



The Harder You Fall

Gena Showalter

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From New York Times bestselling author Gena Showalter comes another scorching Original Heartbreakers tale featuring an aloof bad boy and the rowdy Southern belle who rocks his world... Millionaire video-game creator Lincoln West has a dark and tragic past. The sought-after bachelor lives by a rigid schedule and a single rule—one relationship per year, lasting no more than two months. No exceptions. When he gave up the big city for a small town, he hoped to escape the worst of his memories—until a brash beauty dredges up long-buried emotions. A reformed party girl, Jessie Kay Dillon is determined to walk the straight and narrow. But her love-hate sizzle with West is just too irresistible. They can't be near each other without tearing off their clothes, but the last thing she needs is to be his next two-month dump. Will she become the one exception? Because as any former girl-gone-wild knows: rules are made to be broken. "Emotional, heart-tugging, kept me turning the pages!" —Carly Phillips, *New York Times* Bestselling Author

The Harder You Fall Details

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From Reader Review The Harder You Fall for online ebook

Gretchen (About That Story) says

This was an awesome story! West and Jessie Kay had such a wonderful story filled with animosity, lust, and need... and so much emotion and love. Great addition to the series!

I thought Jessie Kay and West were really good characters. I loved Jessie Kay. She'd made so many changes in her life and I loved how far she'd come. West was an intense and complicated man. He could be so hard headed but I understood why. I loved the animosity they had in the beginning and the attraction that was hidden behind it. It made for a lot of fun, playful scenes. Them opening up and letting down there guard was fantastic, as well as a bit heartbreaking and emotional. West had such a sad past and I really enjoyed learning his history, watching him open up to Jessica Kay, fight his demons, and let go of guilt. I love the changes that openness brought about, I adored seeing the softer sides of them.

The writing was so good. Loved the details and development. **I was on the edge of my seat when it came to West and his history.** He was just so demanding and controlling because of his past, which could seem way over the top, so I couldn't wait for him to get to that point of acceptance and lighten up. Getting there stressed me out. He was a hard character to love but I got there in the end. I really liked him throughout but he frustrated me because he was so freaking stubborn. Him getting to that moment of opening up was defiantly worth the wait though!

I thought the first was a bit slow but that might have been me getting annoyed with West about the situation. The second half had a much better pace and was super sweet... and when West really started to make me melt. There's some drama mixed as well that kept things moving along well and was a nice addition to the story.

Really great read with likable characters that had the right mix of fun and drama mixed in with a lot of love and emotion. **I am loving this series!**

Jasbell76 says

"reformed party girl" *roll eyes*

Sabrina (Soter) Sally says

"Sì, lui amava quella donna. La amava con tutto il suo cuore. Lei aveva spezzato le catene che lo imprigionavano e lo aveva reso libero. Era diventata il suo faro nella tempesta, la ragione per cui lui si svegliava ogni mattina e si addormentava ogni notte con il sorriso. Lei era tutto ciò che contava. Lei era la sua felicità."

Siamo giunti al terzo capitolo di questa bella serie, che anche se ha altri volumi, di fatto conclude le storie del trio di amici Jase/West/Beck. Devo dire che forse questa è la storia che mi è piaciuta più di tutte, perché West e Jessie Kay sono i personaggi più complessi e a tutto tondo tra le varie coppie (che inutile dire rispuntano a ripetizione con mia grande gioia! *ç*). Come gli amici, anche West ha un passato tragico tra droga abusi e lutti ed è per questo che inizialmente cerca con tutte le sue forze di respingere l'attrazione che

