



## An Unforgettable Lady

*Jessica Bird*

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**An Unforgettable Lady** Jessica Bird  
**She thought she had everything she ever wanted...  
until she met the only man she'd ever need. . . .**

Forced into the spotlight by her fabulous wealth, heiress Grace Hall isn't always prepared for the consequences of her standing. When a string of attacks against the city's most prominent women leaves Grace vulnerable, the refined beauty reluctantly hires a bodyguard. Now she finds herself subject to the ironclad will of her new protector. In spite of her frustration, Grace is drawn to John Smith in ways she can't explain. For beneath his tough exterior and dark past, there's an inner core that is tantalizingly seductive.

John knows that when you're a professional bodyguard, it needs to be all business. But such conduct makes for a solitary life with few ties and too many good-byes. Grace was supposed to be just another assignment on a long list. Yet there's something about her that gets under his skin. With each passing day, the attraction grows more intense - until John is faced with a decision he never thought he'd have to make. Can he give up the only life he's ever known to be with the only woman he's ever loved?

## An Unforgettable Lady Details

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## From Reader Review An Unforgettable Lady for online ebook

### Leah says

Grace Woodward Hall is a member of the social elite, has inherited money and the Hall Foundation from her father, and married into royalty. She's beautiful, kind, and people genuinely like her. She's basically got a perfect life. Oh, wait. Did I forget to tell you that she has a stalker and a serial killer is on the loose killing off friends of hers? How about the fact that she's getting a divorce from her "perfect" husband? Yeah, life ain't so perfect. Enter John Smith. Grace meets Smith at the party of one of her friends, not knowing that he's a "security specialist" or that her friend was being murdered. Upon visiting her best friend, Grace finds out John's real occupation. She insists that she doesn't need a bodyguard and he leaves. Then another of her friends is killed. Time to bring in the professional. John and Grace come to an agreement and he moves in with her. Temporarily, of course. He's very clear on that: when the job is done, he's leaving.

As they spend time together, they develop an intense desire for each other. One that they can never seem to tap into as there's always some kind of interruption. A week after her 30th birthday, another of Grace's friends is killed. Grace and Smith go to her mother's house in Newport, where they have heated encounters and multiple misunderstandings. Finally, they give into their passion and make love. When her mother finds out and demands Smith leave, he and Grace go back to New York. Not long after, in a moment of brief memory lapse, Grace goes out on a run where she is followed by someone. And promptly finds out that her "stalker" is in fact a woman named Callie. The half-sister she never knew about. They don't get off to a great start as Grace harbors hostility towards the woman who shattered the illusions she had about her father, but then she invites Callie back to her place to dry off. The apartment where Smith is pretty much panicking; he's called in his men and the NYPD to find Grace as he had no idea where she was. Upon her return, he screams at her and their relationship becomes tense. They later move past this, but Smith thinks that he can't take care of Grace in the right way and calls in his right hand man, Tiny, to take his place. A few days later, the night of Grace's large Gala at the Hall Foundation, Tiny shows up and Smith finds out that the NYPD had a suspect in custody as the fourth woman attacked awoke from her coma and made a statement. The night is a huge success. This is, of course, after Grace Maces Tiny and sends him to the hospital while she has one of her security men stick to her. When everyone is gone, Grace goes to her office to get her belongings. Meanwhile, Smith gets a revealing call and rushes to her aid. The killer had Grace cornered in her office! Smith bursts in and tackles Frederique, the caterer spurned by all the women he attacked. When he's arrested and Grace and Smith finally have time alone, he reveals that he loves her and wants to spend his life with her. They kiss and make up, and live happily ever after.

Grace was a very likable character. I loved her from the beginning, from the moment she shot sarcastic quips at John Smith. I admired her strength and vulnerability. I also admired her honesty, especially the way she was willing to acknowledge her feelings.

John Smith was your typical tortured hero, with his own special qualities thrown in the mix. He was an amazing character who often reminded me of Ward's Black Dagger Brotherhood. He was a strong, capable male, but he was also very closed, sharing very little of his life with Grace or anyone else.

