



Defender

Diana Palmer

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The man who shattered her trust is back to protect her...

New York Times bestselling author Diana Palmer delivers a breathtaking story of second-chance love

When Paul Fiore disappeared from Isabel Grayling's life, he told himself it was for all the right reasons. She was young and innocent, and he was her millionaire father's lowly employee. Three years later, Paul is the FBI agent assigned to Isabel's case. Too late, he realizes what life in her Texas mansion was really like back then—and how much damage he did when he left.

Once love struck and sheltered, Isabel has become an assistant district attorney committed to serving the law, no matter how risky it gets. But right now the man she can't forgive is the one person standing between her and a deadly stalker. She knows Paul won't hesitate to protect her life with his own. But if she can't trust herself to resist him, how can she trust him not to break her heart all over again?

Defender Details

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From Reader Review Defender for online ebook

Chantal ❤️? says

WHAT THE F*CK WAS THAT CRAP!

Seriously, the hero is such a fail as a special agent CIA operative that he LIVED in a house with them and he couldn't tell she was being abused.

There were marks and bruises, how could he even call himself an agent?

HOW F*CKING STUPID CAN YOU BE TO NOT SEE THIS!?

And this guy works for the Government?

Nope NOOOOO, I am NOT BUYING THIS LOAD OF HORSE SHIZ!

And get this, he was supposed to be her bodyguard?

Really? A bodyguard!

What exactly was he guarded but himself by hurting the heroine.

So when he starts having feeling for her and HE COMES ON TO HER!?

Because she is inexperienced and wouldn't even know how to start a relationship with him.

HE pins her down touches her intimately and tries to have sex with her NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND!

So what does our "fail f*ck" of a hero do?

Well he goes right up to her abusive controlling father and tell him a bunch of crap about her coming on to him!?

WOW, WORDS FAIL ME HERE!

Resulting in the debilitating beating of a lifetime for the heroine while the DICKHEAD HERO moves on with his life safe in the knowledge that he protected himself from possible involvement with the heroine.

SO NOT ALPHA AND NOT HAPPENING HERE!

But it's DP and she is a drama queen so I kept reading hoping to the grovel of a lifetime and what do I fucking get in return but this

"God, I'm sorry. So sorry!"

She was shaken. She couldn't find the words she wanted to say. "You had a child..." He turned to her, his eyes so full of pain.

"I don't talk about her."

"Oh. I'm so sorry." It must have been a painful divorce, she thought.

So one line I am SORRY and then she is all over him saying SHE IS SORRY!?

On what planet does she live on here!
Why would anybody want to read about this?
What is going on with my favourite author!?
Does she not get that most of her readers are intelligent and independent women of the world.
And we demand to be treated with respect!!

Now, does anyone know if I can get a refund for this book?
I have never done this before even when I did a one click mistake.
But I feel that someone needs to wake this author up!
She can and has produced better novels, therefore she owes it to her fans to do this.
Only the best is accepted here.
Those are my thoughts and you can take them or leave them.

I would NEVER recommend this book to anyone and even as I skimmed to the end, the whole story was a rehashing of older plot lines mashed together in such a fail way that I was crying.
I can't imagine why the author would do this to her fans!
I have read all her books therefore the similarities are obvious.
I am just sad and disillusioned right now.

Chitra *CJ* says

Most I can say is.. No.

I found this painful! I love DP- I love most things by her- but this second chance story was not only painful to read, but was also annoying. Why?

1. Isabel or Sari, along with her sister Mandy- live with their abusive and psychotic father
2. Paul the super agent who's also a bodyguard- is a dbag with a sad past (yes it's the same as the dark past of all other DP books)
3. He knows Sari has a crush on him and that the dad is a bit crazy(because he has tapped the whole house).

What does he do-

A- he leaves with a notice(which would have been the sane choice)

B- makes up a crazy story that portrays Sari as an obsessed hussy that makes her dad go into a rage and beat up her and her sister so badly that they bleed and almost die

He does the latter. Unknowingly but he does! Now does this lead to regret? Yes. Does it lead to any grovels? NO!

Fast forward three years finally to the second chance "story"

He comes and sees her- and suddenly he misses her. Picks her up- makes her fall for him. Again(despite her resolves not to give in she's weakened by his so called ardor). And pushes her away. This cycle repeats until he almost loses her.

Mingled with boob rubbing scenes, this made me want to pull all my hair out. And also Paul and Sari's. Mostly Paul.

EGH

It's safe but whatever. I don't recommend it .

