



## **Bittersweet Revenge**

*J.L. Beck*

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I'm a slut. Or at least that's what everyone calls me. I guess that's what you get when everyone thinks you've slept with the whole football team and then some. My junior year of high school I gave my heart to Corey Winchester. He was handsome, cocky, and a pure gentlemen.

Then everything changed in an instant. When I found out he was spreading malicious rumors about me, after I refused to sleep with him I was utterly surprised. To add to it, he broke up with me in front of the whole school. I essentially became the laughing stock of the town. People that I once called my friends became my enemies. They were finding a way to ruin my life one day at a time. Now the shitty part is I should have known a pretty boy like him was too good to be true. After ruining my reputation and life I did everything I could to stay under the radar, but it just wasn't enough. I slowly learned that all the torment and hate was all for one thing. Revenge. That's what Corey wanted, and why I didn't know.

Then Rex Winchester came along. Corey's cousin and someone I knew I shouldn't be getting close to. A whole six feet of hotness, a smile that melted the panties off of every girl within a fifty mile radius, and a heart of gold. He could have anyone he wanted, so why he chose me Corey's ex, the bullied, slutty girl was beyond me. All I knew was that I wanted him. I wanted him more than anything. The problem was, I couldn't tell if Rex was just like Corey or if his intentions were as innocent as he was making them out to be.

My name is Jenna Haines and this is the story of how the one thing I wanted turned out to be the one thing that would hurt me the most.

What happens when the one thing you least expect to happen does?

What happens when all the lies and all the secrets come out?

Well, you're about find out.

## **Bittersweet Revenge Details**

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## From Reader Review Bittersweet Revenge for online ebook

### Ashleyjo says

"This book is for mature audiences only 17+ due to adult themes, language, and alcohol use."

^ Lmao! At 27%, I had to stop and giggle because this honestly reads like 12-year old Screech from Saved By The Bell learned some 'dirty' words.

She's bullied and labeled a slut by a popular guy and his minions. Said popular guy's cousin blows into town, and, of course, he's 'hot', gives her 'tingles', is the *only* guy who's been nice to her in a year, & seems to miraculously *know* what an "amazing" f'ing person she is after speaking literally three complete sentences to her.

The dialogue is stiff; childish; and is something that, if you took the scattered curse words & sexual bullying out, would technically be on a grade school reading level.

This is an example of how the convos scenes go ...

Let's race to the swings.

Awww you cheated.

You're so beautiful.

Oh, yeah, you're beautiful, too.

No, you don't call a dude beautiful.

Well, why ever not?

Cause it's not manly.

Hey.

Uh, hi?

You're kind of beautiful.

Really, well you're kinda beautiful too.

We're both kinda beautiful.

^ {cue her inner thoughts to tell us that the moment goes from funny, light to passionate, fiery}

{cue my mf'ing eye roll and expletive}

I can hear this kinda melodramatic junior high crap from my 12-year-old daughter all day, every day... And that shit's free of charge and actually plausible, unlike this!

Fast forward a month, not by choice, but because the author is too lazy to even attempt ^ any more cheesy dialogue. Female MC is at her locker w the bestie talking about her feelings growing stronger and the hole getting deeper. Well, hell, I know I'm sooo invested in the relationship and characters after two conversations like the example above and a fast forward through the whole getting to know each other phase.

This book needs a warning alright, but it should read "*NOT* for mature adults that expect more than monosyllable dialogue from flat, juvenile characters meandering around throwing out the occasional f'bomb and slut to sound important.

There's very little interaction between the male and female mc, much less any swoon, aha, or otherwise monumental moment to cement them as a couple. The BFF is some kind of twisted sister; wtf crushes on and

makes out with the guy that's tormenting and degrading your BFF?

Most of the story surrounds asinine moments of bullying that read like a robot & countless diatribes and inner monologues about trust.

It irritated me that this book largely centered on bullying, but the female MC punched a guy in the face when he didn't really even do anything other than be mildly persistent at trying to talk to her & the MC's bestie slapped the main bully across the face when he is already threatening physical violence. First, dont f'ing hit someone if you don't want to get hit back! Second, not smart and asking, no begging, to escalate the situation! Then they add fuel to a bully's fire by playing pranks on him, really? Again, that's as stupid as it is passive aggressively asking, begging for more trouble.

