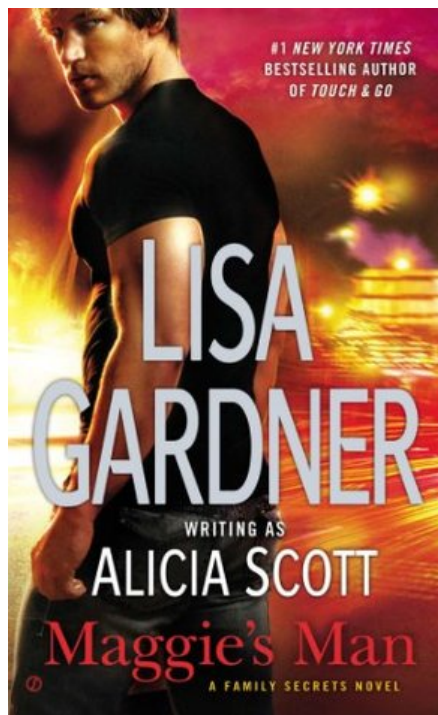




Maggie's Man

Alicia Scott , Lisa Gardner

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From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Catch Me* and *The Perfect Husband*...

Three siblings searching for the truth about their family are about to find more than they bargained for.

When shy and reserved Maggie Ferringer was called for jury duty, she never expected to be kidnapped by an escaped convict. But when Cain Cannon, disguised as a prison guard, pulls a gun, she has no choice but to be taken hostage. Cain claims that he's innocent of killing his girlfriend six years ago and now he wants revenge on the people who put him behind bars.

Soon, Maggie becomes more than just a hostage to Cain. As they slowly begin to share the secrets of their respective pasts, Maggie discovers that she wants to fight for Cain's freedom—because he just might be the kind of man she could love.

Maggie's Man Details

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From Reader Review Maggie's Man for online ebook

Karen L says

The main relationship in this book is weird in my opinion. Why would a woman fall in love with the man who kidnapped her and want to build a life with him? Maggie has been called in for jury duty and while making her way through a hallway at the court house, an armed man, Cain, points a gun at her, drags her outside and into a car so he can get away from jail. Cain want to find the person who put him in jail for a crime he did not commit...his brother.

C. says

Not an interesting book, and the two MC were stupid. Maggie was naive and just too trusting of a strange man who abducted her. This guy grabs her and she eventually starts to trust and lust after him. She had so many chances to escape! I don't care that Cain ended up being a good guy, she didn't know that for sure at the time. Cain must have caught the stupid from Maggie because he manages to get the truck (he stole) stolen from himself by two youngsters. He was lucky his brother was even dumber than him.

Julie says

The book was good as is anything by Lisa Gardner. However, I can't say I loved it. Maggie was a sweet character but I didn't find her wholly 'believable'. She was too naive, too ridiculous at times. Cain never came together for me at all. Other than the fact that he was good-looking and was a good person, he stayed two-dimensional. I also found that I was looking for less description and more dialog. I often just skipped through the description to get to the 'meat' of the story. Overall, I enjoyed this book but I don't think I'd read it a second time. Please note, I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

Iza says

I had a fun time reading other reviews by "serious" readers who don't usually read romances ! Of course, it's not exactly Lisa Gardner's usual style - or else she wouldn't have written those books under a pseudonym, what did you expect ? Of course, they fall in love very quickly. Of course, Maggie is a little mouse during a big part of the story.

But I think it was a very good romantic suspense, I enjoyed it very much. I had my strong heroin (one of the things I enjoy the most with Lisa Gardner's novels) even if I had to wait some ! I found the characters to be a little deeper than I expected. And the background was completely unusual : white supremacy ! Good book, I'll read the rest :)

Tonya Lucas says

I have been a huge fan of Lisa Gardner for years. She is my favorite Murder mystery/ suspense author. So when I found Maggie's Man written in her pen name Alicia Scott, I had to see give it a try.

Cain and Maggie's story blew me away. Yes it's not written like Ms. Gardner's modern books, this one is pre 911, before cell phones were at everyone's fingertips. This has way more romance than her usual books, but still carries Ms. Gardner's legendary nail-biting suspense.

Ms. Gardner is known for graphic forensic detail, but this book is definitely tamer and sparked with heated romance.

So yeah, I'm happy I discovered the book under her pen name.

Cain, Maggie, her two brothers C.J. And Brandon rocked my suspense loving world.

So if you love a great Suspense story where the good out maneuver evil, this one is for you!!!

I can't wait to read her sequels with C.J. and Brandon's stories!!!!

Saly says

I loved Maggie's Man, it took a while for me to like it but I loved it totally.