Hopefulpuffin says

I'm not going to mince words here. This book stank.

I skimmed the last 4 chapters or so because I just wanted it over.

If you've read any DP, then you know the plot bit I can't believe she gets away with writing this stuff in 2016. It reads as if it was written in 1990. In fact, had anyone in it smoked, I'd have thought it was written in 1990.

There is just so much I didn't like about this one:

1a) I just thought of 2 of the most annoying, meaningless parts of the book

a) DP actually writes out the whole Miranda warning. Just in case you've never seen an episode of any iteration of Law & Order

b) there are several pages devoted to some random court case Suri is working on. Why? I've no idea. I skimmed it. Seriously skimmed it.

1) it's one of the law enforcement ones so it involves everyone in Jacobsville and his secretary.

2) while both sisters have cell phones, iPads, and computers, neither ever googled anything to help themselves. Or even out of curiosity.

3) throwing the kitchen sink at the plot.

4) throwing a hurricane at the plot. Literally.

5) nobody in law enforcement in Jacobsville is concerned with ethics. This goes for San Antonio too. This bugs the bejeezus out of me which is why I avoid DPs with mercenaries/cops/agents.

6) info-dumping everything. And not just all the characters and their kids who pop in (see 1a).

I've said it before and I'll say it again. I'm a glutton for punishment and I swear I'm gonna lay off the damn DPs but like an addict jonesin' for my next fix, I keep going back to the library. And who knows what DP would say about that!

Nicole says

DNF - 7%

Wow. Barely made it to page 30, cringing the entire time, before I gave up. This book, from the first 30 pages I read, is garbage.

It's so cliche it's painful. First you have the Virginal Younger Heroine with her Model Good Looks who blushes at the thought of sex, doesn't know she's beautiful until the Older Brooding Hero With The Dark Past tells her she is, and is complicit with her Abusive Millionaire Father's "protectiveness" (re: authoritarian parenting and beating of her younger sister). Also her name is Isabel, but everyone calls her Sari? How does that work?

Then Older Brooding Hero slut shames all other women WITHIN THE FIRST 20 PAGES because why would the Virginal Younger Heroine - who laments the fact that she's never even been kissed at 22 years of age and wishes she was more experienced - want to expose herself to STDs and a reputation for being easy? (God forbid!) And he has a Dark Past that is so Awful and Traumatizing that even the barest hint of an innocent question makes him clench his coffee cup in a white knuckled grip - sounds like you have some anger and self-control issues buddy. But he's the Hero so it's OKAY.

And then the tense of the narrative is all sorts of screwed up, and POVs switch within paragraphs which make things even more confusing - this book was just a hot mess. I don't believe I've ever read a book by Palmer, but I certainly won't be attempting again after this nonsense.

Jenny says

I adore DP and I liked this book but I needed more hero and heroine interaction. I also wanted to see them with a baby in the epilogue. It was a good read but DP can do better. I cant wait for the sister's book!

Geri Reads says

This book has all the bad things that plague most Diana Palmer's books and none of the good.

This has, of course, the requisite DP virginal heroine, older hero, abusive father and the million side characters and former main characters of every DP book out there getting a mention or making appearances in this book.

In other words, this was HOT MESS. And not in a good way. Not even a little bit. NOPE.

ARC provided by publisher

Lorraine Oliver says

Defender by Diana Palmer is a book that features a lot of characters in her Long Tall Texans series and I really enjoyed it! All of my favorite characters from so many of her books are in here like Cash Grier, his wife Tippy and their 2 children, along with Cy Parks and so many others. This book is about Isabel Grayling and her father's employee, Paul Fiore. This book is a second chance romance!

Without giving away too much, Isabel and her sister, Merrie, who is about 4 years younger, as well as the housekeeper, Mandy, are like prisoners in the house, after her mother dies of an accident, when Isabel was about 8 years old. However the doctor and a few others know it was no accident but Grayling has so much

money and so many people on his payroll he gets away with everything. They live in Comanche Wells, near Jacobsville, Texas, so everyone knows everyone. Their father is a multi millionaire, but he always wants more, more, more, and does what it takes to get it, however he gives the girls no money, so even if they wanted to leave they couldn't -they have no money. They are dressed in horrible clothes and even though they are so rich, he keeps the girls looking poor as he does not want them to have any friends. Sari(Isabel) is 23 when the story starts and has just graduated college and Merrie is 18 and just graduated high school. The only happiness in their life is Paul Fiore who has been with them for about 5 years and Sari loves him, but tries not to show it. Paul who has a horrible past and is there just to get away from his past, loves Sari too, but he knows that if they got too close the father would do "away" with him! So he decides he should leave before they both get in over their heads.

