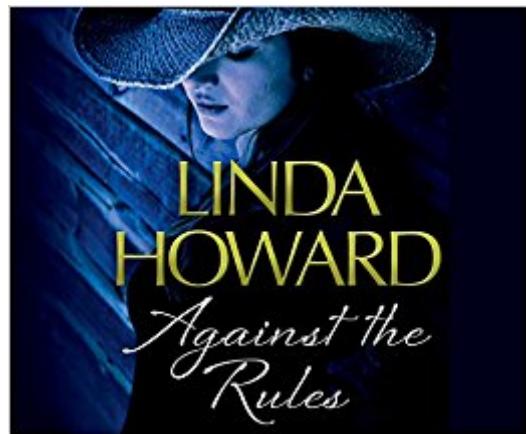


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# Against The Rules



## **Synopsis**

When Cathryn Ashe was seventeen, she ran away to the anonymity of the city after a romantic encounter with Rule Jackson, the manager of her father's ranch. Now, eight years later, her father has passed away, leaving her the ranch, and Cathryn returns to claim what's hers...and to challenge Rule like never before.

## **Book Information**

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Best Sellers Rank: #4,793,614 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( H ) > Howard, Linda #4943 in Books > Books on CD > Romance #13606 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

## **Customer Reviews**

âœReaders who like their romances fueled with plenty of red-hot sexual chemistry and relish bad-boy heroes with testosterone to spare will love this early work by best-selling Howard. • (Booklist) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

âœYou can't just read one Linda Howard • Catherine Coulter --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"I want you to stay this time."FINAL DECISION: An older book which shows its age in the acceptance of a sexual relationship between a 17 year old and a man of 28 but also because the heroine's annoyingly passive actions. At the same time, I liked the well paced story and the hot romance.THE STORY: Cathryn Ashe inherited the ranch from her father but has stayed away for years. Eight years ago, she ended up giving her innocence to Rule Jackson, the ranch foreman, and she has been running from their torrid relationship ever since. Now a widow, Cathryn intends on settling her business at the ranch quickly and returning to her life in Chicago. Rule has other ideas

including a second chance with the woman that he has always wanted. OPINION: I remembered this book fondly from when I read it years ago. Unfortunately, this book, unlike other classic Linda Howard books, has not aged gracefully. First, I was a bit appalled by the fact that Cathryn and Rule had their first sexual encounter when Cathryn was just seventeen years old and Rule was twenty-eight. I thought nothing of it years ago, but now it just feels creepy to me. But I put that aside because it was not uncommon to see such things in classic books of the time. I really liked the intense romance between Rule and Cathryn. I thought they were always meant to be and I liked how these two finally came together. My biggest complaint about this book was Cathryn herself. She seemed incapable of acting like an adult despite her claims to now be mature. She owns the ranch and yet she refuses to act as an owner and yet is resentful about Rule's taking charge. I wanted to scream at her "If you want to be the boss, stop acting like a wimpy child." Her passive nature towards these things probably would not be written this way in a current book. Cathryn makes so many bad choices that I can't figure out why Rule wants her at all. For me, this is one of those books that was better in the past. WORTH MENTIONING: This book was originally published as a category romance in the 1980s. CONNECTED BOOKS: AGAINST THE RULES is a standalone book. STAR RATING: I give this book 2 stars.

\*A hilarious, plus a hot and sexy romance, by author Linda Howard. From the beginning, your curiosity will be piqued between the two main characters until you reach the very ending. This is one love story that should not be overlooked!.....After inheriting her family ranch back in Texas, Catherine Donahue Ashe was ready to return home after all this time but she already made up her mind to settle ranchmatters and head right back to her apartment in Chicago and putting Texas behind her once and for all. Although there were times when she missed the memories of ranchlife, but truth be told, the biggest reason for her unruly anxiety and leaving her old life behind, was the sexy and handsome foreman, Rule Jackson, who not only robbed her of her virginity when she was only just seventeen-years old but her overbearing attraction she once felt for him back then, still didn't waver til this very day. Tired of being vulnerable or mostly having very little resistance whenever she was around him, Cathryn is determined more than ever to stand up to him with as much confidence as she can muster to remind him that he's just an employee, especially after hearing the rumors that Rule was the owner, not her! Known to being arrogant, obnoxious, having a head for business by running a horse ranch for years, ranch manager Rule Jackson, could never get Cathryn Ashe out of his mind if his life depended on it. Since the day they made love on that day down by the lake, especially being the one responsible for taking her virginity so long ago,

Rule realized when she left the ranch eight long years ago and eventually marrying another man not too long after their incident, he probably lost his last chance with her forever. Granted, she was only seventeen-years old at the time but now that she's finally back, he was determined more than ever to not only win her affections but to fight for a second chance at love for her, and this time never letting her go. Unable to control her desires or prevent her yearning for Rule, Cathryn was confused and consumed with mixed emotions of Rule's real reason and motives of why he was drawn to her like a moth is drawn to a flame. With thier passion and heat out of control for the other, the nagging questions refused to leave Cathryn's mind. "What was more important to him, the ranch or her"? "Was he interested in her or the ranch more"? Once considered for being wild in his youth, Rule still had notorious reputation for being with scores of women and Cathryn couldn't help when she felt consumed with jealousy for a man she vowed to detest permanently but without realizing it, she found herself making a bargain with this hot as sin man she kept fantasizing about night and day. When old desires and passions resurface and electrify between the two of them, Rule and Cathryn go against all the rules and allow their feelings to interfere with any decisions regarding to the ranch and due to that, they both came to the wrong conclusions about the other, breaking each other's hearts in the process. "Did true love just slip right through Rule's fingers for the second time in his life forever"?....a great romance!.. it's a must read!.. thank you..

The book reminded me of a Diana Palmer book, in a way. There was a lot of passion and doubt on both sides. Rule stepped over the line by making love to her when she was still too young to know passion. She did the only thing she thought she could do to protect her young heart, she ran. But now she was back and sparks were flying in all directions. She just didn't want to get burned. Passion flared, tempers flare and love always finds a way..

Linda Howard is one of my favorite authors. This is an old one that I have read many times, but I still enjoy it every time. I highly recommend this book, especially if you are a fan also.

enjoyed

I always enjoy Linda Howards books,I had a great many in Print but now with my Kindle I can get rid of some and have some extra shelf space. As usual her two main charactors are strong, Catherine is a complex erson but she knows what she wants as does Rule and they clash often, and its fun to find out how it all ends. Another great stpryline

The characters were incredibly annoying from the start. The hero was arrogant, rude and mean to the heroine, and yet all she can do is want him constantly. The ending is ok but kind of day unrealistic.

Angry, domineering, controlling man repeatedly forcing woman to capitulate; she decides she loves him because of it. Yuck yuck yuck. Can't finish this.

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