



## Man of Ice

*Diana Palmer*

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Man of the Month --- MR. MAY

Ice Man: Dawson Rutherford, our 100th Silhouette hero!

His scheme: Plan a mock engagement to help secure the land he so desperately needed.

Only one woman had the power to drive this seemingly heartless cowboy wild, and now he needed her to pose as his bride-to-be! A tempestuous night long ago had forced Dawson to abandon all hope of making Barrie his lawfully wedded wife, but there was not telling what sharing a spread with this hot-blooded woman would do to the man of ice...

## Man of Ice Details

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Author : Diana Palmer

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## From Reader Review Man of Ice for online ebook

### StMargarets says

These two belonged together. They were both so messed up and had imprinted their hurt on each other from such an early age, that only they could heal each other. This is an intense story with just the H/h as a focus.

The heroine had loved her stepbrother since she was 15 - even though he was never nice to her. Five years before, when heroine was 22, she was vacationing in France with her stepfather and hero. She shyly flirted with the H and he finally gave into his lust for her that night. Heroine was a virgin and it was painful. Hero is horrified he lost control and said horrible things to her. Heroine fled, had a miscarriage, and hasn't let a man touch her since.

Hero seeks her out after five years because he wants to buy land from a widow and he needs the heroine there as fake fiance. He's impotent and doesn't want the widow to know. (Just roll with it - it was a flimsy excuse) He's also just found out heroine lost his baby and he realizes it's time to make amends and face his demons.

And what demons he has. Too often the asshat heroes explain about an evil mother or stepmother in a paragraph or two, but DP dives into this hero's psyche in a way I don't usually see in a category. Hero is messed up. He thinks love = humiliation and vulnerability and shows this over and over again in his fear masked by aggression.

Heroine puts up with his neurosis because she loves him. Is that good or bad? I don't know. DP gives them both an HEA because of the stubborn strength of their love. The story makes sense, but I don't think you could replicate this in real life. Hero was too messed up and had acted out too much for mere romance to solve his deep-seeded issues. The heroine being afraid of sex after her rape-like first time was actually less of a trauma than what the hero was experiencing.

If you like a deep dive into someone's psyche, you might like this. But warning - the hero is guilt-ridden mess about the rape, the miscarriage, his treatment of the heroine. DP is sympathetic to both the H/h, but some readers might think that the hero is given too much sympathy - making it all about him - especially when he is so unhinged at the end. (Like driving drunk, leaving on his wedding day, throwing the heroine's clothes out the window

Read at your own risk, especially if sexual trauma, erratic male behavior, and obsessive thoughts are triggers. It's an intense story, but not a very healthy one.

H/h are both celibate during their separation. This was a sequel of sorts to Maggie's Dad, but we never see those characters. There are just a few references - and it's the same town in Wyoming.

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### Veronica Mckenna says

Hero was an ass, he had excuses but not good enough, if you keep telling a woman you don't love her and she is worthless it becomes true, in my eyes he never redeemed himself, and she gave in too easily!

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## **Fiona Marsden says**

This my first Diana Palmer book. I can't believe I never read her before. This has all my crazy feels. Virgins, abstinent men because reasons, tortured hero (see previous comment). This is my idea of a reunion romance. All the hurt and the angst but also all of the love.

Barrie and Dawson are step-siblings. They pretty much combusted when they first met and she was sixteen and he was a few years older. I never quite figured out exactly. She fell in love and he fell in fear. Cos of "reasons" which are gradually exposed over the course of the story.

Then five years ago things went totally belly up in the aftermath of them giving into the attraction. So for five years they've been avoiding each other and hating on each other. Each believing totally the wrong thing about each other.

Then he finds out something that makes his guilt even more devastating and he resolves to do something about it.

I loved this book. He was so broken and he'd broken her but the love was so strong. I think that's what gets you through the whole crazy messed up shemozzle. Because we know, deep down, the love is there and it's going to be worth it. It made me all emotional.