I have to admit that I had a bit of a hostile attitude towards Jack Walker through most of the book. It irked me how flirty he was with Grace, even though I knew they were just friends. I'll be interested to see how his romance with Callie builds and grows in *An Irresistible Bachelor*.

I knew, *knew* Frederique was the killer from the moment he came into the book and started throwing all Grace's friends' names around. There was something very suspicious about him the whole time he was there talking to her.

I thought there was an oddly conspicuous lack of Grace's soon-to-be-ex husband. I felt like he should have shown up at least once in the novel. I kept waiting for a confrontation between him and Smith.

The one thing that irritated the *hell* out of me was Grace and Smith's almost-but-not-quite-there sex! How many times do you guys have to express the fact that you want to have sex but not actually go through with it. When they finally did have sex, I was more relieved that it was finally over than happy that they finally found a way to be together.

Overall, this was a great book and I'm glad I read it. It was nowhere near as good as BDB. But, then again, what is? Anyway, a great read and it deserves all the stars.

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## Mafi says

Primeiro que tudo: odeio o título do livro! «Diz-me quem és' não dá com nada! O original é An Unforgettable Lady e penso que ficava melhor 'Uma mulher inesquecível'...ficava mais giro. 'Diz-me quem és' ficava bem num livro em que houvesse algum problema de identidade ou assim...o que não acontece neste caso.

Passando ao livro, resumidamente temos Grace Hall, herdeira de uma grande fortuna, que depois da morte do pai, o substitui na fundação de património que este geria e tenta provar, numa série de eventos organizados por ela, que o seu trabalho é bom e que o seu pai iria estar orgulhoso dela.

Inesperadamente começam uma série de assassinatos de conhecidas de Grace e vendo a sua vida em perigo contrata John Smith, um guarda-costas sério, frio, dedicado ao trabalho. Para protegê-la 24 horas por dias, chegam a acordo que John irá viver com Grace. Depressa se apercebem da atracção que sentem um pelo outro mas até ficarem juntos irão percorrer um longo caminho. Ajudando à festa, está a condição de Grace, que separada do marido, legalmente ainda se encontra casada.

No meio disto tudo Grace ainda reencontra uma irmã desaparecida e isso faz com que já não veja o seu pai como aquele herói que ela sempre imaginou.

A parte policial da história é mal explorada e apressada, durante a maior parte do livro, já nem me lembrava a razão de John e Grace se terem conhecido, e nunca desconfiei quem era o assassino. No fim revela-se quem é o assassino e Grace corre perigo mas como sempre o príncipe salva a princesa e tudo fica bem.

Quem gosta de um bom romance, com um toque de mistério irá apreciar este livro. É uma leitura rápida, divertida, que não puxa muito pela cabeça. Gostei muito dos protagonistas, embora a Grace por vezes irritava um bocadinho e outras vezes não sentia tanta paixão entre eles os dois. Com tanto desentendimento entre os protagonistas, a leitura a meio do livro esmoreceu um bocadinho mas o final compensou. Venha o próximo livro. 'An Irresistible Bachelor' :)

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## AgentScully says

I admit I picked up this book because the author is well-known and successful in another genre, and I was curious but do not read paranormal. Judging by this 1 book, I cannot see what the fuss is about. The writing style is simple, the romance is so-so, the suspense plot is feeble with only 2 viable suspects, and the heroine pulls a couple of TSTL moves.

The plot centers around a serial killer offing prominent society women. Jhon, er John, is the bodyguard hired to protect the heroine who's on the list. Unfortunately the author doesn't build or sustain suspense very well. I never felt any creeping menace or sense of inexorable approaching doom. Huge chunks of pages went by with nary a mention of the killings. And with only 2 suspects (I guessed correctly if anyone's interested), there's not much mystery either.

Grace was an okay heroine. She just seemed overwhelmed for a large portion of the book, trod on by everyone from her mother to her employees. She starts to get it together towards the end but then ruins things with the aforementioned TSTL stunts. Why must heroines who know there's a killer after them elude their bodyguards to go jogging alone? Why do heroines have Mace handy to use on said bodyguards but never on the actual villain? To add to the cliches in the plot, the police arrest the wrong man and the heroine is unprotected when the real killer strikes. Of course the hero arrives at the last second.