Maggie is one of those women who sees goodness in everyone, she will help out people on the street, adopt pets no-one will, refuse to have non-veg and she is also a marriage counselor. Everyone calls her sweet and that's her tag, she's every guy's best buddy. Her father, fathered children with different women and her two-half brothers and even her grandmother cosset her. So, one day when summoned for jury duty, a man keep calling her and then he pulls a gun on her, Maggie realizes that he is no prison guard but an escaped convict.

Caine has spent the last six years behind bars for the murder of his ex-girlfriend, he is innocent but he doesn't have any faith left. His father and brother made his life hell(they are supremacist) and when he thought he had gotten out(he became a computer programmer) his brother framed him. Life in prison was no picnic either and rather than join some gang, he made himself so bad that he ended up in solitary, hardly seeing the outside world. His escape was an impulse and now he is panicking, he doesn't have much of a plan, he picked Maggie since she seemed the quiet sort and how he misjudges. She seems like a conscience of the entire world, telling him to drive slow so as not to kill innocent people, not to steal a car as they may have a family, she drives him crazy. He threatens her but she seems scared but still persistent.

Caine doesn't tell her that he is innocent and Maggie doesn't even think of that at first, she talks a lot about her brothers, father and tries to convince him to let her go. I loved the book, how Maggie tried to seduce him, she was so innocent and her strip-tease was awesome. She herself sees through Caine's anger and tells him that he is innocent, her take on life was refreshing.

And that scene when she tells him that she loves him and is planning their future and when he is injured and telling her to leave were so emotion filled.

I enjoyed the book totally despite the bumpy start.

boogenhagen says

I liked the book, it was great and the h and H are pretty adorable plus the h has cats and that is always a huge win for me.

But what I REALLY liked about this book is that Lisa Gardener republished it as a mainstream and I am laughing myself silly at the regular mainstream mystery readers who have no clue they are reading a Category romance and are completely lost to the nuances.

I kinda feel a bit mean, but still -- is funny.

Tho maybe I should go comment and give little helpful understanding category romance 101 hints to these poor people who obviously have NO CLUE what they just stumbled into. :)

Lynsey A says

What a lovely story! This was a sweet love story and I loved how Maggie became a Hawthorne Red! Loved her brothers and loved Cain.

The ending was a little fast for me. I definitely wanted a longer epilogue. I hope we get a peek if Maggie and Cain in her brothers's books. I am sure we will because we still have no idea who the woman is in her locket.

Sarah says

Ok... Maggie is stupid. Not just stupid but STUPID!!! She's slow, dim witted and I'm pretty sure that her mama dropped her on her head multiple times as a baby! I got maybe 2 chapters into this book, maybe 3, before I gave up on her and her stupid. And yes, it is necessary to re-iterate how STUPID she is as many time's as possible! Cain is a bit stupid too, but that's only because he doesn't knock her out or give her a good scare too make her shut up and do what he wants. But the only thing I can forgive Maggie for is dropping her purse, the only thing.

She argues with the guy who has a gun, protests about the vehicle that he want's to steal. She complains about how long it will take to get to Idaho, yeah get this, she has 'dependents'! Not a boyfriend, friend, husband, child or any human being, but CATS! So not only is she stupid but she is crazy as well! She try's to 'reason' with this guy, who has told her that he was convicted of murder, and get him to 'give up' his plans for escape. She thorws a tantrum because he might 'hurt' someone in the process of his escape!

My GOD, Shoot me now! Worst female lead ever written, E-V-E-R!!! Yeah, do yourself a favor and don't even try it. I'm not one for slapping, in fact I've never slapped anyone, but I so want to bitch slap her!

Maggie ? Eldritch Abomination ? says

**“Gripping... the pages turn with speed.”
— The Wall Street Journal**

I'm literally cringing as I write this. For the first time in my life I am ashamed of my name. I tried to read this book but I just could not finish. I think I stopped reading three pages in, it's THAT BAD.

This book lost me on the first page.

No.

The first paragraph.

Let's try and see what went wrong, shall we:

Ahem

Chapter 1

"Don't move."

Maggie Ferringer looked up blankly from her seat on the wooden bench outside the second-floor courtroom. Eight fifty a.m. and she hadn't had coffee yet. She was tired, disgruntled at being called for jury duty and still preoccupied with how she was going to rearrange all her appointments for the next five days. Plus, one of her cats was sick. She was thinking she'd better take him to the vet. (Riveting stuff)

"Don't move," the prison guard repeated, and this time his voice was very hard.

