



## In Bed with the Boss (Harlequin Presents)

*Susan Napier*

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For three years, Kalera has been a model secretary to Duncan Royal, with only one hiccup in their otherwise perfect relationship: a one-night stand that should never have happened, and which both have tried to forget. Or so Kalera thought.

But Duncan is haunted by their one night of unbelievable passion, and secretly longs for their relationship to develop after office hours. As a rule, he can have any woman he wants--so he's furious when Kalera announces her engagement to another man! Whatever it takes, Duncan intends to entice her into his bed once more--and this time it will be forever.

## In Bed with the Boss (Harlequin Presents) Details

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# From Reader Review In Bed with the Boss (Harlequin Presents) for online ebook

## Kiki says

Erm....with the description of velvet jacket and dangling earrings, this is all i could think of:

soooo.....yeah.

And then there was this really weird bromance going on between hero and heroine's dead husband. I mean really intense bromance! so yeah! I mean...

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## Tracie says

[The heroine's husband died 2 years ago. In present time she's engaged to her boss' rival/ex-best friend. Then there is a flashback to reveal that she knew her boss on

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## Carrie says

Ms Napier obviously picked up her heroine at the Boneless Chicken Ranch. Honestly! The woman couldn't stand up to either of the a-holes in her life. And why, please tell me, did those two even *want* her? The men were arrogant bullying cavemen and she was a nail-biting idiot. The plot wasn't any better. You really can't make the tension very believable when a 10 minute adult conversations would solve most of the problems.

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## Kaycee ♥? says

After reading Gold Ring of Betrayal I've decided to read some of my old harlequin collections. I had fun reading this book. I enjoyed the teasing, witty banters and snappy remarks between the hero and heroine.

Kalera Martin has been secretary to Duncan Royal for the past three years. He was a good employer and even her late husband liked him. Even from the start it was so obvious that Duncan was secretly in love with the heroine Kalera for years. \*sigh\* He's just waiting for her to recover and move on from the death of her husband before he made his move on her.

But when Duncan learned the reason for her sudden resignation, all bets are off. He now decided to pursue her. And boy he did. He practically let Kalera all day just to prevent her from seeing her new fiancée. He also didn't let her forget the one passionate night they shared. And it was nice to know that even though he

loves Kalera he admired and respected her late husband Harry. I loved Duncan. He was ruthless when comes to business but he was sweet, gentle and a total goner when it comes to Kalera. She's got Duncan wrapped around her fingers. He'd do anything for her. Plus his very unique and unusual style; wearing different earrings. Goodness!

But I think the ending was rushed. I just wished it had been longer and that there's an epilogue. But nevertheless *In Bed with the Boss* was still a great read. Made me smile all the way through.

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## Jacqueline says

There was a lot of goofiness in this book. I'm thinking the author didn't really understand how to write a bad boy convincingly. So there was some clothing silliness. I liked the book though for the unrequited love element. It was especially fun to find out that the heroine's dead husband had been friends with the hero because the husband knew that the hero was in love with his wife and he felt sorry for him. The heroine was kind of stupid for deciding to get engaged to the hero's enemy though. The other man was OTT jealous but it turns out that he is not that jealous of the heroine but is still in love with his ex wife. I thought that he was straight out of a Lynda Chance novel:-)

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## Ellie says

This was my first Harlequin Presents and I went into it with an open mind. I hadn't really ever read category romance before and DA recommended this one.

The first word that comes to mind when I think of this book is "hilarible" (hilarious + terrible). It was like that movie on cable that you can't quite switch off but you're not entirely sure why you're watching it either.

The basic premise is that our secretary heroine Kalera has put in notice with her boss, Duncan, the head of a major tech company in NZ. She is quitting because she is engaged to Duncan's biggest rival, Stephen, the head of another large tech company.

I started laughing uncontrollably at about 71% when Duncan shows up at Kalera's house in crocodile ankle boots, **white jeans**, a multicolored woven vest, and a white collarless shirt. I'm not sure when this book was written but I'm having trouble remembering a time when that was a good look on a hero.

I had several issues with this book aside from suspect clothing choices. It's never really explained why Kalera and Stephen are engaged. She tells Duncan that they met at a dinner and had pleasant conversation but that sounds pretty weak. We never find out anything they have in common or even that they have a significant attraction. It's very lukewarm between them.

