



## Pasión de diamante

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**Primero de la saga.** María Santos era una diseñadora de joyas neoyorquina que luchaba por abrirse camino en el mundo de la joyería, y había llegado a Aristo con la intención de conseguir aquel contrato. El príncipe Alexandros Karedes era frío, implacable y calculador. Estaba convencido de que María no era más que una cazafortunas que se había acostado con él sólo para lograr que le adjudicaran el encargo. Ahora Alex buscaba venganza. Si María quería diseñar el collar para la reina, tendría también que compartir su cama. Sería su amante, pero en la vida de un príncipe jamás habría lugar para una mujer como ella... ¿Cuánto tiempo tardaría el príncipe millonario en darse cuenta de que se había enamorado de su amante embarazada?

## Pasión de diamante Details

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# From Reader Review *Pasión de diamante* for online ebook

## Laura says

It gets a two star because I did finish it, and you know it's going to be a silly book, it's not as if I expected something else. This is (I think) my first time reading a Harlequin Presents, so I know that many of my problems with this book are due to the limits of the line. It was short and tied up MUCH too quickly. The idea of a prince marrying a poor Hispanic chick from the Bronx is supposed to be an obstacle, but it is ignored the second all love is professed and the book ends. There was just so little there. The choice to put the beginnings of the romance in retrospect was an odd one, it left me connecting much much less to the couple. I didn't like Alex (but then, I'm never a big fan of alpha Heroes) and I didn't see why the heroine liked him either.

I think reading it on the beach and mostly for giggles made me enjoy the book much more than the average reader, and I still didn't enjoy it much.

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## Jess the Romanceaholic says

Lies! All lies!

The book description *clearly* states that the when Prince Alex discovers that Maria is pregnant, he assumes that it was on purpose and decides to make her his mistress, and that he does so because she'll "never make a suitable wife"..

### **LIES!**

Truth of the matter is, even though she's pregnant from the very start of the book, *Maria* doesn't even figure out she's pregnant until the end of Chapter Ten (over halfway through the book), and **he** doesn't find out she's pregnant until the very last chapter.

He decides to make her his mistress as soon as he's been told he has to go talk to her again, as a punishment for (what he feels was) making a fool out of him two months prior, *not* because he's found out she's pregnant and he knows she won't make a suitable wife. Instead, he does it because he's been basically obsessed with her and her (alleged) betrayal so he thinks by forcing her to be his mistress that he can just smex her right on out of his system. Any thoughts of her being wife material, suitable or otherwise, don't even occur until the very end.

Ug. I feel so betrayed!

\*shifts eyes\*

Ok so maybe I'm being just a *wee* a bit melodramatic. But still.

It's kind of like when you see a trailer for a movie and then you go see the movie and it turns out your favorite scene from the trailer ended up on the cutting room floor for the final edit.

The description has Alex cast in the role of the cold, bitter villain who is out to ruin Maria from the very start, only to find himself falling for her anyway... However, he's really not a bad guy at all. I quite liked Alex, despite his occasional snarky behavior towards Maria.

And honestly, the fact that he couldn't bring himself to follow through with forcing her to be his mistress won me over completely :) I liked how their first time together (apart from that disastrous one night stand two months prior to the start of the book) was completely consensual and not the result of coercion or because she thought it was what was required of her.

So despite the *incredibly inaccurate description*, it was still a good story that I thoroughly enjoyed. I was a bit disappointed because it wasn't the story I thought I was going to be reading, but it was quite enjoyable to watch these two crazy kids fall in love :)

It's also the start of a series of interconnected stories, and I'm interested to read more in the future to see just what's up with the diamonds ;)

A solid 4 stars.

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### **Rexanne says**

What I think a non-Harlequin reader would stereotype a Harlequin book as. Lol.

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### **Desi says**

Leído el 05/05/2010

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### **Lynsey A says**

Alexandros did have the typical arrogance of a Presents hero but he wasn't a big jerk. It wouldn't be a Presents novel if the hero didn't think the heroine betrayed him in some way. However, he didn't spend the entire novel treating Maria horribly. There were several tender moments between him and Maria. At times he was also protective of her.

I did like Maria's character. She was, of course, a virgin which is no surprise but she wasn't weak by any means. She had no problems standing up to Alex and in fact had some rather good comebacks.