The big mystery. Well, not so big, not so mysterious, and completely not f'ing believable that these bullies would have gone a year and never used that in their arsenal of verbal assaults nor that EVERYONE but the main character is *in the know* aside from her.

The author really pissed in her cornflakes because this is written too juvenile and is too thinly plotted for any 17+ to possibly enjoy ... Yet, by throwing in a bunch of F'bombs and slut bullying, she ensured parents won't be allowing preteens and young teens to read. So, I'm left recommending this to no one.

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### **Erin McKinley Carnevale says**

I liked it. Five stars for the story but it needs to be reedited.

This book is about an innocent girl who gets bullied for something she didn't do and had no control over. I hate bullies and my highschool was filled with them too. These ppl tho are insane. Especially Corey! That boy needs meds STAT! I liked Mimi till I found out what she did and that's forgivable and all but then she felt she should defend the asshole that's been hurting Jenna this whole time.

Rex smh. He was shady from the start but then tried to redeem himself in the end. For me, that's too late, period! I'm so glad Jenna basically told him and everyone at that school to fuck off!

Now for book 2...I hope Jenna keeps her backbone cuz the jackasses will still be in her life.. poor girl

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### **Brianna at Renee Entress's Blog says**

3.5 STARS!

I liked this book. It had some good points and some not so good points. I am not a reviewer who reviews lowly and talks crap about books because reading preferences are different from person to person. This is my first book by this author and it surely won't be my last.

This is Rex and Jenna's story. Jenna is sick of being called a slut which couldn't be farther from the truth about her.. She is bullied daily and can't seem to catch a break. It is her senior year of high school. And when she is at her lowest, she finds a ray of hope in Rex. Rex is new to the school and also happens to be friends/family with her arch nemesis. But what happens when secrets are discovered that could crumble the wall of safety that Jenna built? Who will Jenna believe? Who can she trust?

I am not typically one to like YA. I like steam and relationships and YA tend to be very juvenile. But I liked Rex and Jenna enough. Jenna seemed to be a bit of a pushover and her BFFs loyalty was questionable at best. I liked Rex though we didn't get to see that much of him. I hate what he did and I hope he redeems himself in book 2.

I liked this book. I did. Yes this a short book but seriously it felt a bit rushed. I love short reads. I love long reads. I love the in betweens but there was no real character development of Jenna and Rex which I am hoping to see in book two.

I actually loved the cliffhanger in this book and the ending when her BFF revealed the news that Jenna so did not want to hear... should be interesting!

Blog Tour---> <http://reneeentress.blogspot.com/2014...>

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### **Tiffy says**

This book was full of errors and awful grammar. I believe with more time it could have been better, but then to make it better the whole book needed to change and it wouldn't have been close to being the same.

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### **GTR33GURL says**

This book started out good but quickly went in a direction that was not good there's a few things I hated her BFF Mimi no friend of mine would give the time of day to the guy that made Jenna's life a living hell that has got to be the worst friend ever!!! Nothing could redeem Corey in my eyes nothing the writing was ok but it fell flat and the ending just made me mad not about Rex I actually didn't mind him but Corey OH HELL NO!!!! I really wish the author didn't go there with the BFF and Corey ruined the whole book for me!

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### **Alla says**

Very quick read indeed!

In most parts I enjoyed it, but I did find it maybe a little bit rushed at times, there might have been times when the author could have given it a little more "meat". It sometimes felt like the author had to put a lot of things out there for a build up for the next books in the series. But this is a novella, so...I will look past it mostly.

We have Jenna that suddenly is bullied horribly by her ex and his friends at school without really knowing or understanding why. Our story starts about a year after the bullying starts and she is starting her senior year in

high school. There is a lot going on that she is unaware of and doesn't know who she can really trust, except for her friend Mimi, who stands by her side and sticks up for her.

This book is full of backstabbing and lying teenagers and also some sweet ones, or so you will think ;) I got very angry and frustrated at times, reading about how she was treated and there was no way I could put it down until I found out how it would end!