Also, Stephen has some serious issues with his ex-wife and small son and there is never any closure on this issue. Honestly, I felt like Stephen really needed to go to counseling for a number of issues and the fact that his storyline was left hanging really bothered me.

Beyond that, this was a fun, silly read with a melodramatic ending but I did laugh a lot while reading.

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## Alexis-Morgan Roark says

I agree with another reviewer, Amber, who said she didn't really LIKE the couple but was nonetheless invested in their relationship. That about sums it up for me. Truth be told, I was slightly more interested in the Stephen/Terri story line and only towards the end.

I think Harry (deceased spouse) was a supporting character in this book and still played a prominent role in the lives of the heroine, and we find out later the hero.

It was kinda creepy to me that whole soul bearing thing the hero did about his relationship with the heroine's deceased spouse. I know of very few men who would tolerate another man's open longing for his wife with the same amount of "trust." Harry must have been a saint among men.

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## Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says

Nice and different with lots of wacky humor and heat till the h decides that stupidity indeed has to go a long way.

\*with spoilers\* Despite being evident the h/H click in every way possible, while the h-om chemistry is as limp as steamed spinach, the h persists in clinging to a not-going-anywhere relationship till the om shakes her off quite rudely - in the penultimate chapter. Then the h/H go to bed and suddenly she loves the H now!

The H is eccentric and oddball - in true SN style. Humor is good with lots of (usual) double entendre. Chemistry - physical and emotional - is sizzling and believable. I like how he pursues her determinedly after the initial explosion when he discovers she's engaged to his rival and bete noire. It's quite clear that he's loved her since forever and was waiting patiently for her to come out of mourning her dead husband - so her engagement blindsides her. But the h's continuing stupidity completely ruined a good romance and surely killed the book!

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## Piab says

\*WARNING: spoilers may be mentioned in character-focused review\*

One of my favorite themes: heroine loved someone else besides (or rather, before) the hero; I am sick of standard Harlequin plots where dopey h keeps pining for alpha-hole H and dismissing other far nicer guys. This is no calf-love-infatuation and H is my true-love cop-out. Here, she truly did love her late husband and this is made evident by the fact that not only was he described as easy-going and stodgy (again, apparent lack of atomic levels of virility so prevalent in the common Harlie H makes this so poignant), she actually had a fantastic sex life with him, and continues to miss him sexually and emotionally after his death.

However, the H here is not the usual cold, reserved, ultra-possessive, I-am-too-cool-to-live alpha-hole (thankfully). He is extroverted, flamboyant, verbal about his feelings, crazy about the heroine from the very first moment but honorable enough to respect her marriage. One of the things that surprised me was the

relationship-dynamics between the H and the late husband. Even though the latter knew about the H's feelings for his wife and that the H was better-looking, richer and more successful than him, there was no usual insecurity or jealousy on his part. He had trust in the h and was secure enough in the knowledge of her love for him. He befriended the H, and the H was man enough to acknowledge and appreciate this.

I like stories with boss-bossee (!) plots but the characters in this Susan Napier made this a rare Harlie treat.

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## **April Brookshire says**

Gotta love a troublemaker hero with ADHD.

Especially when he dresses like this:

This book was published in '99, but I'm thinking that the author may have had a crush on Adam Ant back in the 80s.

*He was dressed from head to toe in black, his sculpted silk velvet jacket cropped like a matador's, the wide lapels and cuffs stiff with flamboyant gold embroidery. He turned so that the elongated jet and chased gold teardrop swung against the tanned column of his neck, almost brushing the collar of his jacket. A stud or ring was a fairly commonplace declaration of modern macho cool, but the wickedly frivolous elegance of that dangling earring made an entirely different statement. It was the sort of exquisite piece of jewelry that a languid Elizabethan fop might have worn...or a modern rock-and-shock star!*

Later in the book, our rebel hero is wearing a pearl earring. Nice.

This book was good, but the ending was way rushed and we never get to find out what happens between her ex-fiance and his ex-wife.

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## **Tia says**

I had expected so much more. The description of the book was pretty amazing however the book as a whole was kind of a let down. I enjoyed the storyline but it wasn't that expressive or exciting. Yes it was sad something and at other times it was happy but those are the basic emotions of the book and nothing bigger on a huger scale unless you count jealousy.