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## **Cenna Lipscomb says**

I think the male character in this story needed some serious counseling. I can't see any man going 5 years without finding out why he is impotent. Of course he was carrying around some major guilt, as well he should after forcing his step sister to have sex with him and just leaving her the way he did, blaming her for everything. Unfortunately the female mother roles he was exposed to had already warped his perception of women. As for our heroine, what a doormat. How could she possibly be in love with someone who treated her so callously, no regards to her feelings, and his constant accusations about her sexual life when he knows nothing for sure. This was one messed up pair that needed to be on the psychologists couch.

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## **Debbie DiFiore says**

### **Weirdest book ever**

Wow. What a strange story. I am still trying to process what I read but there was a strong feeling of whiplash throughout it. The hero was cray cray. The heroine was just cray! Together they were cray cray cray !

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## **Claire says**

Sometimes you feel so strongly about a book, simply rating it just won't do.

This is one of those books. I can't describe how much I hated it.

To preface, I know that romance novels aren't the place to go for strong, self-sufficient heroines or sensitive, type B guys. But Man of Ice offended me on multiple levels and I wanted to get it out there for other readers.

First, let's get this out in the open. The hero raped the heroine. You can couch it in "I wanted you so badly I couldn't stop" as much as you want, but when a woman (a virgin at that) is crying, scared, clearly in pain, and telling you to stop, and you don't, that's not romantic, that's rape. Period.

Second, the main characters are pathetic and moronic on multiple levels. The "hero," in addition to being a rapist, is an emotional fuckup, constantly and cruelly taunting the woman he purports to be crazy about, all because one time he saw his stepmother look sexy to "lure" his father. Yep. That's the entirety of his emotional hangup. Oh, and for 11 years, he assumed that because Barrie's mother was an evil, seductive, gold-digging shrew (see the paragraph on misogyny below), that Barrie must be, too. This is presented as a completely understandable and forgivable mistake to make. Because all us ladies (especially related ladies) are the same.

The heroine is pretty much the definition to TSTL. A 26 year old woman who has had sex (well, OK, was raped) and she doesn't know what impotence is? She's a doormat, of course, but perhaps that shouldn't be surprising given the decade of emotional abuse the hero put her through. And apparently pregnancy (because his manly super-sperm got her pregnant both of the first two times they sexed) is something akin to stage 4 cancer, in which wearing a lacy bra when you're two weeks pregnant is "scandalous" and a woman vows to stay in bed the entire nine months to prevent a miscarriage. Lady, if something is wrong with your pregnancy, your body is going to end it, and no amount of bedrest is going to prevent it. But again, she's an idiot.

There's also an undercurrent of misogyny throughout the entire book that's troubling. Aside from the submissive, innocent heroine, all the women are total assholes. Both characters' mothers (both dead) told them that they didn't want them, would have had abortions had they been legal, blahblahblah. All the women around the main characters' age serve no other purpose than to flirt vapidly with the hero because, you know, that's the only reason why us ladies talk to men. Additionally, there's a plot hole in which, early in the story, both characters acknowledge that their parents married one another for love, but later, Barrie's mother becomes this seductress who only married Dawson's father for his money.

A shitshow of a book. Avoid at all costs.

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## Janie says

I feel a headache come on everytime I think about Dawson. I think he might be an even bigger d\*\*\* than JB Hammock from Heartbreaker! Keep in mind that JB was a **JERK**, maybe even along the lines of Tate Winthrop from Paper Rose. Diana Palmer wasn't kidding when she titled this book Man of Ice.

Like all DP books I love, this made me bawl my eyes out for our sweet, virginal heroine.

Weird how I still love to reread this book though (at least once a month!), which I first discovered when I was 14 (6 years ago!) and I was even more delighted when I found out that there was a manga version of it!

I've always found it odd how Dawson claims throughout the story that he's never had proper sex with a woman.. Umm what?

Yeah, I don't buy it Dawson. Still you're one of my favourite arsehat heroes! Mind you many of DP's books are based on arse heroes who end up grovelling at the end. I love it!!!! I love it!!!!