This breaks Sari's heart. Their father is so abusive too, that he physically beats them with a doubled over belt when he gets angry, and he has done this for years. Pauls said something to him and then he leaves and the girls are beaten to within an inch of their lives. The father had sent the housekeeper on vacation for two weeks so she did not know.

Three years later, Paul has gone back to working for the FBI and he gets sent back to look into a case involving Sari's father, they think he is laundering money and the woman who works for the FBI he was seeing has been killed. Paul sees Sari again when she is now working as an assistant at Blake Kemps law office and she refuses to speak to him. However he has kept up with her through the housekeeper!

This book is fast paced, has a lot of emotional angst and a lot of romance, the plot is good and twists around so you don't know what is going to happen until you read it and it is an awesome book. I really enjoyed it and it was nice to see some of the many men and women who make up this series! You will have to read it to see what happens!

I gave this book 5***** emotional stars and can't wait for Diana Palmer's next book!

Liana Smith Bautista | Will Read for Feels says

***I received this book for free from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review, which was first posted in book blog Will Read for Feels.

When you've read an author's books for a couple of decades, you start to see patterns in their work, in their stories and language. Often it's like each new book is an old friend. Unfortunately for me, reading Diana Palmer's *Defender*, which releases tomorrow with HQN Books, was a bit like showing up to a friend's house when that friend has woken up on the wrong side of the bed. I didn't actively dislike the book, but I'll have to confess to a mild disappointment.

At first glance, the characters were standard DP fare; Isabel "Sari" Grayling is a sheltered, shy girl living with an abusive father and she has a crush on bodyguard Paul Fiore, who feels he's not only too old and too working class for her, but that his blood-washed history makes him a poor bet for any relationship. Lots of innocent love on her part, lots of self-discipline and self-recrimination on his part. To put distance between them, Paul tells Sari's father a lie that has terrible repercussions for her, unbeknownst to him. Innocent love turns to betrayed antagonism that rages on years later, when Paul is pulled in to protect Sari. He, by the way, is still hung up on his age, past, and financial status.

If I think about it, because the whole sniping-turns-to-smooching thing is par for the course as far as Palmer's novels are concerned, I would normally rate this book 3 stars. But what pushed it down for me was Paul's character. Yes, Palmer's heroes tend to be a little overblown on the pride and machismo factor, but Paul just takes the cake. Case in point: in one scene, he's actually happy that the girl he supposedly loves is going to be poorer than expected because there's a problem with the inheritance she's supposed to get from the father who abused her since childhood. And he never really redeems himself on this point; the compromise at the end felt shallow and only served to annoy me further.

Truth be told, I'm not sure I can even list a positive swoon factor on this story, simply because this hero's appalling machismo overwhelmed any swoon-worthy traits he otherwise might have had. I'm hoping the next Palmer book will prove a much more satisfying read.

Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

If you look on Goodreads, *Defender* is listed as a “read alike” for yesterday’s book, *How Secrets Die*. Having read both of them, while I liked them both, I have to say that they are absolutely nothing like each other.

I picked up *Defender* because Diana Palmer is one of those romance writers that I’ve heard about forever. And although I read her brief foray into science fiction romance, *The Morcai Battalion* (written as Susan Kyle) I had never read any of the western romance that she is much better known for.

And I haven’t yet. *Defender* does not have any of the feel that I have come to expect from contemporary Western romances. Instead, it had more of a melodrama feel to it. I felt like I was reading a soap opera, complete with the over-the-top plots, heroes, villains and ingenues that seem emblematic of the genre.

So even though *Defender* is listed as the latest book in Palmer’s Long, Tall Texans series on her website, and even though it is set in rural Texas not far from San Antonio, it doesn’t feel like a western at all. There are no cowboys here, and there’s no ranch anywhere in sight. There is a bit of thoroughbred breeding, but that could easily have been transferred to the Kentucky Bluegrass without many changes.

Except that it was pretty clear that the areas that surround the Grayling estate in *Defender* are part of a much longer series. There were a lot of side characters whose history was hinted at, and who had important parts to play in *Defender*, but the way they were introduced led this reader to conclude that the major part of these characters’ history was elsewhere, in earlier books in the series.

It bothered me a bit, but not enough to keep me from liking *Defender*.

The story in *Defender* is closer to romantic suspense than anything else, crossed with the romantic trope of innocent heroine falls for experienced, heroic, slightly-older man who protects her.

