



Man's Ruin

Nicola R. White

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Magdalene is a mob-connected madam. Tommy Flynn is the hitman who loves her. And when they're framed for the murder of a rival crime boss's favorite son, Magdalene fears the sins of her past have come back to haunt her. After spending half a lifetime in a seamy underworld where love is for sale and men worship at the altar of sex and greed, claiming sanctuary in a cathedral is the last thing she wants to do - and the only chance she has to find out who set her up.

With all clues pointing to Magdalene's ex-lover, a working girl called Lola, the legendary madam is reluctant to trust Tommy, a smooth-talking hired gun, and risk being burned again. But as time grows short and secrets are revealed, Magdalene will have to look into the dark places inside herself if she is to catch a killer and survive with body and soul intact.

In the corrupt city of Crawley, Massachusetts, passion, crime and religion collide in this steamy, neo-noir romantic thriller.

Man's Ruin Details

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Author : Nicola R. White

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From Reader Review Man's Ruin for online ebook

Tasha and Megan Mahoney says

Overall Rate 5 stars

Performance Rate 5 stars

Story Rate 5 stars

This audiobook had me on the edge of my seat. I didn't listen to it in the way I usually listen to audiobooks. I usually pace myself and listen when I am alone or at the gym, in this case I was antisocial. I binge listened because I had to know what happened next. If my usual reading tippie is a cup of tea this was a straight up Vodka!

Let's talk characters. Our focus throughout is on Magdalene and Tommy, they are not, on paper, character's that you could like. She is the Madam at a high end, mob controlled brothel and Tommy is a hit man and the guard at that brothel. I liked them both despite their none-too-small flaws. Why? That is hard to answer. When the story opens they are mob controlled and there are things from their past and their careers that have made them incredibly strong, frightening and on the surface cold characters. As the book progresses we get to know Magdalene and Tommy and find there is so much more to them than being a Madam and a Hit man. Tommy is a warm, caring and in some ways gentle character. Magdalene while openly strong, has been let down and used by men her whole life. She is broken in many ways but her inner strength becomes clear as the book develops.

Now to the story. Narrated by Carol Ayon and told through Magdalene's point of view the book begins with Magdalene on her day off with her girlfriend Lola when she receives the telephone call from Tommy that sets the story in motion. A rival and infinitely more powerful gang boss' son and a prostitute have been murdered at the brothel. Both were shot in the method known to be Tommy's signature and Tommy was the one in charge of guarding the room at the time of the murder. They are both in deep trouble! Magdalene will be held accountable because she is in charge of everything that happens on the site and all evidence seems to point at Tommy being the shooter.

This book is a race against time, Magdalene and Tommy must find out who was ultimately responsible for the murders and the clock is ticking because while they are hunting the killers they are also being hunted.

Nicola R. White has penned an extremely fast paced, sexy thriller and it really delivers in intensity and shocks. If I was a nail biter I would have no nails left! I cannot wait to dive into more of her work. Dive in is the perfect phrase to use because I became completely immersed and invested in this story.

Carol Ayon is one very talented narrator! I felt the voice acting was incredible, she maintained the intensity, emotion and innate sexiness of Magdalene throughout the book and the other characterisations were equally well done, well defined and expressive. The voices assigned to the characters (especially Tommy as there is plenty of narrative involving him) were consistent and believable. The different characters had different accents and those accents were equally well done.

Consider me now a fan of both Nicola R. White and Carol Ayon

I received this audiobook as part of my participation in a blog tour with Audiobookworm Promotions. The tour is being sponsored by Nicola R. White. The gifting of this audiobook did not affect my opinion of it.

S.P. Aruna says

This not your usual mob romance. It's got mystery, action, politics, adventure, and explores the seedy worlds of prostitution, crime, and power. Like icing on a cake, it's got plenty of sex, all within a plot of twists and turns. Not bad!

Patty says

This is my first Nicola R White book, and I thoroughly enjoyed the story. Not a typical mafia book, this involved Magdalene, the owner of a brothel and Tommy, infamous hit man. A murder took place in the brothel and these two are being framed. White has included a lot in this story, not a typical kill the person, hide the body and find the culprit. Magdalene has a lot of baggage, a secret that can destroy so many lives and has trouble trusting and loving. Tommy does his best to keep her safe, but is his love and skill enough? There are many twists and turns in this book, enough to keep the story fluid, thrilling and interesting.

This is my first narration by Carol Ayon. I commend her for trying to keep the characters in their ethnicity, but I did find her Spanish accent irritating. Her normal narration was wonderful, including the Boston accents for other characters. I would have preferred her to give Magdalene a different voice.

Lauren says

Surprising fun to read - finally a bisexual female that kicks ass and gets her revenge.