She blinked rapidly, looking at the man with mild confusion. Strangers were always approaching her. There could be one hundred people on the street and the tourist would ask Maggie for directions (Uh, what does this have to do with anything?). She supposed it was because she was so unassuming. At five feet, she had a slight build and pale skin that only burned, never tanned (Oh right, so the author has an excuse to dive right in to Maggie's physical description. Such flow. Much organic). Her clothes ran toward the admittedly conservative—she had a weakness for low-slung sensible pumps. Today, she'd matched her favorite pair of beige heels with a brown plaid wool skirt and simple pink blouse that declared, *I am an intelligent professional woman with really boring taste in clothes.*

Last week, her mother—one of those tall, wildly beautiful women who could actually wear leopard-print jumpsuits—had flown into town, greeted Maggie with two fofoeey (uh... wat?) cheek kisses and dramatically exclaimed, "My God, Maggie darling! How did I ever give birth to a creature who will probably marry an accountant?"

(Getting tired yet? I know I am. Don't worry we're almost at the story).

And Maggie, who felt the same sting she always felt when trying to understand her exotic mother, had the sudden urge to toss back her red hair and retort fiercely. "At least an accountant would come home every night for dinner!" She hadn't said such a thing, of course. She was still slightly surprised she'd bothered to think it. After twenty-seven years, she'd come to the realization that Stephanie would always be Stephanie. Getting angry with her self-centered, extremely un-Mom-like behavior was as productive as hating the sun for shining. "Lady," the guard (remember him? oh yeah! He's a main component of this story. I'm sorry, I just got lost in all that mind numbing exposition above) was now growling **"I said move!"** (he's probably a little miffed because he just watched Maggie stare blankly into space for five minutes as she thought about her entire life story, drooling)

"Move where?" she asked him politely. As far as she could tell, the second floor of the old courthouse was still deserted. Space should not be a problem for him.

Then Maggie noticed the gun.

HALLELUJAH.

Halfway down page two, she *finally* notices the gun.

And what comes next, ladies and gentleman, is one of the most profound, exquisite, succinct lines of prose ever committed to the page.

The big gun.

Wow. *The big gun.*

The big black gun pointed right at her, here, in Multnomah County Courthouse.

What kind of gun? Pistol, rifle, hand gun, shot gun? Bazooka? How big are we talkin' here? I doubt loveboat hauled an AK-47 into the courthouse but, you know, it's a big gun. A big black gun.

(view spoiler)

Save me.

And immediately after being held hostage at gun point, Maggie, like any sane, level-headed person, swoons after her hunky captor.

He shifted, positioning his solid body between her and the top of the stairs...

Oh yeah. *Solid body.*

The guard in front of her shifted again and her universe was reduced to bulging biceps, a granite chest, and a pair of chilling green eyes that told her he was bigger, better and badder than she would ever be in her whole entire life.

Then, Maggie notices that the uniform doesn't quite fit on this hunky "guard," something she should have noticed when she first looked at him. I guess those biceps, granite chest, and "chilling" green eyes were just too distracting...

"You're not a prison guard!" she exclaimed softly.

(Also how does one *exclaim softly*.)

I can't. I just can't.

At this point I tossed the book aside because I knew what kind of story this would be. I think you know the one. Yes, *that* kind of story.

Let me see. Terrible, contrived writing. Ridiculously implausible situations. All centered around the hot, beefy bad boy.

Oh no.

This is porn.

This is lady porn.

(view spoiler)

I just couldn't read anymore, but trust me, the writing only gets worse.

Like this gem from page 194.

His green gaze was so steady, so true, and his calloused thumb brushed her cheek, as soothing as a kitten's lick.

Yes, we get it, Maggie's a cat lady. But this is just a terrible simile. A kitten's lick isn't really soothing, but the mama cat's lick *to* the kitten is, probably.

But I digress.

Maggie's Man is cliché and forgettable. There's nothing of value here, except the first few pages, which are an excellent example of how not to start your book. (Hint: avoid action-retardant info dumps).

That's it. I'm done with romance. No more love for me. From now on I'm sticking with hatred, pure and simple.

Philisha Stephens says

I really wanted to like this book because I like Lisa Garner's other stories. However, I ended up skipping over a lot of the useless wordiness and found several huge flaws.

1. I'm really into the book and by chapter 2 (43 pages in) I come to a screeching halt. Maggie is sitting in a stolen truck with escape convict Cain handcuffed to him. He's driving with both hands and she is sitting right next to him. See the picture? They are tight and cramped in a truck driving down the road. This is where I stop. Maggie is trying to determine how to escape Cain – "...she stared at the handcuff morosely, then at the gun tucked in the small of his back..." How is that humanly possible? How can she see the small of his back

without shoving him forward and breaking her neck to see the gun? There were some other instances of unrealistic views.

