



I Did a Bad Thing: Now It's Back to Haunt Me

Linda Green

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'Utterly compulsive' Amazon reviewer. **From the #1 bestselling author of *While My Eyes Were Closed*.**

Sarah Roberts used to be good. Then she did something bad. Very bad. Now, years later, she's living a good life. She works as a local newspaper reporter and lives with her saintly boyfriend Jonathan. She has no reason to think her guilty past will ever catch up with her. Until Nick, the man she was prepared to risk everything for, walks back into her life. And suddenly, what's good and bad aren't so clear to Sarah any more . . .

I Did a Bad Thing: Now It's Back to Haunt Me Details

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From Reader Review I Did a Bad Thing: Now It's Back to Haunt Me for online ebook

Abi Holligan says

Was hard to get into at first but once Nick came into it omg it was so sad and funny, especially with Nick only having on one sock and saying it was the new trend lmao cmon it was obvious!

Tanja says

Though it's very very well written, I'm a bit disappointed. I expected a big revelation as to what the "bad thing" was, that this was more of a thriller like other books I read from Linda, but it wasn't, it was basically a love story. Too bad, because it had loads of potential, more than just the three stars I can give it.

Cheryl Lomas says

I really didn't like this book. Sarah the main character was such a selfish person who ultimately when it came down to it only thought about her happiness. Her poor boyfriend Jonathan was so nice and worthy (if a little wet) ! He certainly didn't deserve her at all. Nick wasn't much better either ! A long novel that could have been wrapped up in a 100 less pages. Sorry just didn't enjoy it at all !

Lisa says

This book starts out fun, but ends up being all over the place. There's a forbidden affair, self acceptance, tragic past, self punishment for aforementioned tragic past, and unhappy relationships.

I guess the major problem I have with this book is the way it glamourises affairs. I remember Sarah likens her relationship with Nick to Charles and Camilla's. It paints the picture that having an affair is morally acceptable.

On the other hand, the respective partners of Sarah and Nick are shallow and not at all likable. I don't understand how Sarah and Nick can stay with these people in the first place.

The way the author describes Sarah's relationship with Jonathan is too simplistic and one-dimensional. Jonathan himself is so flat and one-dimensional anyway that I can hardly sympathise with him. This relationship ends rather abruptly and so is the ending of the book.

I'm afraid that the 'bad thing' that Sarah was supposed to have punished herself is not such a big deal. The 'bad thing' is discussed only until about halfway through the book, then reappears near the end to tie up the story.

The romance part doesn't really get me going either, it is neither hot or romantic.

Rachel Zylstra says

I can't say anything bad about this book, I really enjoyed reading it! A great storyline, no boring bits, lots of laughs, a few tears, my kinda book :)

Robin says

My 3 star instead of 4 for this particular novel is based on my feeling that Linda Green was not as comfortable with this one as her others. It seems to jerk a little, rather than smoothly taking the protagonists' views and melding them into a terrific, well balanced novel. It might be because in this one she is dealing with a number of difficult topics, and the nuances that are necessary for dealing with these are not as readily available to a fiction writer as a non-fiction writer.

Where a non-fiction writer could balance the positives and negatives of Jonathon's commitment to green issues, leading to his selfish behaviour at Sarah's birthday dinner and then later when she rectifies his mistake (he forgets to buy milk for his political event then criticises her purchase on ethical grounds when she helps out). In the novel we, the audience must be shown how unpleasant this adherence to his political ideas can be irritating to those who suffer the consequences without having the same commitment.

Sarah has had her own political issues in the past, and these are dealt with rather well. The Labour Party problems with leadership and Iraq; union commitment and work for its membership; the value of voting - because of commitment rather than a requirement are all dealt with well. Sarah comes out of these far better than she imagines she should.

Although she might seem selfish, after all she wants to be loved and to love in return rather than be part of an ideological commitment that sits badly with her desire to enjoy life, her right to choose her life is undeniable.

I finished this novel, feeling impressed that Linda Green tackled the political issues and the drive behind commitment so well. I just would have liked a smoother and less awkward approach.