Bad Girls says

Lately I have read my fair share of mob inspired stories and it was starting to get old with the same storyline and outcome. I was lucky enough to receive an ARC of Man's Ruin and I wanted to finally find a book that I didn't get bored or annoyed half way through. This was not that book. I was pleasantly surprised with how the story unfolded with enough suspense and mystery to last me to the very last page. And holy hotness. I did feel though like something was missing. When I first started I thought I missed something with Magdalene and Lola. And then with Magdalene and Tommy. Like there was backstory but none of it appeared in the book. My heart went out to Tommy because I felt like it was a one-sided love at times and I wanted to shake her. The back and forth was a little much until the very end when she finally came to her senses.

Overall I enjoyed the book. It was different from all the other mob books and I liked the mystery that wrapped around Magdalene and Tommy. I do like the authors writing style and I hope to read more from her soon.

Brandi Elliott says

This is an incredible love story between a powerful "Madam" & her most trusted "hitman". With all that power & corruption there's going to be insurmountable trouble lurking in every corner. Can their love overcome any & all obstacles? You #mustread to find out. This is an AMAZING READ!!!

Ashley Carr, LSoR says

This is the first book I've read by Ms. White and it was compelling. A mob boss' number one hit man (Tommy) and a mob boss' madam (Magdalene) go on an exciting adventure trying to solve a murder mystery. When the son of a rival crime family is murdered at Magdalene's brothel her and Tommy are framed for his murder. The hit has Tommy's signature all over it. Magdalene thinks her very dark and violent past is catching up to her. While they run for their lives they get intimately acquainted in a Catholic Church no less. This book contains mystery, intrigue and a whole lot of action. I recommend this book for anyone that loves mob books and suspense books.

Tara Bryant says

Man's Fury
Nicola R. White

"I brush my hair until it shines, strap on a push-up bra and a pair of shoes that cost more than most people make in a month, and I pretend not to despise the men who rent my girls for a night."

Corruption. Deception. Sex. Betrayal. What do you do when you have nowhere to turn? How do you make it through this world with no one to help you? You do what ever it takes to survive. You sometimes have to do things that hurt yourself and others...

"His prediction comes true as he slumps to his side and his life bleeds out of him—I am a killer. His dead eyes continue to stare at me even after he is gone. I have a feeling they'll be watching me for the rest of my life."

When Magdalene's life began, it was based on deception and seduction. She was shoved aside and ignored. Deciding to change her fate, Magdalene runs. Far away...into a life filled with shadows and nightmares, where she is forced to do things that would forever change her. Tommy has had a rough life. In and out of foster care, turning to a group of thugs for company, Tommy's future path leads down a dark hallway of abuse and death. When a murder happens too close to home, Tommy and Magdalene must revisit their demons to make it out alive.

"Out here, there are no lies, the cold just is what it is. It doesn't care whether you're dressed appropriately, or if you can breathe, or whether you've just had your whole world turned upside down. The cold November air tells you, without exaggeration or concern, that it will kill you if you don't keep moving. And it will not be personal."

This book was AMAZING! Nicola had my attention with the first paragraph. I found each time I stopped reading, I craved more! Magdalene is powerful, confident, woman that doesn't let people use her. Instead, she ruins THEM! I can't say enough about this book, it's a rare gem! So different from many of the other books I've read! I need more Magdalene and Tommy please!!!!

Tara
?????????

Charles Ray says

Magdalene is the madam of a mob boss's brothel. Tommy Flynn is the boss's number one hitman. When a rival crime boss's son is killed in the brothel and Magdalene and Tommy are framed for the crime, they are forced to take sanctuary in a cathedral while they struggle to find the real killer. Time is quickly running out for them as they are besieged on all sides, and Magdalene fears that her dark past has finally caught up with her.

Man's Ruin by Nicola R. White is an erotic mystery in which there are no good guys, and it's definitely not for the squeamish. The action flows as relentlessly as a raging river as Magdalene and Tommy burrow deep into the bowels of two rival gangs, dealing with murder and betrayal at every turn. No holds are barred, and the author doesn't deal in euphemisms, so if explicit language and action bother you, give this book a pass. If, though, you like a mystery that pulls you in like an undertow, you might want to give it a look. I received a reader's advance copy of this book.

Kallie Bauck says

Man's Ruin by Nicola R. White was a fast-paced, dark, and sexy mob romance about Magdalene, a madam at a brothel called the Cat House, and Tommy, a hitman working for the same employer, both of whom are framed for murder. This leads them on the run to get to the bottom of who did it, and why they're caught in the middle of it, while bringing back some of the past and forcing them to evaluate their future. This was the first book I'd read by this author, and I really enjoyed it! This story hooked me from the beginning and kept me turning the pages right to the end. It's got mystery, action, politics, adventure, plenty of sex, and explores the seedy worlds of prostitution, crime, and power. As I was reading this, I could picture it as a black and white film, and it reminded me of some of the best classic crime movies. I hadn't read too many mob romances before, and it was a nice change of pace to read something a little grittier that contained a lot of the elements you'd expect from a romance.

