



The Italian's Marriage Bargain

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Gorgeous Italian Luca Santanno needs a bride and the sexy blonde who's just walked into his life is the perfect candidate! Felicity Conlon hates Luca with a passion - but she can't refuse his 'temporary marriage' demand. And now she's sharing Luca's bed she's finding it's almost impossible to leave. Will this Mediterranean billionaire claim her as his wife for ever?

The Italian's Marriage Bargain Details

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Linda says

The Italian's Marriage Bargain

I really enjoyed this book. The characters were interesting and the story line was good. I couldn't put this book down until I finished it.

Vanessa says

Felicity hates Luca because he bought up her father's hotel/resort dirt cheap and now the new manager is blackmailing her to obtain what he wants. However, Luca comes to her rescue when she believes she can treat the arrangement with the other man as a business agreement. Luca finds that he just can't let Felicity go and so he suggests a MOC. His reasons for the MOC would benefit Felicity as well as himself. The OM would then be pushed off the scene, return the hotel/resort to her father since Luca feels bad about that, and divert speculation about him and his father figure's wife, Anna. It would seem that Luca and Anna had previously been in a r/s, but when he tested her, she failed and married the next richest man, his father figure. However, Anna now wants to take up where they left off six months after her new marriage, yet Luca claims he isn't interested and there is nothing going on. Will Felicity believe him? Heck, will the reader believe him? Pick up the story and you decide.

My take: I think Luca cared for Felicity, but I so got tired of him telling her he will respect her and yet he continued putting Anna and his father figure above Felicity in all things. Sure there were legitimate times when he should, however he needed to put his wife at ease first in situations and he didn't seem inclined to do so. How is it respectful to Felicity to let everyone believe that Luca is cheating w/ a married woman? Even his staff believes that he is doing the OW, Anna, and go all out to protect him. Why didn't Luca just fire this OW if she was causing so much trouble? He had grounds for it, and seriously she didn't need to work.

Luca is quick to claim her parents knew more than Felicity thought – why? He can't even pick decent employees and we are to believe he can tell about someone he has NEVER even met before. Luca can't recognize jealousy in another and likes to blame Felicity for things and make-up poor excuses for the OW's actions, oh yeah and claim he is naïve to boot! All that is to make a HEA come about, but I wasn't buying it.

He felt he needed to save face for his father figure and never confessed the truth, just letting people believe what they wanted. He has already stated that it's almost expected of him to cheat w/ OW and not to would be shameful for their families – which by the way you can't spell w/out lies!! LOL!! (movie line) If Luca is all into honor and respect – then perhaps he did cheat. Oh let's not forget that he seems to do the opposite of what he says he will do and/or he procrastinates things hoping to hang on to Felicity.

He wants to remain friends w/ Anna and he wants Felicity to be friends w/ her as well. Luca came across as slightly bipolar at times. He would go off for no apparent reason and then later blame Felicity for the arguments. He even seemed to forget what the terms of the MOC were all about, and that he benefitted as well. It wasn't all for Felicity like he seems to make out later. Perhaps Felicity should have applied this

statement to herself, “No big deal to turn a blind eye.” Which came out of Luca’s mouth even though he was talking about something else – still it is some insight into his character, right? He never seemed to reprimand Anna either and let her disrespect Felicity, mock her, and completely ignore the fact that the “red light” was on so do not disturb!

I think when he is tapping/drumming his fingers he is either concocting a story or lie, if you will, although he could be nervous about what he is going to say, but seriously the second time he does it, it seems more like a blatant lie, but she doesn’t say anything. He tells Felicity that he was talking to his mother. However, it soon becomes clear that he was outside w/ the OW. Why lie? What is he covering-up? Later after she confronts him and he does his little “tell” he says “My father smokes.” – not sure how as I thought it was stated he died when Luca was eight – “My mother does not like him to do it indoors” – guess not since he is dead!

Felicity got it spot on when she claimed that, “It was like living w/ a spoilt two-year-old.” She was thinking about the first two weeks w/ Luca after their marriage and what he was like, or what I think was portrayed as the first two weeks because this seems to lose you on the timeline stuff.

He has no problem talking in front of the staff which bothered Felicity. So I had to ponder this and I am left wondering if he gets a kick out of having things going on right under someone’s nose – which would lead you to believe that he could be capable of adultery – and they never know!

Oh my gosh he even points out that he would never hurt Felicity, and then later on he wants to hurt her because of the way their interaction had hurt him that morning. I didn’t see how it could possibly have hurt him!! She is simply doing what he wanted and he isn’t happy w/ that he wants something else, but he can’t seem to vocalize what he wants!! It really seemed like several of their arguments take place after Anna has been around, as though Luca is feeling some frustration. Why? Hhhhhmmmm...maybe guilt? Again he blames Felicity for the arguments and claims that yes, he said mean things in the heat of an argument, but it is her fault because she instigated them. She didn’t, not really.

