



Mockingbird

Abigail Graham

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I came to screw my stepsister.

Picket fences and apple pie are for suckers. I've never met a woman that was good for more than a one night stand.

Until Diana.

Why did I have to meet her now?

My Dad and I are running a con on Diana and her mother. This is it. The big one. Our last score.

Except, my feelings are getting in the way...and if we screw this one up, we're all dead.

I can't give Diana anything but pain, and I love her too much to drag her into my life of crime.

But without her, my life might not be worth living.

—

My stepbrother stole my heart... and my panties.

There's something wrong here. My mother marrying a guy after knowing him less than a week, eloping to Vegas... and on top of that, I'm addicted to my new stepbrother.

Apollo Temple. He's strong, cocksure, and makes my panties melt.

I know he wants me, but he acts like I can't have him.

I need Apollo more than the air I breathe, so why is the world trying to keep us apart?

Mockingbird Details

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From Reader Review Mockingbird for online ebook

Caitlin says

Very disappointing.

The synopsis of this book is extremely misleading, thank the heavens. This story follows a young man named Apollo and a girl named Diana. Apollo and his father are gentlemen thieves, meaning they dress well and run long heists for jewels, priceless artifacts, and rare art. No one is hurt, no one knows it was them, and they make a ton of money in the end. Their newest scheme takes them to the tiny town where Diana lives with her mother, who runs a museum. Apollo and his father are there to steal a priceless work of art from Diana's mother's museum. But, when Apollo meets Diana, he finds himself falling for her and must choose whether to continue with his father in the only life he's ever known or give himself up to be with Diana.

In theory, this book is excellent. Reading the opening, you think that it will hold up to all of its promise. We begin as Apollo pulls off a heist to steal a priceless family heirloom from a spoiled heiress without tact, kindness, or decency. It's edge-of-your-seat excitement as he works to steal the ancient diamond necklace.

Then we jump to Diana and that's when you realize that this book isn't going to work out.

This story relies very strongly on a few things: Ridiculous stereotypes, instalove, rushed relationship devices, stunted dialogue, and shitty parents. Oh, and laziness.

From the very beginning, you know that Apollo hasn't had a very well-structured childhood. His mother died of lung cancer and he eventually lost his virginity to a stripper after choosing not to lose it to his father's hooker girlfriend. Like, she was a legit hooker.

Meanwhile, Diana's mother is trying to force her to date a creepy jock who apparently wants to rape her, has no characterization beyond that, and is so poorly written that it's laughable. She expects Diana to follow in her footsteps by attending the same college she did and pursuing the same degree so that she can run the same museum, all while denying Diana the right to see her father and threatening to practically disown her when she reveals that she'd rather attend a different university and study a different field. There is no reason to the woman: She just exists to suck.

From the very beginning, Diana and Apollo are smitten with each other. (And, no: I'm not going to get into the mythological connotations of their names.) They've known each other for four days, have met twice, and then are just so in love with each other that, when their parent's run off to Vegas together, they decide to stay at Diana's house and, though she's never done the deed before, she makes the decision to come cuddle with him on the couch sans bra and underwear. He fingerbangs her, she blows him, and then he decides that maybe he shouldn't take her v-card because of the scam he and his father are running, so she kicks him out of her house in the most ludicrous temper tantrum in history, then confesses the whole thing to her psycho mother when she arrives home after being specifically told to stay away from him.

When Apollo and Diana are finally reunited, they rush into the garden to fuck in a bush, he confesses what he and his father are up to, and they run inside to put a stop to the whole affair. Instead of calling the police or keeping the security guard present after finding out that a thief is present, though, they send everyone away and, somehow, Apollo's father manages to pull a gun out of nowhere, hold them at gunpoint, and force them to take him to the vault to steal the priceless artifact.

Somehow, even when people are shot, the security guard who promised to be nearby is nowhere to be found and it's down to Apollo to fight his father with a samurai sword and, apparently, scream, "En guard, motherfucker." Because that's not completely stupid.