I found myself laughing out loud several times. Not because there was corny dialog but just because it was actually funny.

This was a nice introduction to the Royal House of Karedes series.

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## **Alex is The Romance Fox says**

This is a modern day Cinderella meets her Prince love story....

Maria Santos a jewellery designer is asked by Prince Alexandros Karedos to design a necklace for his mother's birthday.

Their story is sweet and adorable and at times a bit far-fetched...but hey, that's what makes these books so lovely....it takes you to a world where anything is possible.

I liked both main characters. She was a very likeable character and the prince was just lovable and adorable!!!

Enough said....it's pure escapism where everything is just fabulous!!!!

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## **Xai Xai says**

This an awesome read. I wanted more angst from our hero but he was a darling, nonetheless. Oh heroine was sweet and loving, an innocence that pulled the heartstrings of the hero. I do adore regal romance, this one has the settings of more to come.

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## **Veronica says**

I totally got this book for free from a hidden objects game I was playing. I love it simply for that!

The game is called Harlequin Presents Hidden Object of Desire. It was an okay game, and I would say the same of the book, as well.

The male lead was so interesting and layers. A very well done character.

The female lead was not as interesting. She was much too cookie cutter, and with her mean mama being the most interesting thing about her, which we only get two scenes that actually delve into this, it simply says that I was waiting to hear from the male lead through most of the book.

And I wasn't disappointed. Perhaps if we spend more time in the female lead's perspective, she would have been more interesting. I appreciated that she was Hispanic, because there is too little of that, I find. But after that, she didn't seem very interested in her culture, other than knowing the word, "Si."

Also, the title makes it so that there is very little left to the imagination.

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## **Mary says**

Good story about lies, misunderstandings, and revenge... and love.

Book #1 of "The Royal House of Karedes" series in the volume that contains #1-4.

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## **Sally says**

It's a good book and very exciting.

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## **Margit says**

I cannot deal with these type of male protagonists, whose so-called "Alpha" personality consists of being a jerk to the female character until the last chapter, where he apologizes and everything is forgiven in a heartbeat.

\*spoilers\*

Furthermore, the male point of view did not work for me: I have no sympathy for this kind of rich, playboy ignoramus, who just assumes the worst and sleeps around. He knocks her up, leaves her (because she must be using him = early mistrust) and then sleeps with other women, until two months later, when his parents need her skill, he decides to get her out of his system. Therefore he blackmails her into a "relationship" meaning he uses her as a sexual object, not a person, because again, he has some unfounded mistrust and a sad backstory, so apparently that's okay and the reader should feel for him.

In this sick reality, she must do as he says, which is not a relationship; she's not even a "mistress" because that means temporary girlfriend in Harlequinland and they had one night/morning. His emotional "alpha" response also ticks me off, especially his unfounded jealousy, which is particularly vexing, considering his own unfaithfulness and mistreatment at the beginning.

Moreover, I agree with others that the idea of her being a virgin (at 28!) was ridiculous and irrelevant to the story. It only made him feel more guilty for his mistreatment and he should have felt guilty as it was without this trope. I don't even understand the attraction or love as their meeting happened before the story and the love much later. It is such a forced trope to write "the great misunderstanding" combined with "arrogant, distrustful jerk" because it results in a story that's 95% the male protagonist being a jerk to the female lead. This is why I gave it such a low score.

Save your time and money on something else. Try reading Susan Elizabeth Phillips, Linda Howard, Lisa Marie Rice, Nora Roberts, Amanda Quick, Eloisa James or Julia Quinn instead.

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## **Elizabeth says**

Had to read this one in order to understand the convoluted backstory of The Royal House of Karedes that got

