



Tormenta de pasiones

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Gales, principios del siglo xix. Los habitantes de un pequeño pueblo minero son víctimas de la miseria y la opresión. Viven en condiciones cada vez más duras, y la buena o mala disposición de la aristocracia local puede ser clave para lograr salir de esta situación. Consciente de ello, Clare Morgan, la respetada maestra del lugar, decide elevar una súplica a Nicholas Davies, el conde de Aberdare, un noble de sangre gitana y pésima reputación. El conde accede a sus ruegos, pero impone una condición: Clare deberá convivir con él durante tres meses. Y ella, dispuesta a todo para salvar a los suyos, acepta el trato. Durante ese tiempo, se adentran en un mundo lleno de peligro y deseo embriagador. Como aliados, Clare y Nicholas luchan para salvar a su comunidad. Como adversarios, exploran el arriesgado terreno del poder y la sensualidad. Y, como amantes, se rinden a una pasión que amenaza su propia identidad.

Tormenta de pasiones Details

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From Reader Review Tormenta de pasiones for online ebook

K. says

The only Mary Jo Putney book I'd read previous to this one was "The Bartered Bride," which if I'm truthful, I didn't "read" ... I listened to. It had some "pirate" type elements (at least a long sea journey) and ... I HATE that, so obviously it didn't inspire me to say "more please."

That said, a couple of Amazon posters DID inspire me to pick this one off of my TBR (in fact they chose it for me after taking a look at my TBR mountain here on GR! Just goes to show you, many times those who don't have an emotional response to picking a book for others (as we do for ourselves) can lead you down the path of a spectacular read. AND a new author obsession!

"Thunder and Roses" is an epic '90's romance without any bodice-ripper feeling left over from the '80s. It clearly is one of the many evolving 90's "best romantic story decade" historical romances the 90s has become famous for. Some of the best romances written to date (in my opinion) were written in the '90s, and I think this one is in that class. The 90's discarded the 70's and 80's notion that abusive heros were sexy and romantic and that heroines had to be obnoxiously TSTL fiesty, and gluttons for the abuse dished out by those heros.

Nicholas Davies has suffered multiple rejections over the course of his life. He's the epitomy of an example where money and title don't guarantee happiness, especially when the road to that money and title will never include acceptance. Nicholas' father, a second son who later became the heir to an earldom, initially felt free to seek his own happiness and fell in love and married his gypsy mother unbeknownst to his stick-in-the-arse father. When Nicholas' mother drops him off on the doorstep of his grandfather (after his father's death) at an early age, he feels abandoned and confused. Throughout his life he'll continue to hurt and resent his mother's decision to leave him in a "foreign world" with a man who never stops despising him and plotting ways to illegitimize his birth.

Clare Morgan grew up in a staunch Methodist community as the daughter of their minister and leader. She's always suffered (and I mean literally "suffered"!) for the life that she's been born into. Her father is not just her idol, but she shares him with the community to a point of child neglect on his part. As an adult after his death, she naturally takes on his role, but fate has played the part in putting her in an identity not her own. Throughout the book she'll grapple with feelings of inadequacy of filling her father's shoes, not to mention struggling to come into her own.

The local village is suffering a great depression after years of being subjected to the neglected and absent largest landowner (and of course employer), the "Demon Earl" - Nicholas. Town gossip in his absence hasn't helped his legacy when he returns to "deal" with his grandfather's estate upon his passing. The biggest employer keeping the town alive is the local mine, and with the deplorable working conditions going on there, the town blames a lot of their troubles on the Earl's absence. With Nicholas' return, Clare decides the only available option to save the town from poverty and death is to go to the new Earl and employ him to intervene with his money and influence. With much reluctance, Nicholas concedes to her requests (after lapsing into coercion) ... with a "bet" if you will: He'll finance a path out of the town's economic whoas if Clare will put her respectable reputation on the line by living with him for 30 days unchaperoned. Seeing no other option, Clare marters herself and agrees to the strange "deal." Since Nicholas' only proposed the idea being certain she'd never agree and would just go away ... after her shocking (and unwanted) acceptance he sweetens it for himself by adding the caveat that Clare will also have to allow him one kiss per day. Although completely shocked by such a suggestion, and after much wheedling to try and get herself out of it, Clare eventually sees it as the only option, and capitulates. Thus Putney sets the stage for a classic romance in

a clash of wills that will be tested at close proximity. All kinds of opportunity to keep the storyline close to the romance I love and Putney blends in plenty of teasing "slap and tickle" with the bet to keep things interesting as they slowly build to a serious confrontation of wills and sexual tension.