2. Page 102 Maggie is telling Cain the history of her great-great-great-grandmother who put arsenic in lotion she rubbed onto a bad guy to kill him and rescue her great-great-great-grandfather. The arsenic worked to kill the bad guy but what about her? Her hands were exposed to the same toxin and she should have died as well. Skin absorbs no matter who's skin it is. Also, would the arsenic have worked within seconds, minutes, hours, or days? The logic of that historical story is flawed.

Tabi34 says

This is Lisa Gardner writing as Alicia Scott. While I thought the book was ok, I'm really glad Gardner starting writing under her own name and writing the thrillers I'm used too.

Maggie gets called to jury duty, and while waiting is kidnapped by a man, Cain, who's been in solitary confinement for 6 years. As they travel across Oregon, Maggie metamorphs into a strong-willed woman and in the course of less than 20 hours and only 300 miles - falls in love with her captor and has sex with him. There are lots of pages describing the sex - much laving of the firm breasts and running of hands over the rock hard chest. I skipped those pages - sex is sex.

Outside of the sex which I know sells books and if I ever get around to writing one, will have sex in it so people will buy it, the story gets bogged down in all the half-siblings, marriages, divorces...Maggie chatters about all these people from time to time. Lots of loose ends, which are probably tied up in the next two books in the series. Another great marketing ploy to sell more books.

In the end...well...I can't tell you or it will ruin this book if you choose to read it. I did buy a recent copy of the book and Gardner states in the forward in it that this isn't her typical book and warned me ahead of time of the romance and sex. It is also set pre-9/11 so things work a bit differently than they do today.

Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says

Sweet, engaging and so heartwarming.

Both the mcs are extremely likable. He's a convict who makes a run for it from the courtroom and taking the h hostage. The whole story gets rolled up within 24 hours. The love and connection should seem untenable but it doesn't.

The h is a sweet, caring and a generally optimistic person who sees the good in everyone and everything. So it doesn't take long for her to see beneath the obvious, to the good in her captor.

Also almost absurdly it's her brooding captor who brings out the spark and assertiveness in this normally mousy and plain woman. And she blooms in these few short hours, as she never has in all her 27 years. *She'd just never realized how empty she'd been, how cold, how barren, how lonely until he'd wrapped his arms around her and told her she was perfect. It meant so much to her, this man, this moment, this feel of her cheek against his chest.*

Although for a guy on the run with the authorities and a murderous relative breathing down his neck, he wastes a lot of time exchanging angsty bg tales with the h.

A point the author makes about fanaticism rings so true, wherever in the world one might be...
"People have a tendency to mistake fanaticism for stupidity and that's not the case—fanaticism is very clever, very insidious in its own way."

The book is a part of a series 'Maximillian's children' about three siblings – the h and her two half brothers – and a thread of mystery about their secretive father runs throw them all and probably gets solved in the last book.

MsEleanorMae says

I'm really having a laugh and enjoying reading all these reviews by readers for whom 'romance' is not their usual thing and the sense of outrage that 'their' crime writer has 'left her wits behind' in writing romance. Some of these reviews are really funny and the range of viewpoints is vast.

In recent years I strayed widely into genres I normally wouldn't have delved nor to such an extent. I listen to audio books from an Australian library situated in the country. I've almost permanently, when possible, got a book stuck in my ear. Due to the way books get circulated, as time has gone on it's a battle to find books I've not listened to before. I have listened to a pile of crime and drama/romance as these seem to be the most popular genres bought by our library.

This lack of choice used to get my goat but I'm now resigned to it just enjoy. But in being subjected to so much crime and drama/romance it became very obvious that when you open one up you'd best leave your sense of reality behind - they are stories and I think meant as pure escapism.

I used to get all het up over this (particularly far fetched story lines or dialogue) and on occasion still do but most books that get published are listenable and written well enough to the end.

In the past 10 years I listen more than read and get more het up over a bad narrator. A bad or badly chosen narrator kills a book even if it's a good book. Sometimes despite a bad one, I doggedly persist in finishing the book, taking my annoyance out by wildly mimicking the reader all the way through. Though at times this has put me in a bad mood, like I've done a bout with some inane person and their lame politics with no hope of either side backing down and both of us being left with high blood pressure and the feeling of wanting to punch something.

So Alicia Scott (Lisa) likes writing romance with quite far fetched plots and lots of sex. Before I shoot her down in flames I'd like to throw in some trite truisms in reference to the story line 'life is often stranger than fiction' and the sex 'horses for courses'.

In this case Alicia/Lisa writes well and the narrator has been well chosen.

Keep those funny reviews coming.

Sophie Fender says

One of my favourite books ever!