The ending is even worse, with the hospital escape, the pregnancy, and the numerous bitchslaps. I can't even...

Honestly, though, I would have been able to forgive a lot if it hadn't been for how lazy the author was writing this story. She researched it, she put effort into writing the exercise scenes and the initial heist scene, so why didn't she put any of that same effort into the relationship-building, the final action, the sex scenes, or anything else?

There are times when Character A tells Character B something, then later freaks out when they find this out, despite the fact that they're the one who provided the info to begin with. Chastity is supposedly incapable of handling her liquor, yet a few pages later she can handle her liquor great – and this isn't just an assumption based on characters' actions, it's actually blatantly stated by Diana's narrative. The wedding is scheduled for noon, then, when Diana and Apollo are banging in the weeds, it's 11am and the wedding has been over for hours.

This story was a nope for me.

Petula says

★★★★★

Apollo Temple is a thief, he has been trained by his father to be a very good one. They have traveled all over the world, stealing from the very rich and institutions. Using their wits, physical prowess and charm to get the job done. This latest job is different. They have to steal a painting from a museum. To do that they have to get close to the woman who is in charge or her daughter.

Diana's mother thinks more of her precious museum than she does her daughter, or so Diana believes. There has been just the two of them since the divorce. They used to be close, but now her mother just will not listen to what Diana wants.

This is a good romantic suspense, where there seems no possible way for a happy ever after. Deep down our hero is a good man, but young and very much under his father's control. Our heroine is a little bit of a spoiled brat, who has until recently been used to getting her own way. A fun, sexy read.

Coco.V says

? FREE on Amazon today (3/21/2018)!?

Tracey says

This was the best one of the series. The innocent young woman meets and falls for the boy from the wrong side of the tracks. That's a great recipe for an erotic romance. It was funny, sweet, and somewhat believable.

This could have easily been broken up into two parts. I'd have read a novel about Apollo's life before he met Diana.

Melissa Ogletree says

I received this book for an honest review.

Apollo is always looking for the next score with his father, the next thrill and easy money. He hasn't had a home since he lost his mother and thinks life on the move is the way to live until he meets Diana. Diana is feeling smothered by her controlling, closed off mother. Bitter since her divorce her mom's view of her life and hers are completely different. She wants her own life but is she brave enough to stand up to her mother? Can Apollo help her learn to live freer?

Oh Apollo he was easily my favorite part of this book this noble thief who's lost and doesn't know it. He's strong and vulnerable all wrapped up in a sexy package. He also has a knack for always being there just when Diana needs him. I had a harder time connecting with Diana, something about her rubbed me the wrong way I think her best friend said it best when she pointed out the things Diana is complaining about would be dreams to others i get it's all perspective but she came across as very whinny at times and it grated on me. Overall I enjoyed the book and it was a fast paced easy read. It is a standalone with no cliffhanger.

I.Heart.Romance says

???? 3.5 Stars ????

*****Spoilers*****

"It's a nice painting. I prefer Bob Ross."

~Book: Standalone, About 165 pages

~Writing: First person. Dual, alternating POVs

~Editing: needs a little work...several small punctuation errors and a few incorrect words used.

~Steam: 2.5/5, Only a couple quick, fairly tame sex scenes.

~**Warnings:** insta-love, H has an explicit sex scene with OW, before meeting the h (hottest of the sex scenes in book)

~Hero: Apollo Temple, 20--Gentleman thief. Travels the world with his father, stealing from the rich. Has spent the last "five years training in thieving and social engineering and hacking and fighting." Definitely has some mommy issues-lost his mother at a young age and forced to live with his father and now has sexual relationships with women quite a bit older than himself. He's a nice guy, cares about women, not some OTT alpha jerk.

~Heroine: Diana Mathews, 18--Just graduated high school, debating colleges. Innocent virgin. Funny, "Smart, bold, good looking and doesn't know it."--Apollo. Trying to get out from under her mother's thumb

and make her own decisions. She's a fairly tough, mature girl, not some annoying, TSTL heroine.