John didn't really grab me because I never felt that I got to know him well. There was some good banter between him and Grace in the beginning, but it got tiresome as they refused to give in to their attraction or were conveniently interrupted while groping. The unresolved sexual tension led to frustration bordering on cruelty, with the hero getting mean and flinging the wh\_re word at Grace. Ughh. At least when they finally gave in, after a couple of hundred pages of frustration, I expected fireworks to go off. Instead we get only 2 pages of to-the-point lovemaking. And subsequent sex is all behind closed doors. Now I don't demand graphic sex scenes in every book (really!), but when an author builds up the lust so much there needs to be some payoff.

The whole subplot with Callie felt tacked on and didn't interest me at all. I could see that it helped strengthen Grace by removing the weight of her father's shadow, but it occurred too late in the book to be totally successful with that. It also distracted from the serial killer plot just when it should have been rising to its climax and dissipated whatever tension the author had managed to build. It got increasingly obvious too that Callie was being set up as the heroine in a sequel and the space devoted to that proved annoying. Plus I didn't think it showed the heroine in a great light either, that she seemed most concerned whether Callie was a golddigger who would try to claim a part of her father's estate. Nor did she offer to share any of her inheritance with this close relative who was clearly down on her luck.

In short, this book had a lot of problems. If the romance was more convincing, I might still have given it 4 stars. But it felt too much like lust rather than love to me. I didn't like that John abandoned his job of guarding Grace near the end (even if he did arrange a substitute). Would a man in love do that when the woman he loved was in danger? Also there weren't enough or hardly any scenes of the hero and heroine being actually happy together. A longer epilogue with some loving scenes would have gone far toward painting a convincing HEA here.

At least my curiosity about this author has been satisfied. I won't be picking up any of her other books any time soon and this one goes on the swap shelf.

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## **Buggy says**

Opening line: *"John Smith checked his watch and looked around the plaza Hotel's ballroom."*

Originally released in 2004, An Unforgettable Lady was just recently re-issued with a fancy new and improved cover. I've enjoyed all of Jessica Bird aka JR Ward's earlier writing and thankfully this was no exception. No matter the stage in her career Bird/Ward can write the desirable and initially unobtainable dark and tortured heroes like no other. As a result I fell hard for John Smith the cold, scarred, I am an island, and everybody back the hell off bodyguard. Yup he's all kinds of ways yummy. And if any of you BDB fans

need a little more encouragement he reminds me very much of an early Zsadist prototype, here's why from page 147;

*His first instinct was to yell. He was infuriated that she had challenged him, exposed him. That she was near enough so he could smell her. That she was offering compassion and understanding and warmth when he was battle scarred, hard and ugly.*

*I think you're beautiful" she said softly, looking up at him.*

*"Then your f\*\*\*ing blind"*

*She shook her head slowly "I see you, all of you. Clearly."*

I should also mention that the sexual tension in this story is off the chart hot. While I had trouble relating (on any level) to our glamorous billionaire heroine, Countess Grace blah biddy blah and all her fancy galas, gowns, gems and uppity social status the palpable sexual tension and opposites attract theme between our couple more than made up for it. And I just have to say again John Smith--well his character is reason alone to read this book.

Forced into the spotlight by her considerable wealth, soon to be divorced heiress Grace Hall has just found herself the target of a serial killer. Following the publication of a Times article showcasing the 6 most prominent women in New York, one by one those women, her friends have started turning up dead. Reluctantly Grace is forced to hire a bodyguard, now however she finds herself subject to the ironclad rules of her captivating protector. Oh and did I mention he's moved into her Penthouse? In spite of their differences and his cold demeanour Grace is drawn to him in ways she can't explain or stop herself from acting on.

John Smith is a ghost. As a military trained assassin, professional bodyguard and all-round badass John hasn't heard his real name spoken in so long now that he's almost forgotten who he used to be. With no fixed address, social insurance number or ties to anyone he moves from one job to the next, content in his solitary life. Meeting Grace changes everything though and with the attraction between them growing stronger and harder to ignore with each passing day, John may be forced to break his own rule. Never get personal with the client. For John she was just meant to be another assignment how is it that she's managed to get so thoroughly embedded in his skin? And how is he going to leave the only women he's ever loved when the jobs over?