Having laid out the premise, Putney delivers with epic storylines and plenty of character development. I can't think of one character in this book (and there are a LOT) that wasn't clearly drawn or "disposable," nor that unnecessarily bored me. MJP stays focused on Nicholas and Clare and with all that's happening still clearly manages to set up a series in this first book. Nicholas is the perfect blend of sensitive, brooding, manly, tortured hero. Clare is the staunch church-going woman with honest questions to herself that "Maddy" of "Flowers From the Storm" never could quite come to terms with.

The background story with the mine is so well written, I became more than a bit claustrophobic feeling when the characters journeyed into the mine ("NOOO -- Don't go down there! LOL!). The game of "kissing tag" these two engage in is peppered throughout as it builds to it's ultimate showdown between the two. The overall story is piled high, rich in adventure/intrigue/romance at every page you turn. It's definitely "living and breathing" when it comes to good, old-fashioned story-telling.

My first MJP was pretty "lack-luster." Just goes to show me that having done the footwork by piling my TBR with good recommendations, followed by letting go of the control and allowing those "in the know" to choose for me -- can certainly equal "wisdom meeting opportunity." T&R is an emotionally rich book. Any historical romance devotee shouldn't hesitate to add this classic to their personal romance knowledge base. K.

Lisa Kay says

[image error]

Zoe says

May 16, 2016 Reread:

Every time I read my old favorites from Mary Jo Putney, I realize what is missing in most romance stories for me: Solid characterization and historical research.

2 books from Putney that I would recommend over and over again: Thunder and Roses & Silk and Shadows. Fantastic characterization, there is no other word for it. Putney created Nicholas and Clare, 2 lonely souls, both searching without knowing that they were missing something. This is what makes a story special. You feel that the characters are real. The historical details about Wales and the mining industry give the story a depth that is very rare in this genre. I may not love all Putney's books, but she really excels in characterization and building a rich backdrop for the story. It is an odd feeling but I am so grateful that there are writers like Putney, who invest time and energy in building a real story for the readers. Most of the writers just throw in sex scenes, alpha males and pig-headed heroines and call it a book. As a reader, I am willing to support a writer with real talents by buying their books. I only hope that those who have the talents to write and tell a story, get the opportunity to showcase their talents because when they do it right, they are giving a gift to the reading public by sharing their brilliance. As silly as it sounds, this is how Putney makes me feel: gratitude for sharing her talents with us.

First review on Goodreads:

This is one of those books that you do not forget. You forget about who wrote it, the name of the book, the names of the lead characters but you DO NOT FORGET THE STORY.

I read this book more than 15 years ago. Searching for new books to read on my kindle I came across Mary Jo Putney and remembered that I read some of her books but had no idea which ones. Then I read the summary of the book and bam, memories flooded back in and I remembered this book as vividly as if I read it last week.

The hero struggles with his dark memories and past with his grandfather who hates him for his gypsy blood. Being the only heir the grandfather had to accept him but never hesitated to make him feel inferior.

The female lead is a prim and proper daughter of the vicar trying to convince the hero to help the village. The hero of course did not want to help for he did not intend to invest emotionally in anything that is related to the title. He put forth a condition which he thought the heroine would never agree to: to live with him for 3 months and let people believe the worst about her. If she could do that then he would help the villagers.

But the heroine agreed. And then came a wonderful story.

I wrote the above without re-reading the book. This is how good this story is. I remember vividly the details and the connections between the lead characters.

I read other books in the same series. They were ok but this book, being the first one in the series, is the best out of all of them.

Pepa says

3.75

Una novela de las de antes, nunca mejor dicho. A medida que avanzaba me he dado cuenta de que ya la había leído. Sí, debe ser de esas primeras novelas que leí el siglo pasado y que "desaparecieron" de mi casa y no las tengo controladas. Una pena

Buena trama, buenos personajes, los dos me han gustado. Esa metodista, falta de cariño y envuelta en una sociedad estricta e hipócrita que se ve abrumada por la sinceridad y el desparpajo de este pícaro protagonista Nicholas, un libertino de los que engañan, como se estilaba antes. Pero honesto, leal y un gran hombre. Me encantan estos hombres.

