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Caitlin Crews

KATRAKIS'S SWEET PRIZE



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Notorious Nikos Katrakis was looking for a new woman to bed when, out of the blue, heiress Tristanne Barbery offered herself to him. Could satisfaction *and* revenge really be that easy to obtain?Tristanne knew better than to play games with a man of such devastatingly lethal charisma as Nikos. But, though she had a good idea of the kind of sacrifice she was offering, she had no choice.To Nikos's surprise, Tristanne was not the weak, biddable good-time girl he'd expected...and soon his plans for vengeance came crumbling down around him!

Katrakis's Sweet Prize Details

Date : Published February 15th 2011 by Harlequin (first published January 1st 2010)

ISBN : 9780373129805

Author : Caitlin Crews

Format : Paperback 192 pages

Genre : Harlequin, Harlequin Presents, Romance, Category Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review Katrakis's Sweet Prize for online ebook

Leona says

ok, so I know these are category romances...and supposedly light reads that are just for entertainment purposes. But isn't an author of a category romance responsible to at least try to make some sort of positive statement. Aren't we as readers of category romances entitled to a HEA or if not, at least a HFN.

This was just one very painful read. This is a 160 page read of a woman who only wants to be abused. She whores herself in an effort to get her trust fund so she can care for her mother, who has some sort of illness which is later described as a cough...But who obviously, can't be that ill if she can fly to Greece and Vancouver at the drop of a hat.

She allows her brother to abuse her, and then she gets tangled with the hero..who basically uses her to avenge a crime her brother committed against his family. By the way, this is the same family that openly despised him and treated him like trash all his life. I never quite understood why he felt the need to avenge a sister, who constantly told him

You may have climbed out of the sewer, Nikos, but you still walk around with the stench clinging to you, don't you? And you always will!

He takes great pleasure in openly parading her as his mistress forcing her to wear clothes that hookers in a red light district would be ashamed to wear. His final premeditated act of revenge (view spoiler)

Yet all he has to do, is come back..and tell her he isn't worthy of her love, look sad....and she forgives him. Not sure why she forgives him, because he openly admits to her that he has no capacity or ability to love. Honestly, this would have been a wallbanger, except I bought it as an epub.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

There is something very distinct and elegant about Caitlin Crews' writing that appeals to me. I noticed that in her first book for HP, Pure Princess, Bartered Bride, and it was evident here as well. I liked the strength of her heroine in Tristanne. She was afraid, she was wounded emotionally, but she was strong! She approached a very dangerous man and offered to be his mistress, for the sake of her mother. And that's not the end of her troubles, because she's gone from the frying pan to the fire. Nikos Katrakis is not easy to manipulate into a fake arrangement as she planned. He's the kind of man who gets exactly what he wants, and he has plans for her and for revenge on her family. Nevertheless, she ends up falling into his bed and in love with him.

Although I feel that this story could have had more dialogue (it's almost entirely introspective thoughts and description), it was still exciting and intriguing, what a good Harlequin Presents should be. Crews has a great way of writing the exquisite tension between her characters where I was holding my breath in anticipation. Also expectantly waiting to see what will happen next. I didn't believe that Nikos would go through with his ruthless, cold-blooded plan for revenge. When he does, my heart sank. I sorted through my own emotions and wondered if Tristanne could forgive him. I have to say that the scene in which they reunite really threw

me. Tristanne shows what love truly is. Instead of plunging the knife that Nikos hands her into his black heart and twisting it, she forgives him. Because she loves him. Because she sees that this man didn't know what love was. And it was her job to teach him.

This story is quite different from Caitlin Crews' first HP novel, and I really liked it for its difference, although the first is still my favorite. I liked the intense emotions and the very admirable, mature, self-sacrificing, but painfully self-aware heroine. I liked the blazing hot passion between Tristanne and Nikos. And I loved how Ms. Crews took the standard self-made, ruthless HP tycoon, and gave me a tortured, hurting man who had been used and hated by everyone who should have loved him. She took this character and put him into the hands of the perfect heroine to show him what it meant to love and to be loved in return. It makes me think of *Nature Boy* by David Bowie

Overall rating: **4.5/5.0** stars.

Roxanne says

2.5 Stars

Paula Graves says

Sexy and engaging, with a powerfully emotional ending. The characters were well-motivated and I found myself thinking about them long after the final page.