"You're just another person that wants to tell me what's best for my life."

~Thoughts: I would have loved more romance between the H & h. By the 54% mark, they have only met 3 times (2 very brief meetings and one evening rescuing Diana's drunken friend). Definitely a case of insta-love, and I didn't really see their connection. Sometimes it seemed more that Apollo was itching to settle down into normalcy.

I did really enjoy this book and it definitely has some fun stuff... there's sword fighting, stolen jewels, bad guys, lies and secrets! Plus, Diana is kinda hilarious too.

"She's full into the witchy stuff, with a pentagram hanging around her neck, a lot of black clothes, purple lipstick and a ring through her lip. She looks like Hot Topic barfed on her."

"Why don't we go get something to eat?" I'd rather swallow a dead goldfish. I'd rather snort a dead goldfish."

"...the place always creeped me out. I don't like band saws, they look like they crave fingers."

~Ending: NO Cliffhanger. Rushed ending, NO Epilogue. Story ends three months later. I would have loved an epilogue a couple years into the future for these two. How did Apollo adjust to his new life, handle fatherhood, and did he fully recover?

Deserie williams says

Note to self. Very detailed scene with OW in the beginning. even though he hasn't met h yet it was too detailed for me and I stopped reading from that point yuck:/

Lillian Cummings says

Another great read by Abigail. This is the 2nd book I have read and it did start a bit slowing but once it got to meeting Diana that is when things changed. Diana is expected to work with her mother at the museum and go to the college that she picks. Diana doesn't want to work at the museum she hates it and she wants to choose her own boyfriend. But how can she get her mother to agree to her future.

Apollo needs to get closer to Diana as he needs to steal a priceless piece from the museum. His father has a way in but can he go through with it. Once he meets Diana he is all in but this is going to destroy her when she finds out about his true intentions. Apollo's father drops a bomb by marrying the mother and telling Apollo that he owes money to some bad people and he has no choice but do go through with the job.

Apollo is falling for Diana he really wants to be with her and she knows that he is hiding something. He tells her the truth but she doesn't believe him but that is all about to change. Who will come out alive? The game is about to change things for good.

A great read that had a twist that I never saw coming. The story had a nice easy pace to it and kept me wanting more. I received a ARC copy from the author.

Cindy Caron says

I was given an ARC of this book in exchange for my honest review.

What a fantastic book! The author's ability to weave such an amazing story without making it overly complicated is wonderful. The plot is a carefully created tale of a couple falling in love and defeating all odds of being together, even though it seems like the world is totally against their union. Apollo is a "gentleman's thief" along with his father, and has been gently coerced into this career after losing his mother at a young age. Diana is a recent high school graduate who has lost the ability of communicating with her mother over the past few years. When the four of them all get together, fate takes over and changes their worlds forever.

The story takes us on a journey covering many occasions, both with and without Diana and her mother, but truly heats up when sparks fly between Apollo and Diana. These characters are full of heart and carry much strength. If you are looking for a good romantic suspense with a few great twists, this is definitely the book for you. I am sure you won't be disappointed. I know I wasn't.

Nadine Bookaholic says

This was my first read by Abigail Graham and although I wasn't terribly impressed by this book I will give some of her other books a read. I had a hard time connecting with the characters, Apollo and his father are thieves and are hired to steal a painting from a museum that is run by Carol, Diana's mother; the plan is for Steven to date Carol and get the codes needed to break into the vault from her. Sounds simple right, well it's anything but. There is a whole lot going on and it's very fast paced although it took me a few days to read this book. I am still trying to figure out why it took me so long to read this the only thing I can think of is that I had such a hard time getting into the story it just dragged.

I have been given a copy of this book from the author in exchange for my honest review, so there you have it; a decent story I just had a hard time connecting to the characters.

iliana G says

I was given an ARC by the author for an honest review.

Apollo and his father are thieves travelling around the world and scoring loot and chicks.

Carol is a curator and lives with her daughter Diana in the museum grounds.