Isabel and Meredith Grayling are the protected daughters of investment tycoon Darwin Grayling, or so it appears to their father’s Head of Security Paul Fiore. But looks are deceiving, and there is a whole lot of evil hidden under the Grayling roof.

As Isabel is about to graduate college, and Merrie is graduating high school, we get to see exactly how dangerous and restrictive that “fatherly protection” really is. But even though Fiore can tell that both girls are afraid of their father, he never lets himself think about what that fear really means. But he leaves the Grayling house after he realizes that the love Isabel feels for him is not nearly as innocent as he wanted to believe, and that his response is going to get him fired, or possibly killed.

He returns three years later as part of an FBI investigation into Grayling’s business dealings, only to discover the damage that he did when he left, and the true circumstances in which he abandoned Isabel and Merrie.

Even as Isabel forgives him, he can’t manage to forgive himself. Not for the harm he caused, not for the harm he ignored, and not his responsibility for the tragedy that brought him to Texas in the first place.

Escape Rating B: Upon finishing *Defender*, I discovered that it reminded me a bit of J.R. Ward’s *The Bourbon Kings*, even though I hated *The Bourbon Kings* but liked *Defender*. Some of the similarity is in the atmosphere – both stories mostly take place on very, very rich people’s private property, and the evil behavior of the father figure in both stories is a bit over the top. However, for this reader it did not feel like BK had any truly redeemable characters, where in *Defender* there are quite a few people doing the best they can in an extremely bad situation, and one wants to root for them to succeed.

The Grayling household is a prison, a fact that Isabel and Merrie are reminded of entirely too often, and all too frequently with whippings and scars. Every person within their orbit has to be kept in the dark about their true situation, or Darwin Grayling will make them disappear – into an early grave. He’s done it before and is all too willing to do it again. The first third of the book is actually fairly rough going – the more one feels for the girls, and the reader certainly does, the more difficult it is to read about what they suffered.

Daddy Grayling is also batshit crazy, in so many ways that it seems like much too much. But he is also crazy rich and crazy powerful, to the point where he can buy and sell anyone or anything. At the end, when we discover what was driving his insanity, half of it is no surprise, but the other half was way out of left field and again, over the top. Reason number 1 was explanation enough without reason number 2.

And the involvement of “the Mob”, even tangentially, on both sides of this equation adds to that feeling of “over-the-top”-ness. There was plenty of evil to go around without dragging gangsters or their 21st century equivalents into this mess.

There’s something about Isabel and Merrie’s extreme naivete that hearkens back to romances of yesteryear. They are both educated and intelligent, and have been deliberately kept in the dark about the ways of the world. In many ways, their innocence and their indoctrination into staying innocent would put them right at home in a much earlier era. They know that what their father has done to them is wrong, but they don’t have a way of striking back until the Feds come to town to arrest their dear old Dad for money laundering and racketeering. Dad turns out to have been a much bigger all-purpose louse than anyone expected.

It is good for their development that Isabel, now a newly minted Assistant District Attorney, is able to contribute to the investigation. She needs to conquer the villain to have a chance at moving on with her life. That she actually gets the man of her dreams turns out to be icing on the cake – but very tasty frosting indeed.

Think of *Defender* as a guilty pleasure kind of book. Everything is just a bit too much, but lots of fun to wallow in – make that read.

Siany says

After a few days and the fact I keep trying with this book, I can't do it any more. I admit defeat and give up with it.

I used to love Diana Palmer, she was an author that could be relied on to give a good story, good characters. Sadly it doesn't seem to be the case any more.

But her last few have just gone downhill. This one being the worse one.

I used to love this series, with Cash Grier, Judd to name a couple but slowly the series has been dying a long death.

I didn't get to the point of any of the actual sex scenes, but I can only assume from what I have gathered from previous books and the way this was going that Isabel was a virgin (because the heroines always seem to be). This is a bit of a sore factor for me too because really how likely that all these women from the same place are all virgins, zero experience etc..? it gets a little old and I keep hoping we might see a less innocent heroine in her books.

For me this was my last Diana Palmer book unless I am told specifically that the characters and storylines have improved. This could have been a good storyline but it just seemed to fizzle out and in the end I didn't like any of the characters. I made it about 60% into it before I gave up.