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## Jonel Boyko says

Palmer returns to the scene and makes us fall in love with Wyoming all over again with this heartbreakingly heart-warming tale. She uses exquisitely vivid descriptions that you can't help but picture. I can barely express how fully she drew me into this tale. The narrator really enhanced the story with his varying pace, tone, and emotion.

You get to know the main characters of this tale in intimate detail. Their past, present, and futures all make their way into this tale. I felt for these characters. My heart broke for both of the main characters in this heart-warming yet shocking tale. The supporting cast, although small, was perfect for this tale. They round out the story nicely, walking the line between family and employee.

I was emotionally invested in this story. I didn't want it to end but at the same time I wanted to know how it turned out. It was a brilliant tale that I wouldn't hesitate to recommend.

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## Chantal ♥? says

### 3.5 DON'T LOOK AT ME STARS

This Diana Palmer book is back in the era when women fell into two categories, slut or Virgin. There was no in between here.

The rules are simple: if you are a virgin (this tag must be on your face here I guess) then you are not to be touched unless the man was willing to marry you. However, if you slept with someone even once, then you and my friend are a "total slut" and are fair game to all who would want to sleep with you.

Note here: I said HE wants to sleep with YOU. I said nothing about what you wanted.

So now you know the rules I can get down and dirty with the story.

#### **WHICH IS TOTALLY F\*CKED UP BUT I ENJOYED IT**

We have the hero who is a total zero Ice man Dawson Rutherford (even his name sounds pretentious here) who feels as stepbrother to the heroine he knows who and what his stepsister is.

He is your typical rich entitled asshole.

He is attracted to her and so her being a slut (how he draws this conclusion is anyone's guess) he comes into her bedroom one night and rapes her (forced seduction by some).

This of course sends him in a tail spin as she is a virgin and he feels like shit for defiling her. So now his stepsister is of course a slut!!!

Yes now that she has been "opened for business" she is having guys two at a time, or so he thinks.

#### **WTF, REALLY CRAZY MUCH?**

So now that she is a slut why would Dawson have anything to do with her? Well the reason is simple, extreme guilt.

Now I know what you are thinking of course he "rapes" her so he feels bad...but nope that was not enough for him to contact with her and try to make amends. (view spoiler)

He finds out by chance that five years ago she had suffered a miscarriage of his child.

Just so we are clear now the "RAPE" was not bad enough for his guilt conscience, he now has to live with

the fact that she lost his baby as well. Therefore, He will stop at nothing to make it up to her. He manipulates her into going back to their family ranch with him.

### **HE NEEDS TO MAKE AMENDS TO HER**

Now the Heroine called Berrie has been in love with Dawson since the beginning. She is sweet and kind and unlike most of DP heroines she is beautiful.

She is afraid of him and of sex and does not want to deal with her issues with intimacy or her feelings for Dawson.

This story was full of drama some including another woman but mostly it's a trill ride.

### **YES IT WAS CRAZY BUT I LOVED IT!**

I have read it at least 5 times. It's one of my go to books when I am looking for a totally batsh\*t crazy story with loads of drama and an epic grovel!!!

Enjoyable and recommend for all those who enjoy drama and/or Diana Palmer

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### **Tina says**

I gave it four stars because it was decent writing but I really wasn't into this book. Strange concept for a romance novel. A man who is not into having sex, has major sexual issues and gets insanely angry after having sex? Weird for this genre. I'm still shaking my head.

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### **shewhorefusestnameherself says**

#### **Train wreck abuser**

This guy is going to kill her someday. He needs years of therapy to recover from his horrific childhood. She's got rape is romance syndrome.

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### **Kay says**

4 Stars! ~ For the past five years, Dawson Rutherford had let his stepsister continue to avoid him. He'd hurt her terribly and hated himself for it. For years he had thought she was just like her mother, teasing and taunting men to get what she wanted. One night of passion, to his shock, he discovered that Barrie had always been innocent, when he had lost control and taken her virginity and he'd hurt her physically and emotionally. Afraid of his own passion for Barrie, he'd treated her coldly as if she deserved his hate. That night had left such bitter scars on Barrie, not only had he taken her forcefully, he'd shattered her heart. Just the thought of any man touching her was enough to make her nauseous. Now Dawson learnt another bitter truth, that their night of passion had had consequences, and that Barrie had miscarried his child without ever having told him she'd ever been pregnant. She'd born it all alone. Somehow, he had to get her back to the family ranch and make it all up to her. Because he too carried deep scars from that night when he'd lost total control and only Barrie would be able to make him whole again.