Overall I liked it and...there is a sequel! Not a huge cliffhanger or anything, but I am starting the next one right away because I have to find out how this story ends for Jenna and Mimi.

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### **SammiesBookBlog says**

I was given a ARC in exchange for my honest review.

I was very excited to read this book. It sounds very good and it was very good. A wonderful and valiant first try at a book. The story starts off very good and right away it captures your attention. I haven't read many bully books so this was a nice change. The poor girl is getting mercilessly picked on by Corey and his groupies. I felt so bad for her! I was so happy when her and Mimi started sticking up for themselves. We meet Rex, Corey's cousin and he is swoonworthy and such a sweetie. The two get detention together and can feel an attraction, a pull. And they decide to be friends. That slowly starts to develop into something more. Much more. But things start coming to light for Jenna and she realizes things may not be as they seem. And her world comes crashing down around her yet again. The book certainly picks up towards the end and I was page turning like no tomorrow. I kept saying "" what's going to happen, what's going to happen!?!?!" and that end! ugh, I cannot wait for part 2 to see where it goes. All in all it was a very good short read and a very good first try. Many twists and turns for sure. There were a few things that made this a 3-3.5 for me. If a few things were different it would be a solid 4 for sure. I know it's high school, but at times Jenna got on my nerves, I understand she is the way she is and because she has been hurt so badly, but she needs to just take a breather. She gets too over-worked about certain situations that she needn't be. And also the bullying was a TINY bit too much for me, but of course this is fiction and a book so it adds to the story, just for me personally it put me off a tiny bit and brought that rating down slightly. And Mimi hooking up with her ex, I hate when friends do that stuff. I love Mimi, she was feisty and loved her character, but that just puts me off a tiny bit as well. These are just my opinions. But other than that, the writing was very good, the plot and overall book was very good.

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### **Rob says**

I really enjoyed this book. The whole story centred on a group of kids bullying a girl called Jenna.

Jenna was a victim. She was bullied by Corey and his friends and family. She wasn't even sure why, as she hadn't done anything bad to any of them. But that's how bullies work. They pick on something and they are like a dog with a bone and never let go. They didn't care how miserable they made Jenna.

Jenna had a friend, Mimi. But to be honest, I was shocked to read that Mimi was in cahoots with Corey and

openly flirted with him. I would have thought that the “sister code” wouldn’t have allowed this. I felt she was disloyal to Jenna, despite supposedly being her best friend.

Rex...well he started off as a nice guy but then is he nice? Or is he a sheep in wolves clothing?

I enjoyed the conversations between the characters. They were realistic. I liked the humour but I particularly liked it when the worm turned!

This is how to write a teenage/college book about a difficult set of circumstances. I have to say well done to the author who has captured the very essence of the damage bullying does.

5 jaw-punching stars from me!

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### **Michelle says**

#### **???? 4 Bittersweet Stars ????**

SLUT! WHORE! These are words no teen girl wants to be heard or said about her. Words that can be so damaging and hurtful. For Jenna Haines, these malicious words have haunted her since junior year of high school when rumors begin circling that she slept with endless amount of boys. But in Jenna’s case, these rumors are far from the truth. Rumors that began from a boy that Jenna thought she knew and cared for. So in her senior year of high school, Corey tries to make Jenna’s life a living hell leaving her the social outcast and labeled as the town slut. So how far will Corey take to ruin Jenna’s life and push her to the edge? How much humiliation can she take before she stands up on her own? What are the motives for Corey turning his back on Jenna?

Bittersweet Revenge is a quick read that addresses a strong social issue of bullying. There is nothing light, fun, or nice way to portray it. Bullying...it is simple evil and cruel. And no one should be a victim to bullying whether it be through acts of violence or words. In this book, Ms. Beck showcases the raw and vulnerable state of a heroine trying to find her voice and standing up for herself. Reasons for why her bully does what he does are explained but it does not justify for the bullying and harassment. As secrets are exposed, another bombshell is dropped on Jenna and so I look forward to reading Bittersweet Love and see where this new revelation takes her.

J.L. Beck

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### **Jennifer says**

Bittersweet Revenge was not a good book. Thankfully it was short, but still it was painful to read. It didn't really make sense most of the time. The things Jenna thought and did I didn't get. It was just confusing and I did not enjoy it at all.