Read and reviewed courtesy of Netgalley

Danielle says

3.5 stars

Here's my problem as of the last five years or so of Diana Palmer's latest HQNs. I just feel that the romance in these stories are overtaken by the dangerous/suspenseful plot. Just so much is going in these stories and then the pop of past characters that are here to help the heroine and hero with the dangerous villain. And since there's all that going on, there's less focus on the couple and the development of their relationship that it's like an after thought and feels very unrealistic in them falling deeply and passionately in love when they really don't spend that much time together in the story. What I fell in love with in Diana Palmer books in the past was love stories. Creating these great emotional and angst reads that I couldn't put down. I fell in love just like characters, and Diana did this so well in her older books even in her older HQN like Lawless and Renegade, which are some of my favorites of hers. There was still the suspense plot but the focus of the story was the romance hands. I loved that. That scored so many points in my book and I wish she would go back to that formula. I need more of balance between the romance and suspense just like she used to do, and what Lori Foster currently does in her books, who I love by the way.

With this book in particular, it wasn't a bad story, and it was very suspenseful but once again I was let down by the romance and emotional story between Paul and Isabel. And more to the point, I wasn't quite convinced of their deep seated love, at least on his part. I understand due to tragic circumstances kind of knocked some sense into him, but still it felt rushed because in my opinion they didn't spend enough time to

develop and grow that love through the story. It was more of a stop and start romance, and I didn't like that. Where's my romance and angst? It wasn't here.

The beginning of the story kind started off slowly, and though it was meant to set up her situation as well as the romantic obstacle between them, I thought it could have been sped up a little. Or what could have been done and would have benefited the story would be the build up between them then the angst that followed.

It got better once the attraction made itself known between them and they started to get closer and closer. And I wanted more of that. More development. More time between them, but that didn't happen, and though I was disappointed I was looking forward to it because then I thought the more juicy parts would come when they were reunited again.

Again I was sorely disappointed. Because there really wasn't an effort put in. Yes, Paul felt bad and they talked, but not as deeply as I would have liked for them to work through their issues so they could be stronger as a couple. Isabel gave in way too easy to especially after what did and in such cowardly way. It was such a betrayal that I thought it would take awhile for to get over (and it should have), but she forgave as soon as he battled his eyes at her. Isabel had a backbone yet she didn't use it with Paul. I get a lot of other stuff was happening around her, but still. I thought they had a lot more to work through then did.

And it kind of irritated me that there wasn't a scene where she show him her scars from her father's beating. I think that would have been such an intimate and prominent moment in their relationship and would have showed his remorse more. I would loved these scene, and I could have seen it so clear in my mind's eye yet it was there. It needed to be just for acknowledgement sake. It missed opportunity because it could have been beautiful scene. But it got pushed on the backburner. Yes it was discussed but it needed to be shown too I think.

I also thought it was lame the reason he gave for them not able to get together. I get it was male pride, but in my view it just felt stupid and unnecessary. It irritated me in fact and made me roll my eyes. It wasn't worth it, though he did realize it in the end, I just belonged there. It didn't make sense to me. The reason that did make sense was him loosing her because her already lost his wife and daughter due to his job. That would made it so much better, and I wish there was more exploration into that because really I only got the bare bones of it. That was reason to keep them apart not the money issue. Granted he did say that was excuse for the real reason he didn't want them together, but I still wished it wasn't there.

The emotional story needed to be explored a little bit more. More angst. More emotional drama between them. More of a push and pull into their relationship that would have made it more interesting. Not if they were kissing, now he pulled away then he was kissing her again. I wanted to see them spend time together more then get pulled apart before coming back together. Yes, that happened in a way, but the moments were so few and far between it was hard to believe the were falling in love. Like I said I want the old formula back.

Now if I did read any of Diana Palmer's books in the past, I might feel a little differently. The suspense side of the story was pretty good and kept me on the edge of my toes. I wanted to see what happened next and if Isabel and Merrie would be alright in the end. The romance was almost a distraction instead of the heart and soul of the story that it should have been. And I really appreciated old characters coming into the story and giving updates of where they currently were. It made want to find their books and reread them again. Some of their romances were good like Cash and Tippy while others I can't really remember because I think like this story they were more focused on the suspense than the romance, which was a blip on the radar, which was probably why I didn't remember. The romance needed to be focus in all Diana's story because if not she

would be a romance writer but a thriller writer and I prefer romance writer.

I can only hope with every new romance of hers that comes on that she will go back to old styles of writing and focus on the romance instead of the suspense aspect taking over the plot. I can hope, but I have a feeling I am going to be really disappointed. It won't stop me from reading her books because of glimmer of hope I have. I just have to accept it and take it for what it is. I just wish there would be more romance in these stories than there is because that always Diana Palmer's strength for me. I need that back in my life. We will see what happens in the future. And though this was not a bad book, it definitely wasn't my favorite.

