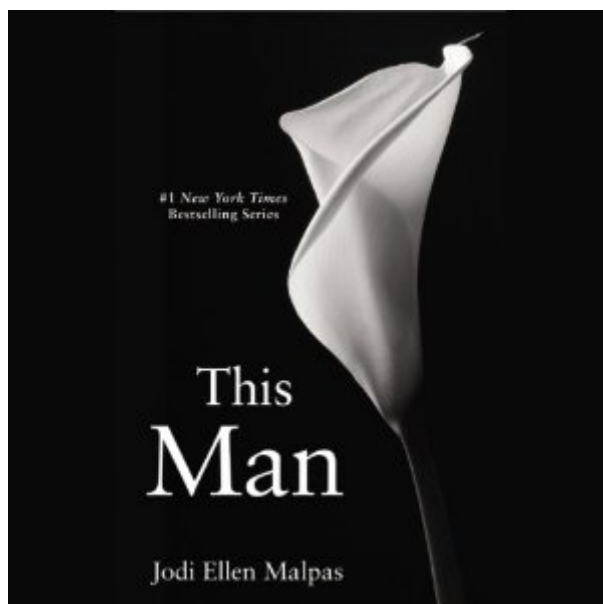


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# This Man: This Man Trilogy, Book 1



## Synopsis

Audie Award Finalist, Erotica, 2014 Book 1 of This Man Trilogy, the number-one New York Times best-selling series! Young interior designer Ava O'Shea has no idea what awaits her at the Manor. A run-of-the-mill consultation with a stodgy country gent seems likely, but what Ava finds instead is Jesse Ward - a devastatingly handsome, utterly confident, pleasure-seeking playboy who knows no boundaries. Ava doesn't want to be attracted to this man, and yet she can't control the overwhelming desire that he stirs in her. She knows that her heart will never survive him and her instinct is telling her to run, but Jesse is not willing to let her go. He wants her and is determined to have her.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 17 hours and 19 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Hachette Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 21, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00G029IFK

Best Sellers Rank: #94 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Erotica #951 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Romance > Contemporary #1128 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Erotica > Romantic

## Customer Reviews

Wow, this was bad. I enjoy the whole male dominance, caveman attitude of protecting and possessing a woman as much as the next person (50 Shades), but this was horrifying! This Jesse guy isn't sexy or attractive in any sort of way. He was just a plain old psycho stalker! There was no conflicting feeling...no confusion on his part for why he suddenly wants Ava. It's just BAM! I want to have sex all the time and I want you. There wasn't a whole lot of dialogue between the two other than Jesse telling Ava what to wear, what to drink, what she can't say (his weird obsession with her cursing is just odd). I mean, he cut up her dress with scissors because it was too short! Her birth control keeps going missing suggesting that Jesse is trying to trick her into pregnancy. He finally lets her have a night off from his psycho-ness, but with clear instructions NOT to drink or wear a too short dress and what happens? He has someone spying on her and when she misbehaves Jesse

comes in and drags her back home! Ava was on the brink of standing up for herself so many times and I wanted her to tell him to F-off and get a restraining order so many times, but as soon as she showed signs of leaving or getting a sense of respect for herself, he would screw her and all would be forgotten and she loved him. Seriously?? He punched his glass out on his car when she tried to end it! That is not the sign of a stable man. Spoiler~the real kicker is at the end when she finds out about his weird sex house "business" she finally grows a pair and leaves him. That's when he punches his car window out and completely loses it. She actually goes to him to forgive him (I know!!) and he holds up his hand and says "you caused this by leaving me". He tells her he fell off the wagon and it's her fault for leaving.

I don't think I've ever written a bad review about a book before. I am including a few minor spoilers so I can be as specific as possible. I'm honestly confused at the volume of positive reviews. This book seemed like the introduction to a domestic violence series, and I can only assume book 2 will feature Ava being slapped around a bit. I don't want to be pigeonholed as someone who hates Alpha-male Romance stories, in fact those are typically my favorites. But this crossed so many lines I was physically uncomfortable from around 50 pages in to the very end. The male lead (Jesse) makes Christian Grey look like an easygoing, unattached goofball. First off Jesse is a domineering, obsessive control freak. And there are really no other positives; except maybe his wealth and good looks. Oh and the "instant attraction" they both felt. He takes zero consideration for Ava's feelings or wants, she repeatedly tells him "NO" while fooling around (which he ignores), and he is a total and complete stalker. And trust me, none of this is in "a good way". He even admits somewhere near the end that he doesn't care about her feelings at all his only priority is the obsession he has with her. She very clearly says she isn't interested in a relationship or sex, and it doesn't stop him at all. And I don't care that her inner dialog was "conflicted" and she was too confused or nervous to voice her "real" feelings. If a guy doesn't at least slow his roll at this point and reevaluate the situation; I'm concerned. I'm willing to accept a few quirks in characters; things they are knowingly weird about. Like the cursing thing. Jesse freaks out whenever Ava curses, but really for no real reason and for no real result. She keeps doing it, and he keeps yelling at her.

Look, I am the first to admit that I read a lot of romance novels. All kinds of romance novels. Too many romance novels. It's a bit of an addiction. I often choose to read a specific kind of romance novel based on my mood. Do I feel like something on the raunchy side? Dirty talking Alpha male with a heart of gold and major sex appeal? Bad boy exterior, good man at heart? Rose petals and

sweet kisses where the word "erection" would be considered foul language? Or my favorite, the extreme dark eroticas that are so well written; beyond disturbing; shockingly graphic and intense you'll need a unicorn to poop rainbows on your head for a month just to forget some of the images you have conjured up in your head during the course of it(Thank you Kitty Thomas, CJ Roberts, Skye Warren and even you Annabel Joseph). Dark erotica writers do their best to sell their books with a stern warning on their content. They know what they write about is disturbing, and that it could disturb the reader. They own it, and I love them for it. Even though *This Man* is your typical contemporary erotic romance novel (one of the many knockoff-softcore-housewife-porns following *Fifty Shades*) where we are supposed to fall in love with the flawed hero - it is far from a romance novel. This is a straight up example of a very abusive relationship unfolding right before the reader's eyes, and I'm shocked that anyone would find the relationship between these two people appropriate by any means. Jesse, the "flawed hero," is instantly sold to us as an aggressive, self-centered bastard who constantly harrasses, pressures and abuses his love interest, Ava, by stalking her; yelling at her, telling her what she can and cannot do; and doing everything possible to make her life miserable.

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