Apollo and his dad have to steal a painting and in order to do that they have to get involved with Carol and Diana.

What happens when true love appears?

How can they steal the painting and save their lives?

I have to say that i was not overly thrilled with this book.

I have read other books of this author and found them intresting but this one i found too long and dragging and i just couldn't connect with the characters.

The heat and need between Apollo and Diana was simply not there.

The plot was intresting and had some nice twists and turns but i just couldn't connect.

The sex scenes are mild and few .

It could have been better...but its not bad.

Babel says

I can't believe Mockingbird could change my view again and again as I kept reading. It started as interesting then slowed down a bit only to rush up in a bout of adrenaline that shocked me into ecstasy.

It's crazy, beautiful and completely unexpected!

The writing style is really fluent and realistic, it made me feel so much a part of Apollo's inner thoughts. There is a particular scene when he and Diana share a moment of passion that feels overwhelming.

The hot guy is nice! Yes, I know this sounds weird, but sometimes bad ass men just become annoying despite being scorching hot. Apollo Temple is not like that. For a very refreshing change, the character is a thief, sexy and good at heart. I liked him from chapter one which by the way reflects so well how he works, what he thinks of the people he robs and those he charms to work with him, and how he deals with his father, the master thief.

The best aspect of the novel is embodied in Apollo. He is an awesome character for many reasons: all his assets, his easygoing beauty, his risky job, but in particular because of his moral dilemma. Brilliant at thievery and deceit, he also has an inner battle over the way he lies and manipulates people. In addition, I liked his relationship with his flawed father who is his mentor too.

On the other hand, I didn't care much for Diana at first. I could understand her need to be free of her possessive mother and find her way on her own, but she stroke me as if she despised her privileged life surrounded by art, history and opportunity.

But then... OMG. Everything takes on so much meaning and weight. This story is the most mind-blowing one I've ever read. It's just crazy, a pure and thrilling masterpiece that pulls you from side to side like a rag doll. I couldn't believe my eyes when this sad thief full of remorse storyline turns into an explosion of action, drama, deception, James Bond-twists, impressive heroics and deep romance with a quirky finale that left me breathless, awed and laughing out loud. So glad I read it!

Chantal ♥? says

Ok I will admit I skip thru a lot of the bull in this book because the hero was just someone I could not find any redeeming qualities about and even at the end I was right. He does so many manwhorish (is that even a

word, well if not it really should be) things that he was not a hero in my eyes.

So I will only say if you can get past the first 3 chapters without being pissed then you will enjoy this book. I on the other hand could not. I hate rating a book that I did not fully read but I can't just not say anything here. I did waste over an hour on this book.

Angie says

I can't remember how I came across this book, but I do remember the "step brother" angle standing out. Since the first line of the synopsis mentions "step-sister" I think that's REALLY misleading. Although his father is dating her mother mid-way in the book, that doesn't have the bearing it might have for similar storylines. The focus is centered around the dramatic and suspenseful story of two young adults finding their identities separate of the paths their parent's expectations. As I read beyond the sample chapter, the book changed and I quickly adapted to a much deeper and stronger storyline.

Apollo and Diana are as different as they are similar - completely different upbringings, but both are working through finding their place despite having parents with serious (and selfish) flaws. Diana was so likable, clever and full of witty observations (Bob Ross!). Their struggles were palpable, particularly Apollo's times of reflections and yearning for normalcy. Although I'm not a fan of drawn out inner monologues, the author wrote their thoughts in such an easy way the words just flowed.

This book is a standalone and told from Apollo and Diana's points of view. Again, don't be misled by the synopsis. This is so much more than a step-brother/taboo romance.

Sherry Haynes says

I went into the story thinking it would be a different scenario than it was. It has a great deal of potential but still lacked for me to rate more than a 3 star. Too many questions left up in the air for me. The plot is good enough to keep me reading so I will definitely read more by this author. I still am confused about the title of the book because it didn't seem to fit the story line.

Note: This has a HEA but if you don't like players, cons or lies then you will not like this book.