Oh I forgot to mention, anyone that's read Bird's Moorehouse Legacy series will be thrilled with a brief cameo from another awesome tortured hero; Alex Moorehouse the sailing champion from From The First. I just love how Ward ties all her books together this way. Cheers

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## UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Having read the Moorehouse Legacy series, which I ravenously devoured in a matter of days, and the first (and so far only) O'Banyon Brothers book which I loved, I had some pretty high expectations for *An Unforgettable Lady* which might be part of my problem with the book. Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed it, but I didn't LOVE it as I did the other Jessica Bird books that I've read.

**Important Message :** This book has been re-released and included a nice note from the author explaining the evolution of her stories and writing style. The only part I'll mention here, because I feel that it's most important and speaks volumes to her growth as a writer is that she's stopped allowing her Rice Krispies to decide the direction her stories will take. She still allows them some input, but she's much more disciplined a writer now, and she – not her breakfast cereal – has the final say. Whew! And praise the Scribe Virgin for that because comparing this book with what I find to be her more professional, polished work found in the

Black Dagger Brotherhood series written under the name, J. R. Ward, I have to say that I'm not sure the BDB would have the same intensity if Snahp, Crahckle and Pohp were calling the shots. Can you imagine what the Brothers names might be like? Fibher, Whohle Grahain, Mihlk, Nutrishous, Delishous... Yeah, see... those just don't have the same feel, nor would they strike the same level of terror into the Lessers as names like Tohrment, Zsadist, Phury, Wrath, Tehrror, Vishous, Muhrder or even Bloodletter do.

But I digress....

The first half moved a bit slowly for my taste and there was an exorbitant amount of internal dialog which sounded a lot like this: *John Smith: I want her, but I can't have her. She deserves better. My job is dangerous, she'd never be safe. She's just a job. When this is over, I'm walking away.* I have to say, that got really, really old, really, really fast. And from Grace Hall we got a whole lot of: *So what if I'm a trjillionaire socialite and he a bodyguard—that shouldn't matter to him one bit. Why does he care if I'm a Countess, it's by marriage only... and speaking of marriage, why should it matter that I'm a married woman – we're getting a divorce!* So yeah, spending ½ a book inside their heads like that just didn't "do it" for me.

Then we get to the 2nd half and things finally start taking off. People are being gruesomely killed by a neat freak who rips their throats out and then tidies up their clothing, a chef who is 2 eggs shy of a 3 egg omelet trying to singlehandedly take over the catering needs of most of New York City, and a disgruntled employee who is trying to overthrow the Hall Foundation's hierarchy. Those things made for some interesting reading.

One thing that bugged me was Grace's incessant griping about not needing a body guard when clearly she did – she was on the list of women featured in the newspaper article which was also the killer's checklist for who was next on his hit list. Well, she wanted a body guard, but didn't want to have to alter her lifestyle at all. Not exactly the brightest bulb in the box, if you ask me. I didn't feel anything special for her or about her, and didn't feel that she was deserving of John as her *happily ever after*.

Now John Smith... \*sigh\* Wow. What a man! He was angsty, sexy, demanding, scarred, sexy, intelligent, intense, sexy... whether writing as J.R. Ward or Jessica Bird, this author knows how to put together one incredible hunk of male. Did I mention he's one sexy guy who can guard my body any day?

And speaking of sexy, the sexual *intensity* was quite high, but there wasn't much of the act itself. They wanted each other, they knew they did, but kept talking each other out of it. I was like, WTH? I mean, when Grace finally gave John the green light and he was getting into it, she throws on the brakes. Then later, he's all hot and bothered, she's like "oh, yeah," then HE puts a stop to it. It worked for awhile, but then seriously, it went from being exciting sexual tension to frustration and overkill.

Overall, after looking past the slow start to the story and Grace's TSTL (Too Stupid To Live) moments, it was an enjoyable read. I can't say I'll add it to my "keepers" shelf, but I am glad I read it, and I'm looking forward to *An Irresistible Bachelor*.