prova per l'esuberante e testarda Jessie Kay rendendosi a dir poco odioso....ma si sa, l'amore è l'altra faccia dell'odio e la moneta non ci mette poi molto a girare XD Ho amato molto West come protagonista (sebbene la faccenda dei due mesi l'ho trovata a dir poco ridicola e volevo prenderlo a schiaffi a ripetizione XD) ma ancora di più ho amato Jessie Kay, la dimostrazione vivente che le seconde occasioni devi crearle, che si può cambiare, che non bisogna accontentarsi e che, almeno nei libri, i sogni si avverano! *ç* Jessie Kay non è a prima vista la donna ideale: l'avevamo conosciuta nei libri precedenti come la sorella promiscua (si è ripassata tutto il trio XD) ed egocentrica, un peso ed un continuo dispiacere per la sorella Brook Lynn. Ma vedere la sorella e l'amica trovare il vero amore, e le tante delusioni (e diciamolo, anche bacchettate XD) subite l'hanno profondamente cambiata e adesso è decisa ad essere una persona migliore, ad aspettare il vero amore e non accontentarsi di ragazzi da una botta e via. Non sarà facile per lei, perché lei per prima è piena di incertezze e si sente inferiore e non aiuta il fatto che praticamente tutti i personaggi maschili del libro si siano fatti una certa idea di lei e non esitino a spiattellargliela in faccia XD Ma alla fin ovviamente l'amore trionferà e Jessie troverà il suo lieto fine (e il lavoro dei suoi sogni). Mi è piaciuto che nonostante la forte tensione sessuale tra i due Jessie rimanga fedele ai suoi principi nuovi di zecca e non permetta a West di farla sentire come un'altra tacca sul letto...tra i due il rapporto si sviluppa lentamente ma con costanze e coerenza, e ben prima di diventare amanti diventano amici, complici e innamorati *ç* Spero vengano pubblicati anche gli altri libri della serie, non mi dispiacerebbe vederli apparire sullo sfondo con figli al seguito XD

Sofia T. (♥ Dimitri Belikov) says

The Original Heartbreakers are back!

After meeting Beck, Strawberry Valley's most sought out bachelor, the one known as 'one and done' we now meet Lincoln West aka 'two months and done'.

Lincoln West lives by many rules but there is just one particular rule that keeps him going; never date a woman for more than two months. The secrets of his past are well guarded even from his best friends, Jase and Beck. He would do anything for them but he would never let them worry about his own demons. There is no way out of from his personal hell.

Well, never say never Lincoln!

Jessie Kay is a force not to be reckoned with! The former party girl/ Strawberry Valley beauty queen is a changed woman. After her sister's accident, Jessie Kay has decided to let her party days go and welcome adulthood (or not). Helping her sister with her catering business may not be what she wanted to do but she will do anything that keeps her sister happy. It would probably be a better job if she didn't have to cater to West.

The tension is there, the chemistry is there but Jessie Kay wants to break Lincoln's rules as well.

I've fallen in love with this series from the very beginning! I loved Jase and Beck's stories and I was really looking forward for this one. The harder you fall was everything I expected it to be.

West was a stubborn man who couldn't quite let go the memories of his past and the guilt that came with them. He blamed himself for so many things and he wouldn't let these feelings go no matter how much Jase and Beck reassured him that everything's in the past. Jessie Kay was troubled by guilt as well. Her sister does a lot to let help deal with it but she's convinced that it is her fault that they have lost everything.

Jessie Kay and West were so stubborn, I had no idea who was going to win the games they played. Their HEA doesn't come easy but when it happens, it's perfect with lots of humor and romance.

The harder you fall is A-M-A-Z-I-N-G!!! If you've loved Jase and Beck's stories then you're going to love this one too!

Posted on: <http://sofialovesreading.blogspot.co...>

Fanny says

The Harder You Fall es el tercer libro de la serie The Original Heartbreakers de la autora Gena Showalter y narra la historia de Jessie Kay y West.

No empecé la lectura con muchas expectativas, ya que la pareja protagonista era la que menos me interesaba de la trilogía. Ella me cayó fatal en el primer libro: inmadura, egoísta, malvada, etc aunque luego en el siguiente su actitud mejoró, yo seguía sin tenerle mucho cariño. Con West no sabía que esperar, a pesar de ser un personaje secundario en los dos libros anteriores no llegamos a conocerlo, solo sabemos lo mínimo y lo que sabemos no lo pintan como el mejor hombre. Aun así esta trilogía me ha gustado mucho, por lo que decidí leer este tercer libro y cruzar los dedos para que no fuera insoportable de leer.