Lu Bielefeld *read.laugh.love* says

ARC by Netgalley for an honest review.

Review in Portuguese and English:

Heroína virgem vivendo em uma lar abusivo mas de família rica.

Herói é atormentado pelo passado e sofrendo de complexo de inferioridade.

Paul está fugindo do passado e tentando esquecer. Trabalha como guarda costas para o pai da heroína que é muito controlador e meio paranoico. Ele acaba se envolvendo com a heroína mas devido aos traumas do passado ele resolve ir embora. As desculpas que Paul dá para se demitir acabam causando muitos problemas para ela e a irmã dela.

Nossa heroína acaba fazendo de tudo para se libertar do domínio do pai dela e proteger a irmã dela.

Os anos passam e Paul acaba voltando e fica chocado com a sucessão de eventos que ele ocasionou com a partida dele.

A história é mais de suspense do que romance e senti falta dos elementos que são comuns à todas histórias da autora. Senti falta da confusão nas festas, mulher interessada no herói e homem interessado na heroína que causasse ciúme nos heróis.

As cenas entre os heróis foram insuficientes, faltaram cenas quentes entre os dois. E o herói foi até quase o final do livro sem se decidir o que ele realmente queria.

Foi legal a participação dos heróis dos livros anteriores e termos uma visão da vida deles e de suas amadas. Todos estão lá para proteger e combater os bandidos.

Afinal os habitantes de Jacobsville nunca desamparam seus moradores e todos protegem a Isabel e a irmã dela.

No geral foi uma boa leitura.

Recomendo para as fãs da escritora.

Heroin Virgin living in an abusive home but from a rich family.

Hero is tormented by the past and suffering from inferiority complex.

Paul is running away from the past and trying to forget. Works as a bodyguard for the father of the heroine who is very controlling and a little paranoid. He ends up getting involved with heroin but due to past trauma, he resolves to leave. The excuses that Paul gives to resign end up causing a lot of problems for her and her sister.

Our heroine ends up doing everything to free himself from her father's domain and protect her sister.

The years pass and Paul ends up coming back and is shocked with the succession of events that he caused with his departure.

The story is more suspense than romance and I missed elements that are common to all stories by the author. I miss the mess at parties, women interested in the hero and man interested in heroin that caused jealousy in heroes.

The scenes between the heroes were insufficient, lacked hot scenes between the two. And the hero was until almost the end of the book without deciding what he really wanted.

It was nice to the participation of the heroes of the previous books and have a vision of their lives and their loved ones. All are there to protect and fight the bad guys.

After all the inhabitants of Jacobsville never desamparam its residents and all protect Isabel and her sister.

Overall it was a good read.

Recommend to the fans of the writer.

mad4rombks says

Too repetitive, as if author and editor were just looking to make word count and it didn't matter how many times a phrase or scene was repeated within a few pages of each other.

Amanda Sheila says

3.5 stars, good but the repetitive plot finally got me.

Classic Diana Palmer plot; crazed father beating up his daughter, careless Hero and misunderstanding between main characters. I enjoyed the repetition, well at least once or twice. But somehow it's gotten boring and even if Diana Palmer wants to repeat the plot with slight differences, she could've add more drama, you know. Because I know her fans are her fans because of it.

Overall, this book is good but could be so much better. But hey, I adore Diana Palmer so much, I can't wait to read her next book! I hope she stays healthy forever!

Esther says

ARC by Netgalley for an honest review.

2.5 Rating.

Well this read was all over the place. I'm sad to say it was not written in a manner that was easy to read.

The synopsis above covers the overall storyline so I won't really go into too much detail.

Two young women who have a very abusive, controlling Father.

The Father has a body guard watch over them.

The oldest daughter falls in love with the body guard.

He realizes he's attracted and nothing can come of it.

He tells a lie of sorts, gives notice and leaves the job.

The woman is heartbroken, grows up and does what she can to overcome her Father. The hero comes back into the picture.

The truth comes out about the past and feelings are revealed.

This started out v e r y slow. I wasn't sure from page to page what scene I was in and exactly what time frame, as in past or present, I was reading. I also found it very difficult to understand which character I was reading about at the time. It was a "choppy" read and I found it difficult to stick with and finish. I have read Diana Palmer in the past and do not remember her past books being this bad. I'm sad to say this was not an enjoyable read.
