



The Good, the Bad, and the Naughty

Lena Matthews

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Genre: Multicultural Erotic Contemporary

Maryam James is a hard taskmaster. A balls-to-the-walls type of woman who started her company with nothing more than a strong idea and a loan and turned it into one of the Top Fortune 500 companies in America. There's only one person she trusts implicitly and that's her personal assistant Xavier Sun, who, much to her dismay, has just turned in his resignation.

Maryam is the one woman Xavier can't live without. She may be in command in the boardroom, but he's in control in the bedroom, and if he learned anything from being by her side for the last seven years it was Maryam doesn't know how to take 'no' for an answer. So it's no surprise to him she basically forbids him to quit. Leaving is the last thing on Xavier mind, however. He's willing to put his job on the line, if it will get Maryam to realize the depths of her feelings for him.

Publisher's Note: This book contains explicit sexual content, graphic language, and situations that some readers may find objectionable: Anal play/intercourse.

The Good, the Bad, and the Naughty Details

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Author : Lena Matthews

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From Reader Review The Good, the Bad, and the Naughty for online ebook

Sarah G. says

I really enjoyed this book as a whole. I liked that the heroine, Maryam, was strong female lead. I personally prefer stronger female leads who are headstrong and know who they are. I also like that the Hero, Xavier, could see through her facade and still managed to be an "alpha male" but without being so overbearing or misogynistic. IDK how to describe it...its one of those relationships where the man is more on the gentle side but still in charge, whereas the female is more outspoken but is actually really feminine...if that makes sense.

The downsides of this book is that I wish that there had been MORE between them. The book is pretty short so I understand there maybe wasn't much room to flesh the couple out some...but I would have really enjoyed more interactions with this pair. I also could have done without some of the sex. I enjoy a good erotic story as much as the next person...but given how short the book was I would have liked to read more about the couple outside the bedroom.

But overall it was a pretty good, steamy, and quick ambw read. I'd definitely recommend it.

Stacy says

This little ditty was really well done. My main complaint regarding ebooks lately is that they're too short, and when I purchased this one & saw that it was less than 100pgs, I was a little upset! However, this author did in less than 89pgs, what some authors have trouble doing in 300, (and yes I wrote & told her so)! The chemistry between the two main characters was palpable, and Ms. Matthews used the dialogue between the two to really move the story along! Hot, short read!

Book Utopia says

I knew going into this story that it would focus primarily on the sex. I just wasn't expecting the sex to be the weakest part of the story.

Maryam James is a high-pressure designer with even higher standards, both for herself and for those around her. Few can put up with her, but her assistant/right-hand man Xavier Sun handles her better than she can handle herself. They've been working together for seven years, but now, Xavier has given his notice, and she has four weeks to find his replacement. She doesn't want to. Nobody can replace Xavier, but he's not budging in his decision. For Xavier, it's a deliberate ploy. He wants Maryam to finally admit to herself that there's something between them. Leaving is meant to force her hand. But his plans get fast-tracked when an impromptu kiss leaves them both breathless.

There was never any doubt this story was meant to focus on the erotic. I mean, it's a het romance from Loose Id, written by Lena Matthews. I knew all this going in. I was prepared for it. What I wasn't prepared for was being turned off by the eroticism rather than vice versa. This author has worked for me in the past, and I adore the hotness potential between the two leads – Maryam is African-American, and Xavier is

Asian/European – but the actual execution left a lot to be desired. Its primary fault is that it ultimately tries too hard. For instance, in an effort to keep the prose as varied as possible (since so much of it is sex and repetitive), there are more euphemisms than I generally like. The sex pretty much lost me at “crinkled star” in the anal scene. The attempts at dirty talk always felt over-the-top and unrealistic, even within the context of such a fantasized scenario. That’s because the author had already set up a very realistic contemporary feel with the banter between her two protagonists in the non-erotic scenes. Their dialogue was often funny and unforced, flowing far better than anything created within the sexual escapades, and the contrast ultimately lowers any heat their coming together might have created for me.

It took me a while to warm to Maryam, too. Frankly put, she’s a bitch at the top of the story. She knows it. Xavier knows it. I didn’t like her. My opinion didn’t change until I got to see her through Xavier’s more knowing eyes. His perspective turned her from a harridan into someone human, and I could finally relax and enjoy their chemistry. Or at least, I could until they hit the sheets.