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## Julianna says

Reviewed for THC Reviews

*An Unforgettable Lady* is another solid story from Jessica Bird aka J. R. Ward. It's kind of a hybrid of a standard contemporary romance and a romantic suspense. I say this because the suspense element is present but somewhat in the background as a group of high society ladies who were all featured in the same newspaper article are picked off by a serial killer one-by-one. The heroine is one of the women from the article, so she rather reluctantly hires the hero to act as her personal bodyguard. However, there are no direct

attempts made against her until the end of the story, and I have to admit that it was pretty easy to figure out who the bad guy was. In between the murders, there is a nice romance with the hero and heroine experiencing a strong, immediate attraction that eventually leads to a steamy affair.

Grace was a very strong woman who never backed down from John's caveman act when they first met and she subsequently hired him to protect her. She was controlled most of her life, first by her parents and later her husband, and she's not about to let John waltz in and take over too. She's struggling to find her footing as an independently wealthy woman who has just taken the helm of her father's charitable foundation upon his recent death, while the sexist, old-school boy's club is trying to push her out. I like that she runs the family foundation differently than her father and avoids spending money on frivolous things like any good charitable organization should, even though the men in power disagree with her methods. Outwardly, Grace is very controlled, but inwardly, she's sometimes falling apart as she suffers from anxiety and self-doubt. She has a very complicated and strained relationship with her mother that obviously contributes to her self-esteem issues, which I would have liked to have seen explored in a little more depth. Grace also later discovers that there were things about her father she thought were true, but weren't. It would have been nice to see her feelings on that subject brought out a little more too.

Initially, John seems to have a bit of a chip on his shoulder where the rich and powerful are concerned. I think this is because, although his job is to protect them, he sees into their personal lives in a way that few others do and generally doesn't like the reality of what most of these types are like. It takes him a little while to figure out that Grace is different. To her, John seems a little too much like her controlling parents and husband, so he has to find the delicate balance between lightening up a little in their personal dealings and still being hard-nosed from the bodyguard angle in order to effectively protect her. John can definitely come off as being quite arrogant at times, but Grace often surprises him and occasionally makes him smile. He possesses an iron grip of self-control and cares enough about Grace to not want to hurt her even though he's caught up in an intense desire for her. Despite his passion though, John is still pretty closed off throughout most of the story. I really would have loved to see him open up a little more. He also has a pretty tortured past that was only briefly touched upon, and I would have liked to have seen explored in more detail.

Grace and John have both been deeply hurt in their pasts, and I think each of them recognizes that hurt in one another as well as the need to be in control. I really enjoyed the opposite sides of the track characterization and how Grace is a poised, society lady while John is a rough around the edges former special ops guy who doesn't put much stock in wealth and prestige. They didn't exactly start off on the right foot, but in spite of their early bickering, the sexual tension was high from the beginning. It was never a question of will they or won't they, but when. And when they finally do give into their attraction, the love scenes were very sensual, though nowhere near as hot as the author writes in her more recent books. The one thing I have noticed in these early books of Ms. Bird's is that her heroes have a tendency to hold out on expressing their feelings until the final pages of the novel which doesn't always lend itself well to building and maintaining an emotional connection, but despite this, it was still a very good story.

Although the author's website doesn't officially connect any of her contemporary books as a series, I've seen *An Unforgettable Lady* grouped with *Heart of Gold* and *An Irresistible Bachelor* as *The Walking Papers Trilogy*, although I have no idea where that series title came from. Other sites simply have *An Unforgettable Lady* and *An Irresistible Bachelor* paired as a duet. In any case, all three books contain common characters. Grace is best friends with Carter, the heroine of *Heart of Gold*, and was first introduced in that book. Carter and her hero, Nick, appear in the early part of *An Unforgettable Lady* when Grace goes to visit them, and Nick is instrumental in Grace hiring John as her bodyguard. *An Unforgettable Lady* also introduces Grace's good friend, Jack, and another young woman, Callie, who become the hero and heroine of *An Irresistible Bachelor*. At the very least, I would recommend reading these latter two books in order, otherwise, readers will get one fairly significant spoiler.