No hay que fiarse de las apariencias.

Viri says

Iba justamente a empezarlo cuando de repente recordé que ya había leído esta historia... no solo eso, la serie.

Booknut says

"I want to understand as much about Nicholas as I can." She picked a white tulip to go with the scarlet. "Sometimes I feel as if he is a play, and I came in on the second act and must deduce what has gone before."

Lucien smiled. "That is the nature of all human friendships, and what makes them interesting."

This book has a great sense of humour.

The humour was one of my favourite parts! The witty banter was seemingly effortless, flowing off of the page. This is one of my favourite examples:

"I don't know your customs."

"This will be simple," Ani said briskly. "You will have no trouble. I will ask Milosh to take up his fiddle now. Later, Nikki, you will play the harp for us."

As Ani bustled away, Clare said, bemused, "Lament?"

"Usually the bride sings a song to her mother, bewailing the fact that she has been sold into marriage and wishing she were dead," Nicholas explained.

Clare stared at him. "Not very festive."

"It's considered very moving."

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Thunder and Roses is the first book in the Fallen Angels series, and was my first full length read by author Mary Jo Putney.

Those of us who are fans of historical romance know that over the past decade, the genre has been flooded with so many books that it's hard to find anything unique, and in fact, there are many times you can predict exactly which naive but curious little chit will be ruined by what scandalous event that will take place at precisely the stroke of midnight – or shortly thereafter because the rake/rogue/libertine is almost always late. Well, you get the idea. Fortunately, while there was some predictability to *Thunder and Roses*, Ms. Putney also gave us plenty of unique events and characters so that I found this story fresh and out of the ordinary. Skinny dipping with penguins in an English estate pond in the springtime? You're not going to find that in many historical romance novels.

This story begins when Clare, a Methodist school teacher from the village, comes to Nicholas and asks for help improving the dismal lives of his tenants, but Nicholas, bitter from years of rejection and a horrible betrayal, could care less about what they need. He doesn't want to be there, doesn't want to deal with anything, let alone someone else's problems, but Clare won't be dissuaded. So what's a heartless rake to do?

He makes her an offer he's certain she'll refuse: Come live with him for 90 days, and he'll do whatever Clare thinks is needed to make the village and the lives of its inhabitants better. And while sex isn't part of the bargain, she has to pretend to be his Mistress and allow him one kiss per day at a time and place of his choosing.

Clare knows that to accept Nicholas' terms will ruin her reputation, but the people need help and she has enough faith in her friends and the other villagers to believe that they'll never scorn or judge her once she explains the situation, so, much to Nicholas' dismay, she accepts his ruinous offer, certain that she can't be seduced by his kisses.

There were many things that I found entertaining about this story, but I'm not going to go into details other than to say it was interesting to see what life in an English coal mine was like and to learn about the hazards of the job and the technological advances that made the mines a much safer place to work.

Overall, despite one painfully obvious and less than climatic event at the end of the story, I really enjoyed *Thunder and Roses*. Thank you again, Mshj, for the recommendation!

Lindsay says

Fwew! I finally did it. This felt really long. This wasn't a bad book, but it just didn't exactly come together and work for me, either. There was a lot going on- penguins, billiards, whip fights, mine explosions, gypsy camps, murder plots, and lots of old secrets. I would definitely classify this as melodramatic, and even- dare I say it- a bit cheesy at times. When Clare and Nicholas finally decide to become actual lovers instead of just constantly teasing around the idea, Clare instantly is healed of all of her spiritual doubt and her lingering resentment towards her father...which she attributes to her glorious sex and loving Nicholas. Say what? That is just....silly. In fact, after that, all of her religiousy-ness seemed to float away.

The whole premise of the book was that Clare was a pious Methodist, daughter of a preacher, who went to the "gypsy earl" to get help for her village. But about halfway through, she's really not pious anymore at all, and has discovered that all she really wanted was to be in love and have sex. That's fine by me, but it kind of rendered the whole idea a bit null and void to me. She was swayed away from her religion really easily- and maybe that's the point- but then I wonder why the religion part had to be there in the first place. I also thought that the whole "stay with me for 3 months" idea was kind of forced and hokey.