By the end of the story, I found myself wishing it had been done for a different publisher that didn’t have as much emphasis on the sex. Perhaps somewhere else, the characters could have spent more time outside of the bedroom (and the shower, and her desk...) and grown into the people they had the potential to be, but ultimately were not.

Vee P. says

I heard of this book from a few people.

Man, it was nice!!!! Story is face paced, if you like to get to the "good parts" hehehe. I read this fast and I just had to see what was going to happen between lead characters.

Yeah an all time favorite, I recommend this one.

Thanks Lena Matthews.

Ragatnia Clara says

Yep, I guess this is another nice quick read. It's steamy. Though somehow the character itself not developed enough, I understand because it's short.

Sana says

The Good, the Bad, and the Naughty was a novella and I was disappointed after reading it as I would have loved to read more on the story. The synopsis was interesting and I enjoyed reading the contrasting characters. Where Maryam was hotheaded, Xavier was cool and composed. This story had my kind of dialog and witty comebacks.

I liked to read novellas from time to time so that I can get to finish off a good story in a relatively short amount of time. This one proved to be too good for one. I haven't read a novella so good before.

The story progressed in a good way and it had surprising little turns in it, as well. Considering the anticipated turn around, the result was a little too fast in the making mainly because there it wasn't not implied as such. Overall, it was a fairly good read.

Laverne Brewster says

3.75 stars. Xavier Sun was employed by Maryam James as her assistant, the working relationship morphed into a friendship that developed into love. They had held these feelings for each other for most of the 7 years that they had worked together, ; but, neither of them expressed or acknowledged their feelings. Xavier decided to press the issue and to make Maryam acknowledge her feelings for him by threatening to quit his job. It worked out as he had hoped.

Rita says

Not bad. Could have been little more in depth. I liked their banter. I couldn't really feel their love for each other. But overall not bad.

Littybell1 Harris says

I thought this was a good read for the erotic genre. The heroine was well developed and hero was interesting. Be aware that the intimacy is certainly adult in nature and some of it is definately not for everyone. I still thought that was one of the better erotic reads I have read.

UnusualChild{beppy} says

synopsis:

maryam is in control of her company and making a lot of money. she can't do it without the help of her assistant, xavier, but xavier has just given her two weeks notice. xavier wants maryam and will go to any length to get her, even if it means quitting his job. the only thing is, he wants to be the boss in the bedroom.

what i liked: the premise.

what i didn't like: the execution. i didn't like maryam or xavier or the story, really. it was really short and nothing was fleshed out.

Katherine says

This is a very hot friends to lovers story. Interracial, which makes for an interesting background. There is no huge conflict, just a steady realization that they are in love. Did I mention the sex is very hot? I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

Portia says

This was sweet. My only complaint is that it was too short to develop the characters.

Tony says

This short story was all about the sex because she took pages describing it. The story surrounding the sex was really interesting though and I would have liked to read more on these characters, the company, and the supporting characters.

Bookaholics says

The Good, the Bad, and the Naughty by Lena Matthews

Contemporary Romance -April 6th, 2010

4 stars

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The Good, the Bad, and the Naughty is a quick read that would be perfect for hanging out by the pool because it is short novel (it's less than 100 pages). For a short story, Matthews does a good job of drawing the reader into the characters. I found the love story between Maryam and Xavier to be believable, especially since both these characters have a history with each other as best friends and trusted co-workers. I liked Xavier's attempts to get Maryam to see him for who he really is, not an assistant to her, but her hero.

I really liked Xavier's character because he is different from most alpha heroes in that he is extremely tender and responsive to every detail that surrounds Maryam. He knows his woman inside out and that quality makes him extremely appealing as he wages his war to win Maryam's heart. Also, this book doesn't go into detail about inter-racial relationships, but I thought the physical descriptions of the characters are very well done. I liked the fact that the heroes in this story were not the typical barbie and ken figures that appear a lot in contemporary works.

I thought the writing was solid and the love scenes were pretty hot, but not over the top which was an additional bonus. The story could have gone on for a little bit longer, but I still found the ending to be satisfactory and conclusive.

Reviewed by Sophia from the Bookaholics Romance Book Club