No fue insoportable, pero sí muy denso y aburrido, se me hizo eterno. Puede que parte de la culpa fuera mía, ya que lo inicié teniendo una idea preconcebida de la historia pero también creo que este tercer libro es el más flojo de todos.

Los protagonistas como me temía no me gustaron, por lo que no llegué a conectar con ellos y entender sus decisiones.

Estoy tan harta de los finales como el de este libro, son tan clichés y *telenovelescos* * suspiro *

En fin, si la autora escribe más libros de la saga puede que los lea... depende de quienes sean los protagonistas.

2 Estrellas!

Laura says

This book was so fucking great!

[I need more of Jessie Kay.](#)

Review to come tomorrow.

Jo says

Whatever this was, whatever had changed between them, whatever he was doing, she wanted no part of it—because deep down she wanted all of it.

Jessie Kay Dillon is determined to start anew, by not being the party girl anymore. She wants to find what her sister and friends have found, someone to love. The only problem is the love-hate thing she has going with sexy West whom is exactly not what she needs. He can only offer her a two month relationship after

which he will dump her and she wants more.

He couldn't afford to like Jessie Kay. He just...couldn't. There was too much feeling there. Some of it good—too good—and a lot of it bad.

Lincoln West became a millionaire by creating video-games and he has a dark and tragic past. A past that refuses to leave him without guilt. He believes in rules and schedules it keeps his darkest monsters at bay and his single relationship rule is once a year and it can't last more than two months. And keeping to this rule has always been easy until Jessie Kay entered his life. He's never wanted anyone as desperately as he does her and he's been trying his best to keep his distance but the more he gets to know about her the more he wants her, in his bed, in his life. But his rules, his guilt makes it impossible to give her what she deserves.

She wasn't what he should want, but somehow she'd become everything he could not resist, and he was tired, so damn tired, of walking, hell, running away from her.

Luckily Jessie Kay is a bad girl gone good and she knows that some rules are meant to be broken.

He was the sun she orbited, the vortex she couldn't escape.

I freaking loved Jessie Kay. She's sassy and doesn't let anyone walk over her. I loved how feisty she was, how she stood up to West and I also loved how vulnerable she was and how deeply she cared about those she loved, how loyal she was to them.

She was every fantasy he'd never known he had, and his blood burned for her.

West is such a broken hero and I just loved him. His painful past made it impossible for him to see any light, just the darkness he surrounded himself with and my heart hurt for him. His loyalty to Beck and Jase was so amazing and I loved how protective he was over Jessie Kay even when he tried to push her away.

"We're at war?"

"Yes! Your body clearly wants to invade mine."

He snorted, then looked down and said, "At ease, men. We've entered hostile territory."

I loved how intense their romance was and I also loved their hilarious banter. It was so much fun seeing them battling their feelings, each other and unable to keep away. And when they finally gave in - magic!

"You are the sun, and I'm one of the lucky planets allowed in your orbit. Nothing and no one else exists for me."

I loved everything about this romance, how passionate, angst-filled, sweet and romantic it was.

Gena Showalter definitely left the best of these friends for last and it's definitely my favorite in the series so far. This is a really great series for all contemporary romance fans.

Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

"Showalter has another hit on her hands!"

Read this review in its entirety at Fresh Fiction

Julia's Book Haven says

I was a little unsure about West as a hero but he surprised me. I knew I'd love Jessie Kay, but I'm really glad West was able to win me over. Although a lot of that might have been because Jessica Kay is so awesome that she makes everyone around her awesome lol. Overall this one might be my favourite of the series, and I definitely recommend any Showalter fans who haven't read this series yet to go out and get them! There is really no genre that Showalter can't conquer!

Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

The Harder You Fall is book three in The Original Heartbreakers series by Gena Showalter. I have loved this series from the first. I can't believe I let the release of this book get by me without realizing it was out. So, I'm a few months late in reading it. I loved every page of it. But I do encourage you to start at the beginning of this series. Even though each book can be read as a stand alone, you will miss so much if you don't start at the beginning and meet all of the characters since they continue to play an important part in each other's lives in each book.

This book centers on Jessica Kay Dillon, Brook Lynn's older sister. We got to know Jessie Kay in the previous books as the party girl, the girl that Brook Lynn was constantly trying to save. We also knew that there was some sort of strange either chemistry or animosity between Jessie Kay and West. Every time they were near each other it was obvious.

Jessie Kay has finally straightened herself out. Now she is dedicated to proving to her sister that she can be a good sister. She has so much to make up for. Her sister never gave up on her. Even though Jessie Kay has never forgiven herself for what she put her sister through, and still feels responsible for the death of her mother, she is a force to be reckoned with. Her bubbly personality and her caring ways make it impossible not to love her. She is spontaneous, crazy, funny, and beautiful. So she wonders why it is that no man wants her. Why is it that they never stick around?

“Why was she such a failure? What made her so unworthy of more?”

Lincoln West or West, moved to Strawberry Valley, Oklahoma with his two brothers-by-circumstance. He is a millionaire video-game creator. West has a dark past, one filled with a drug addict mother, foster homes, and so much more. He has never forgiven himself for what happened to his brother, Jase, or to his girlfriend, Tessa, when he was still a teenager. So now he is punishing himself. He allows himself a girlfriend once a year for two months and two months only. Then they cut ties, over and done with. That's all he will allow himself. No exceptions.

West has been fighting his growing obsession with Jessie Kay. He finds himself following her to make sure she is safe. Worrying about her, thinking about her, fantasizing about her. He's sure she is attracted to him as well. But if he gave in and asked her to be his next two month relationship, what would happen when it was over? She is the sister of his best friend/brother's fiancé. He's not even good enough for her. She deserves so

much more but the thought of any other man touching her ignites a rage within him.

“She wasn’t what he should want, but somehow she’d become everything he could not resist, and he was tired, so tired, of walking, running away from her.”

These two together were just, sigh, amazing. I loved the way their relationship progressed. Jessie Kay was so intuitive to West. She just seemed to know how to help him get over his issues. And yes, the man has a lot of issues. Their Christmas gifts to each other actually made my eyes water. I am a highlighter and let me tell you, I could have highlighted this entire book. These two needed each other so badly, they just had to accept what the other had to offer. They were just so much better together than apart.

“The boy he’d been had desired Tessa, but the man he’d become desired Jessie Kay. There was no comparison.”

“Her taste had changed the chemical makeup of his brain. He was no longer West; he was Jessie Kay’s man.”

This book made me smile (a lot,) sigh and swoon (a lot,) and I couldn’t put it down. And I absolutely loved the epilogue. I don’t know if there are going to be any further books in this series or not. But again, I encourage you to start at the beginning. I don’t think you will regret it.

Elle says

★★★★ 4 STARS!!

“Don’t you know the very moment you start flirting with temptation, you’ve lost the entire war?”

“We’re at war?”

“Yes! Your body clearly wants to invade mine.” ~Jessie Kay

After I didn't feel any connection with the previous book (Jase and Beck), I hope this one will satisfy my curiosity about Lincoln West. He has mysterious persona being a millionaire video-game creator and a bachelor. Gena Showalter always keep the best for the last. So, here I come!

Jessie Kay think she has no future nor happily ever after like her sister, Brook Lynn. She never serious when dating a guy because she's hoping for THE ONE. The ex-Strawberry Valley beauty queen is helping her sister with the catering service. Lincoln West is an enigmatic man who recently move to Strawberry Valley alongside his two best friends. Because of his traumatic past, he couldn't keep relationship for a long time. But when it comes to Jessie Kay, he thought everything is under control. Apparently not. That woman drives him insane. He could't resist her charm and smart mouth.

