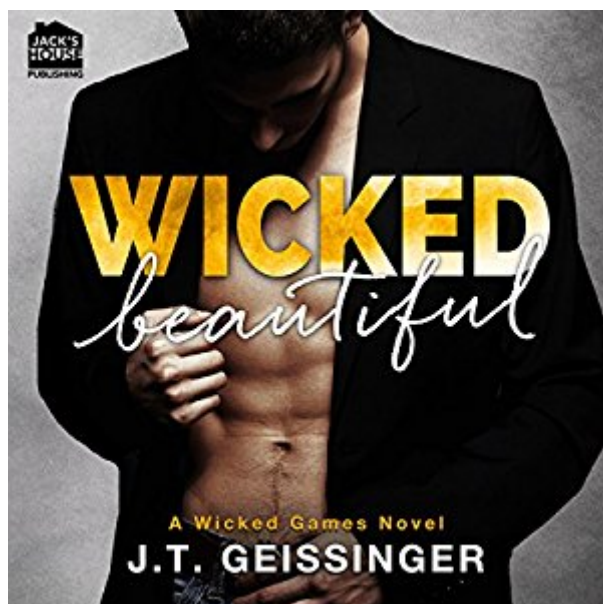


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# Wicked Beautiful



## Synopsis

A ruthless businesswoman and the playboy who dumped her long ago find themselves embroiled in a high stakes game of love, lies and revenge. Life coach and best-selling author Victoria Price has it all: a successful career, fabulous friends, and a fantastic penthouse in Manhattan. What she doesn't have - and doesn't want - is a husband. Fifteen years ago her high school flame broke her heart so badly she swore she'd never love again. Now she makes millions teaching other women how to be just like her: a ruthless bitch. Drop-dead sexy restaurateur and infamous playboy Parker Maxwell has only three rules for the women he dates: no questions about his past, no expectations for the future, and no spending the night. When he meets Victoria, however, he's willing to break his own rules if it means sating the explosive desire she arouses in him. What he doesn't know is that the alluring Victoria Price used to be the mousy Isabel Diaz, the girl he deflowered and dumped long ago. Presented with a perfect opportunity for revenge, Victoria decides the game is on. But when her connection with Parker proves more than just skin deep, she has to make a choice: continue with her plan for payback, or risk her career, her reputation, and her heart by taking a second chance on love?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

My Review: This book was so good. I accepted it for review when I really didn't have time to fit it into my reading schedule, just because the story line intrigued me. Then I stayed up over half the night reading it. I couldn't put it down although I'd only had 4 1/2 hours of sleep the night before. Yes...I

really liked this one!! I love second chance at love stories and Parker and Victoria have an amazing one...simply because he has no idea that she's the love he threw away...and she's out for revenge because he broke her. This is a book filled with lies and the suspense of reading it comes from the need to know when it's all going to come out. When that all happened, it was SO MUCH MORE emotional than I expected...and I expected a lot. Huge KUDOS to this author for how she wrote the twists and turns and emotion of the story. It would have been really easy to take this story to a negative-feeling space, but she never did that. The romance may be built on lies, but the underlying love is so visible to the reader, you find faith and believe that it's going to work out...somehow. And the book is incredibly sexy. The chemistry between these two sizzles off the page. But what makes it all the more powerful is the emotions that are just under the surface. These two connect on so much more than just a physical level and that becomes more and more obvious every time they get close. It makes for an incredibly sexy read. And I can't talk about the book without talking about Victoria's transformation of self. Wow. I love the strong, empowered, confident woman she's become since her life was shattered. She took that blow and made an empire to empower other women with it, even if Parker still has the ability to send her stumbling.

You will either love this book or hate it, feel deeply disturbed by it, find it hilariously funny at times and heartwrenchingly sad at others, but it will not leave you unmoved. My own feeling towards this story can be best described as conflicted. Synopsis: After being deeply hurt and betrayed by her first love, Victoria Price not only changes her appearance and name, but turns her whole life around. Driven by her own tragic past she has made it her life's mission to help and empower other women to be just as hard and ruthless and successful as her. She has everything in her life, except a husband and family. Dining out with a girlfriend she comes face to face with her first love Parker Maxwell who has become a successful restaurateur and famous playboy. When, not recognizing her, he hits on her she sees the perfect opportunity for revenge. She plans to seduce him, make him fall in love with her and then to dump him. The premise of this story sounded very exciting, tragic first love and revenge tale, but of course it gets complicated once the two main protagonists get involved and start to have feelings for each other. But, despite the fact that the story is well-written, fast-paced, emotional and gripping, I had some problems with it. Reservation No 1: The skewed feminist perspective. The novel quite rightly illuminates the injustice of the different perception of attributes when applied to men and women. If a man is aggressive, ambitious and successful he is viewed in a positive light. When a woman displays the same attributes she is considered a cold bitch.

Better because, who doesn't love a second chance romance. Victoria Price has made a career of empowering women by embracing their ability to be a bitch. Little do her fans know that Price was once a young girl named Isabel, whose life was ruined by her only love. In her mind, one young man was responsible for all the heartache she and her family endured. She cannot believe it when she comes across the man responsible for her misery while dining with her friend at his restaurant. Parker, the man in question, is intrigued by Price and is relentless in his pursuit of her. With revenge being her motivation, Price allows Parker to woo her. What happens when she lets herself get too close? We also get Parker's POV during this story and it really helps to get his perspective. He too deals with the demons of his past and for the first time in so many years, he has found the one person he wants so badly. There is just this familiarity to her and he has no clue what Price has in store for him. I really loved this story. Between the hero and heroine's chemistry, the witty banter and the exotic secondary characters, a wonderful second chance love story unfolds. There are only small snippets of the past we get along the way. Just enough to have us salivating for both sides of the story. I couldn't read fast enough in my pursuit to find out what actually happened so many years ago, and more importantly, will this couple be able to build a relationship out the ruin which is likely to occur once all is revealed. I have to admit, the twist at the end, never would have guessed that was going to happen, but I loved the way it is all set to work out. My only critique is that we never really get any of the after and in my mind it was really needed.

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