Not sure if he cheated on Felicity or not, but it’s not looking good. Not even sure if Anna will still be in their lives, either. Perhaps he just can’t help himself (which is something else that Felicity says to Luca when he wants her to admit that she knows he won’t hurt her). I’m more inclined to believe that he will/was cheating on Felicity as he admired this father figure and that guy cheated. Perhaps Luca feels tremendous guilt and that explains his bipolar type of behavior. Not sure really, give the book a go and see what you think.

RomLibrary says

She thinks she is having a miscarriage but it is appendicitis. Gorgeous Italian Luca Santanno needs a bride and the sexy blonde who's just walked into his life is the perfect candidate! Felicity Conlon hates Luca with a passion - but she can't refuse his 'temporary marriage' demand. And now she's sharing Luca's bed she's finding it's almost impossible to leave. Will this Mediterranean billionaire claim her as his wife for ever? Old Lover who marries his father figure causes a lot of problems.

Sarah says

I love Harlequin Presents because I always know what I'm going to get, except in this one which started out with our couple in bed. I was so intrigued, I just had to check it out. When Luca Santanno saves Felicity Conlon from her skeazy fiancé, he thinks it's just a random act of kindness, but he quickly finds himself drawn to the beautiful and independent woman. In order to save her family's business and her reputation, Luca offers to marry her, but quickly the two of them discover that this is more than just a marriage of convenience. Unfortunately, the sex is so front-loaded in this one that the resolution seems rather anti-climatic.

Nerissa says

Ok, apart from a few major whiplash storyline parts - e.g. one second all going well, next all wrong and it's weeks later. Just weird. But my main problem is the h. She is an idiot. She is very self-centred. His father figure is in hospital and he wants her to go with him and she gets angry at him for leaving her. WTF? Not very likable.

Yeah, just a little too much whip-lash in this story. Emotions not running in a smooth enough fashion. Meaning that they were disjointed.

2.0 writing - too disjointed, style was fine but just didn't make sense sometimes

3.0 plot was ok but lots of holes/not strong enough reasoning

2.5 characters - I like him not so much her.

3.5 ow drama - was good but could have been better - writing let it down

3.0 angst - was good could have been better

Debbie DiFiore says

I just re-read this and I have to say I almost liked it. I actually gave it two more stars. And I don't think he cheated. Much.... But maybe I have been drinking too much of my bathwater lately. I can't decide why I liked it more this time. Normally I like it less upon re-read. I remembered the scene with his office platform bed & the heinous other woman which disgusted me especially with all the staff knowing what was happening in there. Just disgusting and I wondered how they knew but he acts like he was shocked and surprised that she would do that. Especially when he gave the h the kiss off that same morning. But I took out my rose-colored Jaeger glasses and it all made sense. Mostly. Here's my take.

The H was actually just a toddler and he needed breastfeeding and attention constantly. Anna was the wet nurse and the h was his Mommy. So when Mommy's breast milk seemingly dried up from all the shit he put her through, and she was sick and tired of his terrible two tantrums, he thought he could go to the wet nurse, have his two-year-old ego pacified by her and still run back to Mommy for the good stuff and live nappily ever after. But thankfully the mommy h was pumping in secret and she knew the wet nurse was really trying to kidnap the H and take him away so she stormed their playpen and lured the H away with a tiny little Pink teddybear and the wet nurse's milk curdled. And they all lived happily ever after. I just love my rose-colored

Jaeger glasses.

Putri Septiana says

Didn't like it. Confusing story. The heroine didn't trust the hero when she claimed to love him. I know trust has to be earned. But why always suspicious when there is no real evidence of the hero's infidelity? How the hero could earn the trust when he wasn't given the chance? The heroine is just too insecure but always blame the hero.

A glitch in the beginning of the book. The hero already addressed the heroine as 'miss conlon' in their conversation. But after that he asked what's her last name. The author should pay more attention to what she wrote. And what's the editor doing, miss something important like this?

Sandra R says

Another good romance from this author

Titania Remakes the World says

Needs a re-edit with the hero's viewpoint. As it was, he appeared almost bipolar, and too moody for any of this to be romantic. He was very obviously stupidly naive about his snake-friend--which DOES happen in real-life. The romantic resolution was far too easy for him to have deserved, at the very end of the book, and he needed to work for it longer & learn some lessons.

I have enjoyed other books by the author so this one was a surprise mis-fire.

Marajeau says

Light colored rose tinted glasses please.

This book contains the hints of a great romance, but Carol Marinelli just can't quite pull it off convincingly enough.