Geraldine says

WOW. This book grabs you from the first page and just keeps going at full pace. So many twists and turns while on the run and not sure who is friend or foe. A quick read but boy it packs a decent punch.

Katie says

5 star review

Read and reviewed on behalf of 2 girls who love books blog.

What a book! Man's Ruin by Nicola R. White was sexy, racy and a whole lot of naughty! It's definitely not for everybody though as it has some violent scenes as well as explicit sex ones in it but it makes for one fabulous dark read full of passion, crime and religion.

The story is about Magdalene, a mob-connected madam and Tommy Flynn, the hitman who is in love with her. When they are framed for a murder, Magdalene fears that the sins of her past were coming back to haunt her. The last thing she wants to do is claim sanctuary in a cathedral but it's her only chance to find out who set her up.

I have to say this isn't the usual type of book that I read but as soon as I read the synopsis I knew I had to read it and I was no disappointed at all. I was hooked from the very first page and although it is on the short side (188 pages) it was in no way rushed, had some great plot twists and had me guessing until the end. I thought the character development was good and their background stories came through well enabling me as the reader to understand the course of action they took in the story.

I highly recommend this book and it fully deserves the 5 dark stars I give it! I'm definitely going to be looking for more books by this author.

Jennifer Pierson says

Magdalene is now a powerful mob-connected madam, who rose quickly up the ranks, after being one of the girls. Tommy Flynn is the best hitman, who loves her. One night, out of the blue, they are framed for a murder of a powerful rival crime boss' favorite son. Now they are surrounded by betrayal from all sides, and must go on the run together. Racing against the clock, they must uncover the truth before they are caught and killed. Since so many clues point to Magdalene, she must dig deep down in her dark past. But will she take down her walls in order to trust Tommy, before it's too late?

Man's Ruin was an action packed story that I enjoyed a lot, not to mention, kept my heart racing. To me though, it was too much information in the beginning, so it took me a bit to understand what was truly going on, but after I got past the confusion, I couldn't turn the pages quickly enough. I had never read Nicola R. White, and I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to read her, and her original spin on a crime thriller. In the midst of all the chaos, and suspense, she added in some very well placed humor, (hair dye and a priest) that had me laughing hard. Her diabolical twists and turns never stopped, so some clues were easy, and others not so much. This, of course, led to some great f-bomb dropping moments that scared my cat, when I screamed them out of the blue. I just wished the ending had been a bit less rushed, but I'm excited to read more by this author, especially in this new series, so I HIGHLY RECOMMEND!

Janet says

3.5 Stars

This is my first book by this author and narrator. Romantic suspense is my favorite genre so I was looking forward to listening to this book. While there were elements in the story that I found intriguing and suspenseful, this listener struggled with the book at times. Overall I find that I am giving this book a 3.5

rating. There were times when I felt like the author just wasn't clear enough as to what was happening in the story, or maybe it was with the narration and not being able to follow well enough because I didn't feel the narrator changed her voice enough to know who was who in a scene. Knowing who all the players were, was that one thing that was really missing in this story and maybe if I had read the book I could give it a higher rating or maybe if it was done in dual narration it would have been easier. With many scenes having multiple people talking, not knowing exactly knowing who was who caused me to struggle. Yet even with those struggles, I was able to predict things so that also took away from my enjoyment. There was a surprise or two a few times that and the narrator doing a better job in changing her voice for the various characters helped with the 3.5 rating. I had no issues with the sound quality and enjoyed the occasional background noise that went with the story to give it a more real feel.

Beyond The Covers Blog says

Susan Reviewed on behalf of Mytimeoutbookblog

I give Man's Ruin 5 stars for pulling me in, keeping me hooked and giving me a thriller with a lot of steamy on the side.

Nicole R. White has managed to bring the church, a madam, and a hitman together and mesh it all together and create a masterpiece. The characters are strong and the plot is interesting and action packed.

Magdalene and Tommy Flynn are associates. What connects them...the mob. She's an ex prostitute, turned madam, and he, a hitman. Tommy is in love with Magdalene.

After a rival boss' son is killed, they are the prime suspects so they go on the run. Tommy, along with her help, needs to figure out who betrayed them and clear their names or be killed. He will protect her at all cost.

Magdalene is worried the sins of her youth will come back and haunt her. She does not want to hide inside a church but quickly realizes she has no choice. Whats her aversion to the church?

Man's Ruin is a suspense/romance novel which includes murder, prostitution, mob bosses and mayhem but also tenderness, passion and overall acceptance. Remember, God hates the sin, but loves the sinner.

I loved this book and yes, as promised, passion, crime, and religion collide in this steamy thriller!