Overall, I enjoyed reading *An Unforgettable Lady*. I loved Ms. Bird's little shout out within the narrative to

Gaelen Foley, another of my favorite authors. Other than my few minor complaints, this book was very well-written and in my opinion, reflects an earlier version of the style that Jessica Bird has developed in her highly successful J. R. Ward persona. Anyone who has enjoyed her *Black Dagger Brotherhood* and *Fallen Angels* books will probably like this one too.

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## Shawna says

5+ stars – Contemporary Romance/Romantic Suspense

WOW, I really loved this contemporary romance from Jessica Bird, aka J.R. Ward, about tough, cold, cynical, hardened, and emotionally detached ex Special Forces soldier turned private security specialist John Smith, who's hired as a bodyguard by billionaire New York socialite Grace Woodward Hall, the Countess von Sharone, to protect her from a serial killer targeting her and five other high-profile society women.

Although John feels initial disdain for Grace's glamorous, perfected appearance and glitzy lifestyle and she resents his gruff, remote attitude and rigid, high-handed ways, they prove the old adage that opposites attract. Despite their differences and occasional hostility, John and Grace experience an immediate, intense attraction and volatile lust that becomes increasingly difficult for them to deny or ignore, especially as they get to know each other better and when deeper feelings enter the mix. He is determined to maintain a professional relationship and has vowed never to become emotionally involved with a woman, even when Grace starts to chip away and thaw his icy exterior and threatens to blow his carefully laid plans for a solitary, unattached life all to hell. Can Grace convince John, a hard-edged man scarred both inside and out, to take a chance on love and a future together?

This is only the second book I've read by Jessica Bird, and although I liked *Beauty And The Black Sheep*, this was much closer to what I'd expected from a contemporary romance written by the WARDen. Although the love scenes are still fairly mild, especially compared to the steamy *Black Dagger Brotherhood* series, John Smith is definitely a tortured alpha hero reminiscent of the Brothers, and something about the heated, intense emotional encounters and explosive sexual tension between John and Grace reminded me a little bit at times of Zsadist and Bella, which I loved of course.

I really enjoyed **An Unforgettable Lady**, and I'll definitely read the sequel, *An Irresistible Bachelor*, and the rest of her *Moorehouse Legacy Silhouette* series, which also features related characters. Big 5 stars!

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## Amy says

You know when you want to love something so bad, but no matter how hard your try, you just can't? You like it, but it doesn't blow you away? Yes, the synopsis of the book brought back early 90's memories and had me involuntarily singing Whitney Houston's "And I Will Always Love You," reminiscing about her days on screen with Kevin Costner in "The Bodyguard." While the movie, to my recollection lacked suspense, I unfortunately felt a lot of the same with *An Unforgettable Lady*.

John Smith is all hard, arrogant, brash alpha male. He has no family, and his few friends are his brother's in the Black Watch Security Firm which he heads up. A former Army Ranger and covert ops man, John has witnessed a lot and survived a lot both growing up and in past assignments. John's mind and body work "in

the now." He is a task driven man that focuses on completing the job, no strings attached, no emotions involved so that he can pick up when the job is done and move on to the next.

Grace Woodward Hall is a New York City socialite who married into royalty. While she holds a title Countess von Sharone, Grace is a very down to earth woman with a lot of pressure on her after the recent death of her father. She has taken over his foundation and is trying to prove to the long term employees that she is capable of handling the job. She is also in the middle of getting out of a loveless marriage by divorcing her husband. Two people from different worlds, John and Grace meet at a party where he is stationed as security for the Ambassador. Once their paths collide there is immediate heat and sparks between the two which led me to believe this was going to be a steamy, suspenseful read. What brings the two opposites together again is a serial killer who is targeting and killing prominent socialites. Grace hires John as a personal bodyguard to protect her until the killer is caught.

What was frustrating to me was the murder plot never really took off. The author didn't really present many suspects and there was no buildup to each victim. The suspense was very flat and I was never on the edge of my seat wondering when and where the killer would strike next. The relationship between John and Grace was strained throughout the story and in the end had me questioning if they really had anything more than lust. Ms. Bird can write strong sexual tension, but after a couple of hundred pages of buildup, once the lovemaking commenced, it lacked luster and was a less than stellar payoff for all of the frustrating tension between the two.

