his eyes red and haunted. There were tears winding their way down his face. Suddenly he was bristling with anger.

"What are you doing here?" he shouted. But the savagery in his voice couldn't hide the pain behind every word. Rad seemed to realize it and sagged onto the couch, turning his head away from her as if it were torture to look at her.

"What difference does it make?" The defeated tone of his voice brought a different ache into Lainie's heart. "After all the hell I've put you through, I guess you should have some victory." Rad was talking like a man broken in two. A bitter laugh came from somewhere deep inside him and it was filled with self-contempt. "And to think that for five years, I've tried to make sure you never knew I loved you. I even went to humiliating pains to make sure you believed I never did." Rad turned his tortured eyes on her, drinking in the bewildered expression on her face as if he were dying from thirst. "Oh, Lainie, I love you so much. Forgive me for forcing you... for blackmailing you into being my wife again," he begged in a hoarse whisper.

"Rad!" His name was an exultant bubble that burst gladly from Lainie.

"Don't pity me!" he shouted, rising to his feet as he changed from the beggar to the dominator. "I couldn't stand that!"

Janet Dailey. After the Storm (Kindle Locations 1872-1884). e-reads. Kindle Edition.

This salvaged the story for me because these two had been driving me up the wall with their pride and forced impasse. I was rather shocked to see an old school alpha male H actually cry and then unburden himself like this. It was the one thing that made me believe that these 2 would finally have a happy ending, with the 2

sons and 1 daughter the heroine wants to have.

Michelle ♣ Ndayeni says

This book runs high on emotions, mostly stormy ones, and does it pretty well. The basic scenario is fairly stereotypical - married couple that's been separated for several years is suddenly brought back together, first by a chance meeting at a concert, and then more deliberately due to her mother's illness. They fight and snarl at one another, but also have moments that show they clearly still get along quite well in some ways at least, and it's made clear that she still loves him, but he doesn't seem to love her - and so it goes until eventually they have their tear-filled and oh-so-touching happily ever after at the end when they finally admit/discover that they both love the other one and always have. (Apologies if that's rather spoilery, but isn't really all that spoilery since that's pretty much how every book of this sort plays out.)

Lainie is a young woman who's shouldering some pretty large responsibilities in caring for her terminally ill mother while also trying to keep a roof over their head and food on the table and the doctors and hospital at least nominally paid. It's plain to see from the start that the strain is steadily taking its toll on her and that she's likely headed for a breakdown at some point if things don't change. And change does come fairly soon when she runs into Rad at a concert and all of her dormant feelings for him are brought suddenly back to life, chiefly her lingering resentful anger at him from before, but also a wildfire attraction to him that hasn't died. From then on it's a stormy, bumpy ride through the rest of the book, with Lainie going through the whole gamut of emotions from bouyant happiness to flaming rage to abject despair. In many ways, the emotional roller coaster, or at least the various situations that bring it about, is all pretty predictable and cliched, but the writing is good enough to make them all believable, and to make it easy to get caught up on the roller coaster along with her as you read through it.

In contrast to Lainie's fairly developed character, and that of some of her friends, Rad is never really developed beyond the stereotype of the overbearing and autocratic rich man who's used to giving orders and having them obeyed. With only a few exceptions, his attitude toward Lainie is sarcastic at best, coldly cruel at worst, and rarely lends much credence to the knowledge that he must really love her despite his callous treatment of her. Thus, when we finally see his facade crack at the very end when the truth that we've known all along finally comes out, it seems fairly abrupt and uncharacteristic. While he's never quite made the villain of the piece, neither is he often a very convincing hero of it either.

The emotions in this book, and the author's skill in getting you caught up in them, is the main thing to recommend it. Without those, this would be a fairly trite and very predictable story that would probably be more than a little cheesy. The vivid characterizations, and the volatile emotions rescue it from that fate though, and so I'd recommend this to anyone who's a fan of this type of book.

Fre06 Begum says

2.5 stars

? Briangirl (Book Sale Queen)? says

This is the only book of hers I can honestly say I didn't like. In fact, it was terrible.

joy in wonderland says

I remember this book, and simply want a copy!? I really like the ending where the heroine comes to their place to collect some stuff and the hero said something like... "What did you came here for? To insult me..." haha 'coz he misapprehend that the heroine was inlove to a another man. Haven't memorize the exact line that's why I badly want a copy to relieve this story.

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Sylvia says

Modern

Gill says

Oh dear oh dear. This one started off a bit better than I expected, with some idea of a plot and some description of place, but it quickly deteriorated into slush romance, which might have been commissioned by some style magazine -full of hairstyles, furniture, clothes, but even those descriptions were not done well. The new man involved in the plot simply disappeared once he had served his purpose, the people were cardboard cutouts and far from characters one identifies with, were people I would not wish to meet at all! I managed to finish reading in a day whilst knitting a sock, and that was the best thing I could say about it.