Jacqueline Rotikan says

love first and hate it afterwards

i love the first 3/4 book, but I really hate the ending...come on...have a dignity girl...what kind of girl can be treated like garbage and forgive the man just like that...yucky

StMargarets says

[jilts her at the altar as revenge against her evil brother. (hide spoiler)]

Mo says

[The H gets his revenge on the h - who by this stage has fully confessed both her part in the deception and her love for him - by leaving her at the altar. It's a calculated and nasty thing he does to her, and when we see the scene of her finding out, it actually makes you ache for her. There's then one s

Nhan57 says

good story.

seton says

Martyr heroine (sick mother with overwhelming bills) offers herself as mistress to the hero, her family's biggest enemy. What she doesn't know is that the H has been waiting 10 years to get revenge on her family and that she is the perfect instrument for him to achieve it.

Typical HP story but what is not typical is how this novel almost has it all: strong and likable H/heroine, excellent dialogue, steamy sensuality, humor/wit, good pace/storytelling, and picturesque backgrounds.

Up to the last 20% of the book, this was gonna be 5 Stars but it really took a dive. Not only did the heroine forgave the H too easily IMO but unless I blinked, the H didn't technically say ILY. Very emotionally unsatisfying.

Tropes:

1. Revenge
2. The Pimp Relative
3. Martyr Heroine
4. Hero can get away with being a jerk because he wasn't hugged enough when he was a child

Content warning: none

Grade: B+

Melanie Malkoun says

I didn't really enjoy this one. The heroine was lovely and the hero was not very nice to her at all. And the ending was just awful. It bugged me that even until the last line of the book. He STILL didn't say he loved her.

Vanessa says

Nikos Katrakis HATES Tristanne Barbery family for a wrong he believes the committed against his family. He has been planning his vengeance but it isn't too overt. It is subtle and when the opportunity presents itself in the form of Tristanne, Nikos isn't adverse in using her as the tool to gain his vengeance. Tristanne will do anything to help her helpless mother. With her mother's mounting health bills and Tristanne not having a job that can support both her and her mother, she must cowtow to her step brother. However, Tristanne finds that Nikos may be a bit more appealing in helping her to achieve that goal of her trust fund three years before,

rather than whomever darling step brother picks for her.

First off this mysterious illness of Tristanne's mom – what was it? Next, I could NOT understand why Nikos wanted revenge for those people. He seemed to have wanted something from them that they were unable to give. However, the icing on the cake is that he claimed he didn't know what love is. Makes sense as to why he doesn't express it much. UNTIL you recall that he claimed he loved his half sister!!!! He even thinks he could not and did not know what love is – therefore he wouldn't know it if he felt it. Again note that he claimed it for half sister – he knew! More than likely it is a case of him not being able to accept love, but he can extend it to those that hate him.

Nikos seemed to develop some rage at the evidence of her step-brother's marks on her yet he still left her to him!!! I almost wished that she got smacked around a bit just to squeeze something out of cold H. Nikos even wanted to leave scars when he gets his final revenge. He was just way too cold for me. All Nikos did was lie and make promises to Tristanne that he had NO intention of keeping. However, w/ nasty half-sister he claimed honor?!

This whole blame thing that Nikos had for Tristanne's family didn't seem completely resolved IMHO. The half-sister excuse mad a little sense, but the business deal sounded like Nikos was just as much at fault. Why would Tristanne's step-brother lie about that especially then? Nikos on the other hand has proven that he will lie to get what he wants. Even Nikos' half-sister claimed that it was Nikos' fault as well.

Near the end, Tristanne is thinking that she can't trust Nikos and that his reaction to something she said to him should be a clue as well. But for some reason she is doomed because she can't seem to get away from him. She didn't want a life like her parents where her mother begged for scraps of affection from her father even though he took responsibility for her. Tristanne seemed so strong and I expected more at the end, I wanted more at the end not just ILY from him, but MORE!!! Even though Tristanne claimed she was hurt by what Nikos did to her, she gave in way to easily and it seemed that the theme was unconditional love w/ no consequences! Nikos claims he doesn't wallow and yet his words to Tristanne in the end sound a bit like it to me.

This is my favorite quote in the book and I think it sums up Nikos even though Tristanne was talking about her step brother when she said it: "They control. They demand. They issue orders and care not at all for the feelings or wishes of anyone around them. They crush and flatten and maim as they see fit. What is a little bruise next to everything else a man is capable of? Next to what you are capable of, for that matter?"

Psycgirl says

2.75 stars. I just couldn't get into this book. It was well written but I didn't click with the author's voice and felt disconnected from the characters.

ms bookjunkie says

3.5 stars

Giovanni says

what a stupid, idiot, brainless hero. tsk.

Kaycee ❤️? says

Not bad, but not good either. I've read some better books with the same plot. I don't like both the heroine and the hero. The heroine is a total doormat! No backbone and she allowed the hero to walk all over her and her brother to abuse her. And As for the hero, I don't find any redeeming qualities in him. And I never understood why he felt the need to avenge a sister who treated him like a trash.