So Jenna dated Corey last year, but after they broke up he started spreading rumors about how she is a slut. Slutty slut slut slut slut. Slut was used way too often in the beginning of the book. Jenna hasn't slept with anyone so she of course is not a slut. Not like Marie who "was in fact the town slut. That's wasn't me putting shame on her." Yeah, sure it's not. Slut is such an empowering, positive word...it just made me angry. Like you know what it is like to be called that so why bring someone else down to that level, even if you don't say it to anyone else? Lame.

So then Rex shows up at the beginning of the school year and he is just oh so good looking Jenna just cannot help herself. There was no real connection between the two of them besides a physical attraction, but of course it is like love you guys! For realsies. Okay so Rex is Corey's cousin and she doesn't really trust him, but then she does. But then she doesn't. Who knows what is going on. Jenna's bff Mimi overhears Rex tell someone else something like leave her alone. Don't mess with her. Jenna assumes she is the her he is referring to and somehow this means that Rex is planning something horrible against her. Why? I have no idea. It made no sense to me, but then again that is the way the whole story read. Leave her alone means I am going to do something terrible to her. Yep. Makes sense.

So how about the bff (and really only friend) of Jenna's? Well she is a real winner. I have no idea why they were even friends. Jenna finds that Mimi is flirting with Corey and they kissed over the summer and freaks out. Well freaks out until Mimi is all omg it is not my fault! He is responsible! I didn't do anything! Yep, cause flirting with someone is forced on you by the other person. There is no way you could not flirt. None. Nope. Not possible. Eye roll so hard. Ugh this story! None of my friends would ever go near someone who made my life a living hell like Corey did. None. They are my friends. Way to stick by your friend Mimi...though I do suppose she did try and stand up for Jenna sometimes. It was odd that she would flirt with the guy who terrorized her friend.

So yeah. The story didn't make much sense to me, I didn't see the connections between any of them, the reason for Corey's actions are idiotic and made no sense, really the whole thing was a bunch of awfulness. The whole ending was also like argh! Why am I reading this? It just was too much. I didn't like Jenna, even though she was the victim here, and her friend was terrible. Corey was terrible, but didn't seem real, and Rex was just this good looking guy so Jenna couldn't stay away. Not good, not good at all.

This review was originally posted to Jen in Bookland

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### **Liesbet says**

DNF at 37%. This was just so horribly written that I could not go on. So many repetitions, so much incorrect grammar, I still cringe remembering it...

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### **♥?Melanie says**

This was a really fast read. I really enjoyed this story filled with hate, revenge, finding trust & love along with finding yourself. I have to say I disliked Cory but yet felt sorry for his pain. Jenna is one tough cookie and Red is perfect for her even if she doesn't know it. Love Mimi's smartass mouth, scheming ways and her loyalty to friend.

So looking forward to the next book.

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### **Dilinna says**

Confused and annoyed for most of the book. Didn't even realise when the MCs fell in love...to much twists and secrecy.

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### **Sharon says**

1 this reads like a first draft 11th grade creative writing paper stars! This story needs a content editor so bad it hurts to read. I skimmed this after chapter one because I read a review that said it gets better. Sadly, that was not the case. Apparently there is a boy that hates a girl because her mother is having an affair with his father. He bullies her without mercy. The girl is the ONLY person in the small town that has NO CLUE that this is happening. She has only one friend that is hooking up with her tormentor/ex-boyfriend. I have no idea where the cousin came from or why he was there except to torment the girl again. It is an ugly story with no real ending except the bad guys end up in college with the girls they have been bullying.

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### **Bev says**

Dear Author, please get your books edited before hitting publish. This one was bad, so damn bad. Words that didn't make sense, totally incorrect words used, bad sentence structure, incorrect punctuation making the reading a total nonsense .... yeah, I'll stop now.

This aside, there was no showing, in fact there was very little TELLING. I assumed Rex and Jenna got into a relationship seeing as they "broke up", but I've yet to work out the when or even see it happen.

This ended on a cliffhanger and was mentioned in the blurb, but no way am I putting myself through more torture to read the next book. Thankfully this was Kindle Unlimited.

I'm out.

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