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## **MelissaB says**

This book was kind of boring and strange so I gave up on it. Despite the hero wearing a velvet matador jacket and getting a dangling earring (maybe because of that since he thought that made him cool). I just

don't like books where the heroine is with someone else during part of the book, plus the hero's personality was kind of rubbing me the wrong way. I think he was supposed to come off as some sort of rebel but he seemed more like a loud, dorky man trying to be cool who had a sense of style straight out of the 80's (this was written in 1999). I did not finish this book so any comment are based off of the first few chapters before I decided to DNF it. But below you can enjoy the funny quotes describing the jacket and earring.

Description of the matador jacket the hero wore:

"He was dressed head to toe in black, his sculpted silk velvet jacket cropped like a matador's, the wide lapels and cuffs stiff with flamboyant gold embroidery."

THE EARRING (rawr):

"'You're wearing an earring!' she gasped, sufficiently distracted to forget she was about to edge her chair away from his.

'Yes, do you like it?' He turned so that the elongated jet and chased gold teardrop swung against the tanned column of his neck, almost brushing the collar of his jacket. A stud or a ring was a fairly commonplace decoration of modern macho cool, but the wickedly frivolous elegance of that dangling earring made an entirely different statement. It was the exquisite piece of jewellery that a languid Elizabethan fop might have worn...or a modern rock-and-shock star!

'I didn't even know you had your ear pierced' murmured Kalera faintly.

'I didn't-until this afternoon,' he said ...'For some reason I had this sudden, compelling urge to go out and do something just for sheer hell of it, something satisfyingly primitive, and preferably masochistic'...'I know I shouldn't be wearing anything but a stud in it yet,' Duncan went on in his confiding tone, 'but you know me, Kalera, I like to experiment. If you stick to the rules all your life you end up never doing any real living.'"

Holy crap there was so many funny things in those quotes that I just couldn't take this seriously. Modern macho cool? Rock-and-shock star? Dangly black and gold earring makes you such a bad boy Duncan! Rawr.

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## Janet says

This would be a 5 star read except for what happened at the end. What was with that ending? Jeez Louise, that's it? After all of Napier's generous prose, what a thud/let down at the abrupt end.

Will I search out her books -- you betcha. Anyone have any ideas? The thing is though, Napier's writing is really a cut above -- this one was addictive and it's the opposite of schlock. I feel about this book like I do about so many of my keeper books -- once you've read the best, why muddy the waters with books that don't even come close? That's why I'm so appreciative of honest, detailed reviews, like this one by Jane Litte: <http://dearauthor.com/book-reviews/ov....> There are some other Napier books reviewed at DA, but given that this is just about the first Harlequin that I've read based on the recommendations of others that hasn't disappointed me, I'll probably stick to B recs and up.

Big props to first husband who was both adored and sexy, to her casual inclusion of a gay job candidate ...

there were lots of little touches like that. Also liked how Duncan found the good in Kalera's parents. The heroine reminded me of Evangeline in *Loving Evangeline* by Linda Howard, just a little and in a good way. One thing you couldn't do was stampede Evangeline and the hero couldn't push Kalera until she was ready.

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### **Chitra \*CJ\* says**

"In Bed with the Boss" is the story of Kalera and Duncan and...arghhh.

Basically Duncan is the owner of a computer based company, and Kalera is his secretary. Theyve worked with each other for years, half of which Kalera was married for (and later widowed), and later they have an almost one night stand- which they desperately try to forget.

But one random day Kalera hands over her resignation to Duncan, as she's marrying his business rival Stephan, and this triggers a sequence of events..

Basically we have a heroine who's an irritating tease, a hero who's trying his best to pursue her but gets thwarted at every turn- initially by her husband, then her grief, then his business rival. He even tries to warn her against dangers, but she as usual doesnt listen to him.

Soooo the whole book has the hero teasing and wooing a heroine who he's obviously infatuated with, and her basically pushing him away. She is very indecisive, and I did not like her at all.

This one frustrated me, and I didnt want the H to end up with her.

Unsafe

1/5

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### **Amber says**

Don't be daunted by the ridiculously dated cover. This is a good book, although I never really *liked* either the hero or heroine, I was invested in their relationship. It was interesting because the alternate love interests could actually be the hero/heroine of another Harlequin Presents (I wonder if they are, actually). This is a nitpick, but I found it annoying that the heroine kept using exclamation points throughout her internal dialogue! And this from a girl who proclaims herself to be steady and serene. It was distracting.

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