Well! This story held a few surprises. After reading "Maggie's Dad" I was intrigued by Antonia's best friend Barrie and her strained relationship with her stepbrother Dawson, so I sought this one out. At first I was sure I wasn't going to enjoy this story. Dawson's treatment of Barrie was so emotionally brutal, I didn't think he could be redeemed. But slowly as Barrie begins to realize that Dawson hates himself and not her, we see the

why. Barrie at first seemed like that deer with the big eyes in the headlights, so shocked and afraid, both of Dawson's physical side and for the love she can't stop feeling for him. There are a few very touching scenes where Dawson's guard is down and Barrie sees completely into the heart of the man she's always loved. And with her new knowledge, she's no longer that frightened deer, she becomes a woman willing to fight for the man she loves. After my shaky feelings at the beginning of the story, I'm very pleased that Ms Palmer was able to make this all work out. Though this intensely emotional love story has some very dark moments, the journey to healing and the HEA is a very satisfying one.

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### **Alexis-Morgan Roark says**

So...he had sex but hadn't had an orgasm? Huh? I feel a re-read coming on. I guess he had sex but had never felt "close" to the women or something.

Whatever. I wanna call him TSTL-am quite twitching with the need to do so actually-but, I just can't. This guy was damaged and needed some serious therapy.

He was so mean, cruel even (surprise, DP hero afterall) throughout the book that I really started not even liking him.

Then the big old jerk got himself all drunk and I just melted as he succeeded in releasing the reins on his tightly held emotions and got all sappy.

I know. I am a sick, sick reader who needs a 12-Step Program. This guy just got to me when he really shouldn't have. There were some moments-few and far between to be sure-but there were some moments of blazing clarity and such depth of emotion that I was actually stunned by her overall vision and characterization of this guy.

Others, I am sure, will read it and think I've gone quite off my rocker. Perhaps, I have.

There was a bit of a c'mon, seriously moment at the end because real life doesn't give always give us such a nicely wrapped package...then I remembered that this was FICTION and gave in to the sheer beauty of that singularly DP gift of both love and redemption.

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### **Cheesecake says**

Dawson and Barrie. Wow, that was just about the strangest DP book I've read yet. Down right bizarre! Dawson learns that Barrie had a miscarriage of their child 5 years earlier. A child he didn't know about, from an evening where he practically raped her. He decides to go to her and come hell or high water, bring her home to stay... at least that is what he says in the prologue.

Dawson and Barrie's father and mother married when Dawson and Barrie were young. It was not a happy marriage, and it's flaws partially led to the messed up present that is Dawson's existence. He spends the entire time that he knows Barrie, blaming her for the sins of her mother (and his mother too for that matter).

Seriously, this guy needs psychiatric therapy BIG TIME! I got whip lash from the number of times he was nice to Barrie, and then turned around with an evil glare and cut her legs out from under her. Schizophrenia maybe? DP tries to give reasons throughout the book for his a-hole-ish-ness. None of it really flies. I got pretty weary by 2/3 but kept hoping for a break in the viscous loop. Sure there's the obligatory hea at the end, and it was sweet, but only at the Very VERY end. And still, I was kinda waiting for him to turn around and

kick her in the teeth again. Seriously, the guy needs therapy!  
So much I could say, but why bother, he's just a wack job and she's a glutton for punishment no matter how much she 'doth protest.'

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### **Jenny says**

Impotent bipolar hero with mommy issues is in love with his sweet shy stepsister but both afraid of sex and intimacy. There is too much ugly history between them the hero raped the heroine even though she doesn't see it that way, she got pregnant she lost the baby and five years later he is back to make amends.

I wasn't disappointed, it was a good read and I liked it well enough.

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