I also thought Nicholas was a bit inconsistent. Here is this incredibly handsome part-gypsy earl who is a known rake who manages to give up his ideas of never marrying again for a decent looking preacher's daughter. He bent too easily to giving up his rakish ways, I thought. The characterization here was a mixed bag. They were developed in the sense that we know their pasts and what has driven them, but both of the MC's seemed to change to suit the other really easily. It just didn't feel right to me.

Maybe it's because this is a bit older in the genre, but I kept thinking of like a Hallmark movie or something as I read this. So much drama and angst and stuff going. Okay, but not my favorite. Probably 3-3.5 stars.

Julianna says

Reviewed for THC Reviews

"4.5 stars" *Thunder and Roses* – along with several other Mary Jo Putney books – has been on my TBR pile

for quite some time. I'm glad I finally got around to reading it. I had a feeling I would like Ms. Putney's work, and this book didn't disappoint. Her writing style reminds me somewhat of Mary Balogh's and the book itself reminded me of one of Ms. Balogh's books, *Longing*. Both it and *Thunder and Roses* are set primarily in Wales, and both contain plot elements relating to mining and music, pursuits that I gather are wholly representative of that area of Great Britain. Also both books have aristocratic heroes paired with commoner heroines and a strong emphasis on historical details. However, the two books are hardly carbon copies of one another. In *Thunder and Roses*, the hero is part Gypsy in addition to his aristocratic Welsh heritage. There's also a touch of intrigue surrounding scandalous events that happened four years earlier which led to both his grandfather's and his wife's deaths, as well as the heroine making an equally scandalous bargain with him to gain his cooperation in investing in the local village economy and working to make conditions safer for the miners. All the elements came together to create a very pleasant reading experience that, while perhaps not quite perfect, was still enjoyable.

When he was just a boy, Nicholas's mother took him to his Gorgio (non-Gypsy) aristocratic grandfather, and he believes she sold him to the man for a mere one hundred guineas. His grandfather was not happy about his only grandson and heir being half-Gypsy, so he treated Nicholas with nothing but disdain. The only person who was genuinely nice to him was the village Methodist preacher, whom his grandfather hired to tutor him until he was ready for Eton. There Nicholas met his three best friends in the world, and the four of them together earned themselves the nickname The Fallen Angels. Once grown, he eventually married, but the union was fraught with difficulties until both his grandfather and his wife died on the same night. Village gossips believe that Nicholas had an affair with his step-grandmother (a very young woman), which broke his grandfather's heart and sent his wife fleeing the estate, only to die in a carriage accident. After that, Nicholas left the country for four years and has only recently returned to his family's estate, which he is thinking of trying to sell because of all the bad memories it holds. All that changes when the feisty young local schoolmistress, who also happens to be the preacher's now-grown daughter, comes calling, demanding that he do something about the mine safety and the flagging economy of the village. Despite her ordinariness and pedestrian background, she stirs his interest in a way that nothing else has in a long time. Nicholas decides he'd like to seduce her into becoming his mistress, so he strikes a devil's bargain with her: he'll do all that she asks if she stays at the mansion with him for three months and allows him to kiss her once each day.

It seems that *Thunder and Roses* reminded me of more than one book, as Nicholas's character was very reminiscent of the hero of another historical romance I recently read. Both characters begin the story as dissolute, selfish rakes, who have every intention of making the heroine his mistress. However, the hero of that other story went down in flames for me when he forced himself on the heroine. This is where Mary Jo Putney earned my eternal gratitude and major kudos with Nicholas. Yes, he begins the story with no real interest in actually helping people. His bargain with Clare is little more than a game at first, but he grows and changes as he sees first-hand how difficult it is for the miners and the other people of the village. He also treats Clare with the utmost respect, always allowing her to say when their kisses are over and never once forcing her to do anything that she didn't want to. In so doing, he gradually earns her trust and respect in return, as well as her desire for more intimacies. Being with Clare ultimately makes Nicholas a better man. Except for those few selfish moments, I really liked him. His Romany background makes him unique, as the first hero with Gypsy heritage I can recall reading. He additionally has a talent for music and a live-in-the-moment attitude. He's a loyal friend to his fellow Fallen Angels and he bears respect for some of the village residents whom he remembers from childhood. While he perhaps didn't stand out quite enough to rank highly on my favorite heroes list, he nonetheless was a good one.