Sophie Worgan says

I read this book in two days! It was really easy to read, even though it jumps from one year to another on each chapter. I was almost shouting at Sarah to get with Nick even though I should of felt sorry for Jonathan. I felt really happy after reading the book, definitely recommend for a quick pick me up!

Ann says

I hate this book, not for the storyline, which in the most part was good, but for the obnoxious and vile lead female protagonist Sarah. She pissed me off from the first page, whilst talking about the present. The past Sarah was fun. Shit happens, lives fall to shit. We get it.

This book made me cry tears of anger that should have been tears of sympathy, compassion and empathy of a pain I know is all too real. The way she wrote it brought back too many unhappy and heartbreaking memories.

I didn't enjoy this book as a whole, there were parts and sections that amused me, hell, even made me chuckle. But in the long haul, no. It was a hard read, possibly because I had such a distaste towards Sarah, which is why it took me 10 days to read.

If you like fluff, with some heartbreak, trauma and love bits thrown in, oh and bucketload of guilt trips, this is the book for you.

Really wish I hadn't picked this up. Could have done without it.

Anastasia Adams says

I am still speechless by the fact how good this book actually is. Before reading the book I looked at these reviews and really wasn't expecting the story to be all that great. I would agree with the comments made by the fact that the book is very simple and almost too predictable, but the connection between Nick and Sarah is too great to miss out on. I am giving it 4 out of 5 stars.

Izzati Farzana says

LOVE the ending! She ended up with Nick yayy.. I like how she dumped Jonathan..I hate that guy anyway..The miscarriage part was um kinda disgusting hahaha but so far.. good book :D

Danielle Ranger says

Oh wow, this was disappointing. I loved after I'm gone by the same author so I was hoping this lived up to the standard set by that. Such a let down.

Unlikable characters, slow story but the writing wasn't bad.

Danielle Dent says

Not up to Linda Greens usual standards if I'm honest. There was no intrigue I already knew what had happened with Nick and Sarah's relationship so the time hops didn't really grip me. The book itself was well written and I was rooting for Nick and Sarah but there wasn't much really to the story overall.

PrettyFlamingo says

This is Linda Green's debut novel, and a good debut it is, though that doesn't mean it is perfect. I personally preferred one of her later books, *Things I Wish I'd Known* and the main issue for me with this one is that I couldn't take to any of the characters. The main two characters, Nick and Sarah, are amoral, treat people disrespectfully and their partners are shallow and preachy respectively. The only characters I liked were Sarah's neighbour Najma, Joan from work, and Colin the Big Issue seller.

We meet Sarah in 2007, when the story is set, though of course it is a retro read as I am reading it 10 years later. It was also Election Night when I finished it, which was appropriate to the story. An ex, Nick, has walked back into her life, and this is the start of retrospection and self-examination, and explanations as to how Sarah's life has changed in response to what happened to her in 1997.

We think we find out what the bad thing Sarah did towards the last quarter of the book – and there I was thinking that it really wasn't that bad at all. Then we find out what the REAL bad thing is, and even then, whilst not actually being a good thing, it doesn't warrant 10 years of self-flagellation.

Sarah's personality as a whole is the really bad thing. She is selfish, has no self-awareness, makes far too much of a relationship that is simply a series of sexual encounters in her flat and nothing else – this is the major failing of the book. All this said, the book is not a bad thing at all, it does verge on good! I related to the setting, I liked the references to "taping" things from the TV, the 1997 election campaign, and the dialogue from Sarah as she describes her feelings and actions when she is cast aside are excellent. Though I still didn't like Sarah at all nor her relationship with Nick – I didn't buy it and it wasn't realistic.

Catherine says

Having just finished the *Histories of Herodotus* and not feeling like moving onto Iain Banks yet I picked up the first chick-litty thing I could see on my shelf. Given that book was a random addition to Mount Toobie rather than a conscious choice there's some spookily familiar stuff in there - not least a meeting in the Windmill pub on Spon Street, OBCZ and home of Coventry Bookcrossers' monthly Tuesday night meet-ups.

Sarah has indeed done a bad thing, but is not guilty of the others she is punishing herself for. Of course when the man comes back she is bad again, but, this being chick-lit, it all works out for the best in the end. Lovers of morality tales need not bother opening this one!

Nicola Atkinson says

Really enjoying reading this book
