

SPOTLIGHT TITLE

JANUARY

BAD *Romeo*



Leisa Rayven

BAD

Romeo

The heart wants what it wants...
and sometimes it wants something bad

BAD *Romeo* by Leisa Rayven

Praise for **BAD** *Romeo*

"I've read a lot of romance over the years, but Leisa Rayven's *Bad Romeo* is a cut above the rest. Rayven breathes new life into Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, using the heartbreaking classic as the as both a device and allusion for Ethan and Cassie's love story. This book has tension and emotion in spades, but the tone never gets too heavy thanks to witty, smart-ass dialogue and a cracking pace. Readers will devour this and be left panting for the sequel!"

Haylee Nash, Commissioning Editor

"*Bad Romeo* is the perfect anti-Valentine's Day read. Opening onto the aftermath of Ethan and Cassie's romance, I was instantly hooked. What the hell happened between them??? I loved the drama school setting and the parallels with *Romeo and Juliet*, but mostly I just loved the romance (and wasn't that the best part of *Twilight* anyway?!). I'm now hanging out for May and the release of *Broken Juliet*."

Katie Crawford, Sales Director

"Raw, sexy, chaotic and set against a theatre backdrop; *Bad Romeo* is so much more than just a romance novel. Rayven's juxtaposition of Ethan with Romeo, the world's most romantic lover, highlights Ethan as the ultimate anti-hero—brooding, tortured and enigmatic. And Cassie, like the true actress she is, takes you on a wild ride in which you can feel every heartbeat, each pang of longing and every conflicting emotion she feels for Holt. Like their star-crossed counterparts, Cassie and Ethan's relationship is equally complex and believable but always fun. Can't wait for *Broken Juliet*!"

Danielle Walker, Publishing Assistant

"*Bad Romeo* is an unusual book in that we're simultaneously witnessing first love and the brittle aftermath of the broken relationship several years later, and the tale gradually unfolding to show where it all went wrong and how it might be made right. Cassie is smart, vulnerable and flawed while Ethan broods beautifully and will break your heart (and you'll like it). All the best ingredients of New Adult fiction – funny, sexy and sassy."

Libby Turner, Junior Editor

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About **BAD** *Romeo*

"An unputdownable debut! Filled with delicious tension that will make your palms sweat, toes curl and heart race." --*New York Times* bestselling author Alice Clayton

While performing the greatest love story of all time, they discovered one of their own...

Cassie Taylor was just another acting student with big dreams at her prestigious performing arts college... then she met Ethan Holt. She was the good girl actress. He was the bad boy on campus. But one fated casting choice for *Romeo & Juliet* changed it all. Like the characters they were playing on stage, Cassie and Ethan's epic romance seemed destined. Until it ended in tragedy when he shattered her heart.

Now they've made it to Broadway where they're reunited as romantic leads once again—and their passionate scenes force them to confront the heartbreaking lows and pulse-pounding highs of their intense college affair. For Ethan, losing Cassie was his biggest regret—and he's determined to redeem himself. But for Cassie, even though Ethan was her first and only great love, he hurt her too much to ever be trusted again. The trouble is, working with him again reminds her that people who rub each other the wrong way often make the best sparks. And when it comes to love, sometimes it's the things that aren't good for us that are the most irresistible.

A bit about Leisa Rayven

They say 'write what you know' and that's certainly what Australian author Leisa Rayven did while penning her debut novel, *Bad Romeo*. As a classically trained actor, Leisa drew on her time at drama school for inspiration.

"Studying to become an actor is a unique experience. My time at drama school was rich with interesting characters and fascinating situations, and it's the memories from that time which formed the basis for *Bad Romeo*."

As well as being a professional actor, Leisa is also an accomplished scriptwriter, and several of her plays have toured around Australia. *Bad Romeo* is her first foray into mainstream fiction. First posted online in draft format, the story became an instant hit and received a staggering two million hits from fans.

"It was the fans of the original story who inspired me to publish," she said. "Fortunately, I found an amazing agent and publisher who loved my characters as much as I did. I'm beyond thrilled to be part of the worldwide Macmillan family, and can't wait for my work to hit bookshelves all over the globe."

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Here's what fan fiction readers had
to say about 'Bad Romeo', formerly known as
'The Diva Diaries'

"SUPER EXCITED that this is being published. I'd previously read this story when it was posted as *The Diva Diaries* on fanfiction.net. If it's anything like the story there I can tell you it's a must read and 1000 percent awesome. Can't wait to read it all over again!!!"

5 star review, from She Books (on Goodreads)

"I love this story sooo much...there were unexpected moments, interesting dialogue, lovable characters and plenty of sexual tension...[Leisa Rayven] is [a] great writer and I fell in love with her writing immediately. Plot development and development of the characters is [sic] truly remarkable in this story...*The Diva Diaries* is definitely one of the best (if not the best) fanfic stories I have ever read."

5 star review, readingismybreathing.blogspot.com.au

"*'The Diva Diaries'*... TOTALLY OWNS ME NOW. This story reminded me of why I fell in love with fan fiction in the first place. I am just completely blown away by this."

5 star review, bookishtemptations.com

"It is grandiose and stunning, and far, far outside of my realm of experience. Its comfort comes from the fantasy, and from the beautiful words – some of which are Shakespeare's – constructed in such an absorbing way, it's unputdownable. [Ethan] is intense; moody; difficult; brooding; sizzling hot; passionate; broken; delicious. He is the ultimate bad boyfriend you can't stay away from... This story is in my top five all-time best, and it's not just for the UST [Unresolved Sexual Tension], which is at the top of the scale!"

robattack.wordpress.com

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by Leisa Rayven