After the death of her father and mother, Clare lives alone and works as the local schoolmistress. She takes her responsibilities to her fellow villagers as well as her Christian duty to help them very seriously. As the teacher, she knows of all their hardships, so she goes to the Demon Earl in hopes of persuading him to help. Of course, he won't lift a finger unless she agrees to his proposition, which will likely ruin her in the eyes of the villagers, who would never allow her near their children again. But knowing how desperately they need

Nicholas's help, she impetuously agrees, hoping that maybe she can salvage her reputation by being honest with a few of her closest Methodist friends and painting the situation as her acting as his housekeeper to everyone else. Of course, things don't exactly go as planned, earning her censure from some of her fellow churchgoers, but she gradually makes progress in getting Nicholas to see the error of his ways and spurs him to get involved in making changes that benefit everyone. Clare is a feisty, take-charge kind of heroine who still has a softer, more compassionate side. She grows to care for Nicholas very quickly as she sees the man underneath the rakish exterior and the scandalous past. She never pressures him for details of what actually happened that night and he doesn't give them until the very end, but instead she trusts that the man she's come to know and love would never do something so terrible. As a person of faith, one of the things that I appreciated most about Clare's character is her crisis of faith, how despite going through the motions every Sunday and having a preacher father, she doesn't feel particularly close to God until Nicholas teaches her how to open herself up and truly love another human being.

With *Thunder and Roses* being a seven-book series, we're introduced to a few secondary characters who play key roles in future books, Nicholas's three best friends in particular. Lucien (*Dancing on the Wind*) is a smooth and perceptive spy-master, while Rafe (*Petals in the Storm*) is a duke who seems almost as bored with life, if not more so, than Nicholas. I'll be interested to see what type of woman these men need to keep them in line. Then there's Michael, who's harboring a huge grudge against Nicholas that seems to be rooted in that scandalous night. I had my suspicions as to why but for the most part I was somewhat surprised by how this part of the story played out. Michael is a former soldier who appears to be suffering from PTSD and can be rather harsh, but he has a good side, too. Again, I'll be very interested in reading more about him in *Shattered Rainbows*. Then there are some memorable characters from among the villagers, most notably Clare's friends, Owen and Marged, and their large brood of children. They're still in love after several years of marriage and Owen is a truly good man who takes great care of everyone.

Overall *Thunder and Roses* was a very good introduction to Mary Jo Putney's work. The only reason I marked off a half-star is because the story is a little slow in places and I found my mind wandering just a bit, but it didn't usually last long before the next exciting or intriguing thing was happening. I also give the author kudos for her attention to historical details. When I read her author's note at the end of the book, I was impressed with all the little things she included, which of course added to the authenticity of time and place. I'd also be remiss if I didn't mention that Nicholas's penguins absolutely enchanted me. They were definitely the first penguins I've read in a romance novel, so they completely took me by surprise.:-) I very much enjoyed the book and look forward to continuing the series soon to see all the Fallen Angels get their HEAs.

FlibBityFLoob says

I really enjoyed this book, but it was also a very strange, eccentric story. There were penguins in Regency Wales. There were weird gypsy mating dances. There was dueling fought with whips. There was Indiana Jones-esque escaping from burning buildings. There was naked billiards. There was Christian dogma. There were mine scenes that made me think of times when people fell down shafts in Little House on the Prairie.

Did I mention there was skinny dipping with penguins?

Anyway, it was a very interesting book and captured my interest. It was the first book I have ever read by Mary Jo Putney, but I believe I will read some more by her now that I have read this one. :)

Mo says

A Welsh Methodist minister's daughter changes her life when she appeals for help to Nicholas Davies, a half-Gypsy earl...

They called him the Demon Earl. They said he could do anything. Son of a rogue and a Gypsy, Nicholas Davies was a notorious rake until a shattering betrayal left him alone and embittered in the Welsh countryside.

I enjoyed this one. Reminded me a little bit of Flowers from the Storm. Clare was a strong heroine. Nicholas, betrayed in the past, thought he would never love.

We travel from the Welsh Valleys to London.

He made love to her gently, as if she were the most precious being on earth.

The Fallen Angel had come home.

Juliana Philippa says

I first read this book in 2002 so obviously did not remember a single thing about it. This proved to be good for me, because I was able to enjoy it as if it was the first time! The plot is very implausible and the machinations that cause Clare to have to live with Nicholas are so for-the-book's-sake-and-nothing-else, but the question is: did this at all impact my enjoyment of the book? No. Did I care one iota? No. Why? Because the story and characters are fantastic so who cares how improbable it all is!