So we start out with the hero and heroine in bed because the heroine's soon to be fiance was having her drinks turned alcoholic to celebrate their getting engaged. The hero of the story saves her and finds out that she's the daughter of the guy who's business he bought. Her fiance is the manager posing as business partner to the hero. He's blackmailing the heroine into marrying him and she agreed to help out her parents.

This heroine is actually pretty great, she takes it on the chin and just deals with stuff. She's not always the best, but she does stand on her own two feet and maintains that throughout the story.

The hero also has a problem, he was caught with a recently married woman and the press are running the

story.

Turns out that 6 months previously this girl married his father figure despite being with the hero for years because she thought the hero was losing his money. Since then she's been chasing after the hero. The hero knows his family is only upset that it wasn't discreet but he swears that he wasn't with the other woman this time and the heroine believes him. *please note the "this time" comment was in relation to the heroine having been a virgin and is not implying that he had sex with the other woman after she married, but instead that while he had sex with her when they were together, he didn't when they weren't. OR you could think that it literally meant that THIS time when he's being accused of it by the press, he didn't actually do it, but there have obviously been other times.

The hero convinces the heroine to marry him so he can pretend the other woman was there to help him pick out a ring for the heroine, and the heroine's father will get back the resort he sold for little to no money to the hero in order to pay for his son's operation to help him live a little longer. The heroine agrees, but she's already fallen for the hero.

The hero basically sounds like he's completely over the other woman, doesn't like her and doesn't want to be near her. She works for him, but he basically infers that he's going to get rid of her because of how she was acting.

Until they are married. Immediately upon that, the hero wants her to make friends with the other woman, takes the side of the other woman and acts like they are the best of friends.

Despite the hints that the hero really cared about the heroine and wanted to make their marriage work, it does take a pair of rose colored glasses to actually believe it. Why? Because there are too many plot holes. And not just plot holes, the kind of holes that have no real explanation because there is only one, and the book is trying to convince you otherwise.

(view spoiler)

It's not a bad book, it's just not very convincing. It's so easy to pick apart the problems with this book. I want to believe, and that's the only thing that gets me through.

Kiki says

The whole book stinks of cheating.

Not just emotional.

Huge huge plot holes fail to convince readers that the physical cheating never happened.

Heroine seemed like a cover for the extra marital affair between hero and OW.

Lu Bielefeld *read.laugh.love* says

Our hero is very naive to believe that he can do the former lover and the wife being friends. His ex is a snake and her husband a fool who serves as sugar daddy.

I think that the hero was well pleased with the attention received by his ex. It was just her call that he'd leave everything for her. He and his ex-lover continue working together.

He cheated or not, that is the question...

He was very naive not to suspect that the former lover was up to something. If our heroine had not interrupted the two don't even know what would happen.

I don't know, I thought everything very poorly explained.

WTF MOMENT: And his mother would be embarrassed to see print in the newspaper about his affair with a married woman but not for him to have sex with a married woman. SINCE HE was DISCREET and no one would find out.

Roub says

the book cud have worked for me but it was slow to gain action! and even when it did, i got annoyed wid felice's immaturity and jealousy and luca's complete lack of understanding! he was one of those heroes who favoured another woman's words over his wife. he wud not believe in anna's malevolent nature up until the very end! he preferred to think his wife was overreacting! on the other side, felice shud have trusted him bcoz he told her again and again it was over between him and anna! why believe his ex over him!? the book was more annoying than anything.

TINNGG says

Challenge book.

So the burning question - did he cheat? I... don't know. It certainly looked like he was caught with his hand in the cookie jar. OTOH, the OW was a scheming heifer so I'd believe she took advantage of the h's insecurities.

V frustrating couple - two strangers who marry because... he insists? And he's aggravated because she's holding back, yet he's not exactly inspiring confidence. So they spend the entire book angsting and fighting.

StMargarets says

The "meet cute": the h was roofied at an awards dinner by the unscrupulous manager of her father's golf resort and the Italian hotel owner hero rescued her. The next morning they give into their attraction and the virgin h is a virgin no more. Hero has problems of his own. His former lover has chased after him from Italy to Australia and is trying to re-start their relationship while she is married to his father-figure/mentor. Hero

decides a marriage of convenience will benefit all of them. He'll put the OW in her place. The heroine will get her father's golf resort back in return and the manager who roofies women will be fired.

They marry and off to Italy they go. That's where it got interesting with the heroine not understanding the language and feeling isolated with the hero working so much. The OW makes all kinds of mischief. The hero blows hot and cold. (view spoiler)

This had a bit of a slow start, but once they married, the drama heated up and the author kept events at a nice rolling boil. This author can really write arguments that feel real - hurtful on both sides. She can also write tender moments. I liked that the hero admitted he had been totally played by the OW and the heroine was right! Now that's a grovel.

Thank you, Carol Marinelli. Every time a hero grovels an angel gets its wings.