under my skin in The Playboy Sheikh's Virgin Stable-Girl. I had read the second book first because like billionaire princes who marry commoners, I don't play by societies rules. I just get seduced by the craziest-sounding title first. I think I would have liked TPSVSG the best whatever order I read these in anyway. The characters in Billionaire Prince, Pregnant Mistress were much more likeable than TPSVSG's couple, but the story is pretty generic and forgettable. I guess I enjoyed the intrigue about missing diamonds and jewelry craft, the heroine's career as a gemologist/jewelry designer was integrated into the story well. Sometimes I'm a sucker for the cheap drama wrung from the characters' misunderstanding each other, sometimes not. I didn't really see the point in making the heroine be a virgin (of 28!) before her one-night stand with the Hero, it didn't seem realistic for a professional woman from the Bronx and there was no hint as to how that happened. I guess her mother seems like she might be Catholic, but still. The way that Maria kept saying she'd "never been with a man before" made me read into it that she must have only had sex with women prior to Alex. Not that I actually thought that, I just stubbornly refused to assume that she was "untouched and innocent" until the book actually spelled it out and said "virgin". No one can "take" a 28-year-old's "innocence", Sandra Morton. Isn't it enough that he used her sexually and then misconstrued her intentions and kicked her out? The hero somehow feeling worse about his behavior because on top of everything OMG she was a VIRGIN rubs me the wrong way. Even sluts who've had relationships before meeting "the one" don't deserve to be treated that way. Her having been a virgin adds nothing. The defloration happens offpage before the story begins. It's not really advertised as part of the 'hook' of this story, so why u do dis.

In any case, I could have skipped the whole story and just read the helpful guide at the back of this book if I wanted to know all the details of the history of the islands of Adamas, Aristo and Calista. Put this in every book in the series, Harlequin! I ain't got time for this! It was as I suspected, Adamas is some kind of Romanceland Crete or more like Cyprus actually, with having a history of being under greek, roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, and British rule. It has diamonds and sheikhs without having bloody conflicts and yeah I guess there are no muslims somehow. I still don't understand. But I paid zero dollars for this book, so who cares.

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## **Britta says**

Sandra Marton's beginning to the Royal House of Karades series is a alright one. Not perfect but alright.

Sandra Marton does a great job of setting up the history of the two feuding royal houses which live on neighboring islands in the Mediterranean and were both once ruled under one royal monarch. Then, because of a fight between the children of the dying monarch in the mid-1900s, the Royal House was split and the Royal jewels with them.

Billionaire Prince, Pregnant Mistress is the story of jewelry maker Maria Santos (who I swear was the name of a character on All My Children in the mid-90s) who comes to Aristo to design and make the centerpiece item that will be presented to the queen on her 60th birthday.

After presenting her ideas to the crown, she walks around the city and meets the most beguiling stranger she's ever met. After a world wind wine and dine, she and the man hook up. But he overhears her speaking with her assistant, Joaquim, back in NYC, and he misunderstands some of her words and intension, thinking that she knew him to be a prince of Aristo and that she was bedding him to get a leg up in the competition.

Not so. But the crown passes her over for another designer ...

Until the queen changes her mind and wants Maria back and sends Prince Alexandros to collect her. In collecting her, he demands her presence in Aristos and in his bed. Angry beyond belief, Maria goes because her career demands it.

But slowly, she's falling for the arrogant and bushy oaf. And then, she realizes that she's pregnant. How will the Royal family and Prince Alexandros react to this news?

Like I said. It's a good first book. But I hope the rest of the series is better.

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## **Linda Sims says**

### **ARROGANT PRINCE**

Ordinarily I'm not a fan of stories with royalty of made up countries I usually find them rather ridiculous. But this is by one of my favourite M&B authors, she manages to add that extra bit of sparkle that just draws the reader in.

Prince Alexandros Karedes is despatched by his father to bring back Maria Santos a jewellery designer. To create a special necklace for the queens 60th birthday. Another designer had initially been chosen but had gone bust. So Maria as second choice is next in line. But, Maria's initial trip to Alexandros's country had ended with her meeting him not knowing who he was, but he thought she had used him to get the commission from his father. So when he arrives in New York to tell her the good news, he also plans a little revenge.

Emotional read with two very well drawn leads. I loved how Maria drove Alexandros crazy, but his reaction was it's her fault. That made me laugh. Filled with plenty of romance and drama this is an entertaining read.

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## **Jenny says**

Wow! The heroine Maria was fantastic. She was a sweetheart, loyal to her friends and to her mother despite the way she mistreats her. Alex is not the cold bastard he appears to be when we first meet him. In fact once he realized how wrong he was about Maria he became very protective and totally enamored with her! His father was the true villain of the story and he made me furious more than once.

Such a sweet story!

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