Let's face it, most all these historical romances are utterly and completely ridiculous: husbands coming back from the dead; long-lost heirs and heiresses; forged wills; bad-but-actually-good pirates and crime lords; kidnapped children and heroines; murdering psychopaths always on the loose (apparently England has a disproportionate number of crazies); frequent cases of amnesia and/or mistaken identity; an unbelievable lack of the ability to communicate or clear up Big Misunderstandings (they desperately need to learn the "when you did ____, it made me feel ____" statement); thousands of hero-material noblemen running around England and almost every single one of them drop-dead-gorgeous, in their late 20s / early 30s, single, and of course just waiting for that one special woman who will completely transform their lives and their hearts when they fall in love with her; heroines we (almost always) love and can relate to, who just happen to often

be wallflowers, plain janes, poor relations, unusual or odd, bluestockings, bullied by some dastardly person(s), running from some dastardly secret(s), etc.; man whores (a.k.a rakes and rogues) who for some reason all become perfect and 100%-faithful husbands once they meet said heroines; widows who in dramatically large numbers are still virgins so that when the love of their life comes along he can luckily be the first (and only) one she does the mattress dance with; romances between governesses / companions / maids / street urchins / secretaries and the lord of the house; good characters whom we're rooting for always managing to stay alive while the bad ones we hate always die or are in some way dramatically publicly humiliated and ostracized; oh, and of course, the most unlikely thing of all: ****always****, without fail, a HEA ending.

Yeah ... sorry, what part of any of that sounded remotely realistic? None! ... Which is why we read them :-).

March 2017

Picked up the book again (this time in eBook form, which was great, because I could finally track all my favorite parts!). I had picked up several different romances and kept on picking up duds, or just wasn't feeling them, or something—wasn't sure why. So, I decided to go back to a known and beloved story to try and get back in the groove, and am so relieved that I enjoyed it as I always have and I'm not just in need of a romance break. Bye Clare and Nicholas—till next time!! <3 <3 <3

Gilgamesha says

4.5 stars

MJP is the queen of character development. She delves so deep in the psyche of her characters that you can't help but imagine yourself in their struggle and feel deeply for their suffering. I really enjoyed the nuances of both characters, the immensely complex Clare who is hiding behind her pious persona, and the layered Nicholas who chooses to let public speculation define his image instead of exposing past wounds which are still very much raw!

I also enjoyed their struggle to keep each other at arms length.

This is a must read for the fans of the genre...however that being said here are the reasons I deducted. 5 stars: First is that Clares musings became repetitive...on more than three occasions she decides to push Nicholas beyond his limit but stop him before things get to far and she is afraid of losing herself but still goes ahead with this charade.....the second reason was Michael...his refusal to reveal his grievance against Nicholas was frustrating and annoying...and Nichola's explanation for his behavior weak....it was a plot device to keep the conflict going until the end but was not very convincing.

I bother to write reviews for the books lately that truly move me....I read this book in one sitting and loved it. Definitely Recommend it!

Beatriz says

Una novela muy bonita, en que el juego de la seducción está muy bien logrado en el acuerdo que establecen los personajes principales, que incluye solo un beso diario al que ella tiene el poder de colocarle fin cada vez. Tiene otros componentes que también la hacen muy atractiva, como los problemas de seguridad en la mina y las situaciones que se viven por esa causa. Pero lo que más me gustó fue el proceso de autoconocimiento de la protagonista durante el transcurso de la historia, quien, enfrentada toda su vida a una educación religiosa al ser hija de un pastor metodista, por fin logra entender y aceptar su propia esencia.

Katharina says

Technically, it was perfect- no unnecessary drama (aka "misunderstanding"), a mostly unpredictable storyline, beautiful writing.....but what made this book so outstanding to me were the heartfelt human emotions.....(and Nicolas, I mean, he was just about the perfect hero...)

Already during the first chapter, I had to pause reading and set the book aside because I sensed that I would end up feeling for the characters way to much. And I did.

Their struggles were so real, so beautifully voiced and developed; and their coming together was utterly believable and so, so beautiful...some scenes I'm sure I will never forget..

(I didn't care too much for the criminal part of the story, but that is of no importance really, with such a beautiful love story, i didn't mind whatsoever)