“You are the sun, and I’m one of the lucky planets allowed in your orbit. Nothing and no one else exists for me.” ~Lincoln West

In this book, Jessie Kay is a changed woman. I simply liked her. She has rebellious streak and independent. She could resist all West's charm almost all the time. But it didn't mean she could handle her jealousy but she let it go. Sometimes she think that she's worthless and unlovable because her awful memories. Lincoln is hardly likable at first. He's an asshole when around Jessie Kay and it looks like he 'bully' her. I melted when he slowly give her attention. He's very romantic person. Like Jessie Kay, West has horrible past that lead Jase into prison and his addiction with alcohol and drugs. He becomes time freak with schedule.

“If you begin to ache for a man...for a kiss, a touch, fingers...anything...you come to me. You tell me. You get it from me. No one else.” ~Lincoln West

I really enjoyed their tug-of-war and constant craving with each other. Look but do not touch! Yeah, it's their label. They could eye-fucking with each other but the chemistry definitely undeniable. Because of West's commitment issue, they couldn't move their relationship more than as a friend. Jessie Kay didn't want the 2 months relationship. She's trying really hard to break it because she want to be with him forever. She help West to forgive himself. It was slow progress but she didn't give up. With their 'friendship' status, West turns to be possessive. He's adorable and called her Kitten. Aww...

Maybe it's personal, but I don't like when Jessie Kay called him sugar bear. Ugh... Sometimes their humor feels dry and too forced. Other is when they declared love with each other. Too easy. I loved their struggle at first and when everything came down to hill, it's just too sweet. I couldn't feel their fire and passion anymore. The sex feels mediocre. Bleh. Overall, as the last book The Harder You Fall is really impressed me. I loved the writing as always. I enjoyed Jessie Kay and Lincoln West's roller coaster relationship despite some issue.

Jacqueline says

I wasn't sure I could get behind Jessie Kay as a heroine based on her character in the previous 2 novels but I liked her really well. She was well done as an insecure woman who pretty much hated herself and had been looking for validation in others particularly men. She was trying to become a better person and like herself. Lincoln was also very well written as a man who had made major mistakes in his life which had led to horrendous consequences. He also had basically turned his life around. But he refused to let himself be happy. I loved how he compromised and eventually forgave himself for her sake. It wasn't all one sided. Jessie Kay tried hard to help him and to do things for him to show him she valued him. MS. Showalter does an excellent job focusing on her main couple even while having plenty of secondary characters. I could totally buy the feelings between them. I hope this series is not over even though the three main male characters have each had a story. Maybe Daniel now? Still whatever she writes next, I'll more than likely give it a go.

♥?elody says

“I couldn’t go another moment without having you in my arms.”

“Good, because I couldn’t breathe another second without being in yours.”

What does it say about a series that after every book you want to go back and deduct a star off the previous book? I swear this trilogy has been a real struggle and let down for me. Even when the couples have moments that I enjoy, the overzealous hammy writing just ruins anything I liked about them. Everybody is a cartoon, even the crazy ex girlfriend who was a second away from boiling a bunny. Like damn, can nobody have layers in Strawberry Valley?

Here it was pretty much the same old song and dance. Boy meets girl, boy fights his attraction tooth and nail to girl. They spar, circle each other, find out each other’s tearful backstories & soften up. Heroine is all ‘Gimme!’ and hero growls and stomps around and talks in circles over why they can’t be together. He needs to punish himself for his failures & mistakes. *I must hurt hurt hurt!* Heroine gives the now classic Showalter ultimatum ‘all or nothing’ to hero (because apparently every healthy reasonable relationship needs to start off with an absurd ‘forever’ promise before even *starting* said relationship. WTH? Ever heard of taking things slow?) until hero finally caves and starts verbally shitting poetry about heroine being the moonbeam, light, rainbow to his darkness. *You are so enchanting, you are too precious for words. Anything for you. Always you. Mine mine MINE.*

Me: Make it stop. Please stop.