Now I had to keep in mind this was early work of Jessica Bird, who is now a New York Times Best Selling Author otherwise known as J.R. Ward. Ward is THE author that reignited my love for fiction several years ago with the Black Dagger Brotherhood and I have not looked back since. More than anything I was anxious to see if her early work conveyed any nuances or glimpses of the future brotherhood in the making.

In Ms. Bird's letter to her readers, at the beginning of the book, she states that "it was an incredibly inefficient process" of how she went through the layout and process of writing An Unforgettable Lady, early on in her career. She further stated that it took her four contemporary romances to finally find "her craft."

"In this book, it turns out I was starting to head into vampire land - I just didn't know it."

To be truthful, I did not feel Ward's style in this story. However, I will say that John had several subtle characteristics of Wrath (Dark Lover) but not to the extent that I saw the brotherhood in it's development. In retrospect, I have to say that this book is far from bad, but it's just not to the level I have come to know and expect J.R. Ward to deliver. It goes to show us how a writer can come full circle once finding "her craft". And any Ward fan that has read the Black Dagger Brotherhood knows she has found it!

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## AH says

I don't normally read contemporary romance novels. In fact, it seems rare that I read books without any paranormal beings. I had heard about this book from the Romance Readers Reading Challenges group and I have to admit that I was curious. I didn't know that J.R. Ward had used another pen name -- Jessica Bird. I must say that I like this incarnation of J.R. Ward. This is definitely a nice break from all those vampires, werewolves, and other assorted paranormal creatures I had been reading about.

The edition I read was a reissue published in 2010. I would recommend reading the author's note at the

beginning of the book. It does give you some added insights into the characters and the writer's frame of mind while writing this book.

An Unforgettable Lady is the story of Grace Woodward Hall or the Countess von Sharone and her bodyguard John Smith. Grace is a wonderful character. She is from a wealthy society family; she is beautiful, smart, and a genuinely caring person. Grace is married, but she is separated from her good for nothing playboy husband.

One word can describe John Smith: hawt! He is handsome, protective, dangerous, and sexy. John has a special ops background. John enters Grace's life during a gala event where he is responsible for the security of an ambassador. There is an instant chemistry between John and Grace and they share a very hot kiss. When Grace's life is threatened later on in the book, John comes highly recommended as a body guard. Grace decides to hire John and the delicious sexual tension begins.

There is a long, long build up in this relationship. The sexual tension is exquisite. At times, I felt like I needed a cold shower.

I really liked John's character. John is conflicted. His military background made him aloof at times. Due to the nature of his chosen career, he has never had a long term relationship with a woman. He offers Grace a sexual relationship where he would satisfy her needs, but with no strings attached. When his job was finished, he would leave. John lets Grace ponder this situation to decide what she would like to do. Interestingly enough, this is where we see a little of the "Wardisms" come out – the possessiveness, the "mine", the need to possess. John can not commit to Grace, yet he can not stand the thought of any man being interested in her.

I found that I had guessed who the culprit was about 2/3 of the way through. And no, it wasn't the butler!

My only criticism of this book was the lack of any kind of showdown between Grace and her estranged husband, Ranulf. I find it odd that an estranged husband would not do anything once his wife's life was threatened. Odder still, that they didn't have a shouting match or any kind of confrontation at the end of the marriage. It seemed to all be handled rather impersonally by the lawyers.

The novel had an entirely different feel from J.R. Ward's Black Dagger Brotherhood books, yet in a way, some of her "Wardisms" did manage to slip in. I didn't mind; I liked that series. I think I like this book more. I really enjoyed reading this book and I am looking forward to getting my hands on An Irresistible Bachelor for more of this side of J.R. Ward.

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## **Ragus says**

Lover's of J. R. Ward will want to read this contemporary romance written under her real name, Jessica Bird.