And I can’t say it enough but these guys & even the ladies sound so much like her LOTU characters that it’s throwing me off. Since Showalter’s PR characters go above and beyond realism and are bit exaggerated yes it’s understandable. Here? It’s a problem. I just find it distracting and so campy in a contemporary/NA book. I mean...

“If he invades my picnic, I’ll gut him and feast on his remains.”

“The limo will arrive at seven,” West continued, “and we’re to be ready or we’ll suffer--and I quote-- the pain of a thousand deaths.”

The man coming for her had no polished veneer--it had been ripped away, leaving the animal beneath.

A sound more animal than human, part war cry, part victory shout--one only she could elicit--more from deep within him, heralding a change he couldn’t stop...he didn’t want to stop.

The memory breeched the surface of his mind and with a roar, he punched the wall. Metal crinkled and caved.

“I want to kill the guy. But first I want to rip out his eyes and stomp on them. I want to cut out his tongue and put it in a blender. I want to peel his skin, douse him in salt and--”

And this:

He’d tucked a pair of roughed-up jeans into combat boots, the combination lethal to her resistance. A

leather cuff circled one of his wrists, and two silver rings glinted on his fingers.

Since when does Lincoln West wear man jewelry? I only point this out because Jase is the one known for his punk/jewelry look. Ok got it. Then Beck is described as wearing a leather cuff and rings. Ookie. And now West too? They are all sounding similar to me. West is the more serious, nerdy, OCD one. And there was a pretty big inconsistency error near the end (view spoiler). So yeah while I thought West and Jessie Kay had some cute moments the overall writing with the dull predictable repetitive plot and sappy dialogue just didn't work for me.

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

review to come.

Angela (Angel's Guilty Pleasures) says

The Harder You Fall is book three in *The Original Heartbreakers* series by Gena Showalter.

I'm just adoring this series and devouring the books one by one. I just love the hometown feel, the characters and what they go through, and last narrator Savannah Richards captures me from the moment I start listening to the very end.

In *The Harder You Fall* we have Jessie Kay Dillon and Lincoln West. Jessi Kay is Brook Lynn's sister. We've gotten to know her as a party girl and Brook Lynn is constantly saving her. We also see that their is some type of hostility or is it chemistry; between Jessie and West. Lincoln West, the millionaire video-game creator. He moved to Strawberry Vale to help his friend out. He's got some major issues; a dark past that's filled with drug addiction, foster homes, and more. He's never forgiven himself on what his best friend went through and what happened to his teenage girlfriend, so now he is punishing himself.

We finally get a better understand of Jessie Kay's actions and why she did the things she did and we also get to understand West and his issues. We see that Jessie Kay is turning her life around and starting to value herself. She's proving to her sister and herself that she can turn her life around and be good. She's spontaneous, crazy, funny, and cares about her family and friends. I felt for her. As for West, well I've liked him since book one and couldn't wait to see someone come along and help him out of his funk and get him to enjoy life. He needs a little life back in his life.

These two together where amazing. I loved their relationship and how it progressed. Jessie Kay just seemed to know how to help West get over his issues. They were made for each other and brought out the best in each other.

Audio: Savannah Richards is a wonderful narrator for this series. She brings out the heartfelt moments and channels the characters to perfection. I have no complaint's. I've come to adore the audio's and can't see myself enjoying them in another way. I'm pulled in from the start to end.

The Harder You Fall is sexy, sweet, and tender in all the right places. I feel in love with this couple at the start and had a fun ride seeing them work through things and find happiness. Each book can be read as a stand alone, but I highly recommend in order, if not you will miss out on the character connections and how they all come together to have these amazing relationships.

Rated: 4 Stars