The story will not disappoint. UNFORGETTABLE LADY centers around a heroine who finds herself the target of a serial killer. She needs protection and hires the yummy, alpha male hero. Ms. Ward brings the two together in an unusual manner which creates romantic tension that builds and becomes tangible to the reader. Although this book is not part of a series, you will meet characters from this book in succeeding stories written by Ms. Ward. The book is great! Read it! Enjoy it!

## Linda says

John Smith: a common-enough name for a dangerous man. He owned the small elite firm, Black Watch, Ltd. His employees were former Rangers, Marines and Navy Seals. He trusted them implicitly.

With his military and intelligence background, he was a personal security specialist. *It was a fancy name for bodyguard.* But not just any ordinary protector, he was an investigator, a champion and, if needed, a killer. He was at the top of his field and thrived on not taking a break; he *always* had a new job just around the corner.

Grace Woodward Hall, Countess von Sharone, had discovered after her brief marriage that her husband was not up to par. He was unafraid of using *her* inheritance to fund his lifestyle. He was also verbally abusive; they had separated and she had applied for a divorce but she was keeping everything under wraps. She was afraid of what the publicity would do to the family name.

The stress of this was bad enough but then she found herself included in a list of prominent women that were being murdered. Somehow she was connected but neither Grace nor the police understood why.

John Smith was her answer.

John was everything that Grace was not. He accepted the job with the understanding that she would follow his directions *at all times*. But neither one was prepared for the chemistry that thrummed whenever they were near each other.

This story was written in typical Jessica Bird aka J. R. Ward fashion with an uber-alpha male, a strong heroine and intense emotional turmoil. The bulk of this romance concerned their friction and tension. Each of them spent a lot of time arguing in spite of their own internal dialogue.

Have any lovers loved as these lovers loved? Only Jessica Bird knows for sure.

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## Nefise says

I don't know why but in no way I could get into the book. Although, it has an intriguing plot, whenever I tried to read it, I felt sleepy and lost fight at last and fell a sleep. I think, either story development or pacing is not right for my taste.

So here I am, I gave up finishing it, unfortunately, marking it another DNF. :(

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## Emily says

When Grace Hall socialite friends are being stalked and murdered in their homes, she knows she maybe next on the list. Taking a chance and hiring the best bodyguard, John Smith is the only option.

For the first itme in John's career he has a problem with his client, he finds her attractive and the more he

gets to know the real Grace Hall, the more he imagines all the delicious ways he could please her.

Grace is vulnerable when it comes to John, she wants him, he wants her, but each time they share quick moment of passion, one of them retreats.

I wanted to like this, I thought it was okay. I was actually more interested in the next in the series over what would happen to Grace and John. It became so overmelodramatic that I just lost interest in he story.

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### **Adrienne says**

i enjoyed this book alot::the H/H are complete opposites::he is a strong alpha type guy. ex-military::no past::no planned future::and whilst at times i wanted john to open to Grace and tell her more about his past etc i came to the conclusion that this kind of strong alpha guy just wouldn't do that:what you get in the book would be exactly true to character::and probably if he had suddenly become Mr Mushy it'd have killed the story for me as it would then be to predictable::the heroine is kind::considerate::and somewhat dominated by her family and their reputation::but she's no walk over::she's a strong lady and ultimately finds happiness::but not thru being manipulative::its when John realizes what he needs that it all comes together::

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### **Elphaba J says**

A aparência de perfeição começa a perder o seu encanto com a chegada do medo, da morte.

A segurança, uma nova prioridade, transforma-se no novo comandante da sua vida e, aquele que oferece um pouco de estabilidade, tende a tornar-se, a pouco e pouco, o senhor do seu coração.

Diz-me Quem És é uma narrativa repleta de momentos tensos com paixão e suspense em que, as suas personagens cuidadas, se vêm envolvidas nas hesitações próprias do amor e de um mistério que ultrapassa os precedentes habituais, com um serial-killer arrepiante e que banhará a nata social de sangue.

O pseudónimo Jessica Bird apresenta uma escrita direccionada para os leitores de policiais sem esquecer os aficionados do romance que, com fluidez, conseguirão entusiasmar-se através de luxúria e perigos capazes de causar palpitações à mais fria das pulsações até à última página.

Opinião completa: <http://historiasdeelphaba.blogspot.pt...>

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