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Lynne Graham

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A marriage of misunderstanding

Nothing could have prepared Rosie for Greek tycoon Constantine Voulos. He asked Rosie to marry him—well, he insisted: "You will go through a ceremony of marriage," he said, "and in return you will receive a big fat check and a divorce as soon as I can arrange it."

Rosie agreed to the clandestine wedding because of her late father's wishes, but was anguished that Constantine had got her all wrong. The longer she spent with him, the more she knew she just couldn't be his temporary wife. There was only one thing for it—her secret would have to be told!

The Secret Wife Details

Date : Published July 2011 by Harlequin Books (first published March 1997)

ISBN :

Author : Lynne Graham

Format : Kindle Edition 192 pages

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

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From Reader Review The Secret Wife for online ebook

Jultri says

The guy is a mean bastard and no hero. He came bearing down upon her like a vicious storm, lashing insults ("whore" and derivatives thereof usually), blowing her hither and thither according to his commands, his roars so deafening blocking out any objections or attempts from her to tell him the truth. Even when he found out he was wrong about her and that he had earlier taken her virginity without appreciating it, he still bizarrely managed to turn it around and blamed her for orchestrating the deliberate concealing of her innocence, so she could somehow use the later revelation against him. Moron, if you experienced manwhore, who has a girlfriend in every port, can't tell that you slept with a virgin, you only have yourself to blame. Disgusting for him to try to namecall the heroine, when he was the biggest slut of them all.

The heroine wasn't much of one either, because she really didn't put much of a fight, melting at his every touch even though he never ceased to question her motives or morality. He got her so screwed up in the end, that she started to apologise for not trying hard enough to get the message through his thick, prejudiced skull, that she was truly innocent of his vile accusations. This was a big fail in my attempt to try a light and random read.

Kaycee ♥? says

The Secret Wife was essentially an enemies-to-lovers story about guy falling in love for the first time with a girl who goes toe-to-toe with him on everything - a girl whom he thought was his late adopted father's mistress.

Rosie Waring's world collapsed when her dad whom she just recently met after twenty years suddenly died leaving her once again. Then when she unexpectedly met Constantine Voulos, her father's adoptive son and he started throwing her hurtful words and accused her of being her father's mistress, Rosie decided not to tell him the truth and walked out on him until her father's will forces Constantine to marry her. Though Rosie tried to tell him the truth once, Constantine didn't believe her word. Accusation, after accusation kept being sent Rosie's way. He didn't give her a choice but to agree to a pretend marriage for the sake of his adoptive Mother.

Can these two just continue their charade without crossing the line?

No one can create a stubborn, arrogant, domineering and possessive hero like author Ms. Lynne Graham. In this book, we have Constantine Voulos, the adoptive son of Anton and Thespina. I liked Constantine, it was actually obvious that he liked Rosie and he was having a hard time dealing with his emotions that's why he continues to say hurtful words to her. And I liked the way he acted with jealousy with Rosie's best friend and kept calling him names. (Throwback and Yob) There's one thing I didn't like about him - he was quick to lay the blame at Rosie when the truth came out. *Hello!?! Rosie tried to tell you the truth before.*

Rosie Waring is my kind of heroine. Independent, sassy, strong, feisty, gave as good as she got and I found myself amused by her antics. She didn't let him walk all over her. Whenever the hero insulted her, she

insulted him back. I loved that Rosie had a back bone. She had him twisted up from the first page up to the last. And I loved the fact that she didn't sleep with him the first time they've met. Their banter and sparring of words was just hilarious!

Well, let me tell you, you overgrown creep, it takes more than a big loud mouth and a flashy suit to impress me and this is one trashy little tart who has no plans ever to cross your path again!

I'm surprised you didn't push me. Oh, I forgot, didn't I? I'm only worth something to you as long as I'm alive and kicking.

I also loved the scenes that transpired between Rosie and Constantine's mistresses.

"Do you have a single sensitive bone in your body?" Rosie shook her fiery head "Not where you're concerned. I was a bit worried that I might be reading the signals wrong and that your lady friend might be sincerely attached to you. But she wasn't, was she? So no harm done."

"Justine.. This is my wife Rosie."

"Oh, don't mind me," Rosie said sweetly "I'm not the tiniest bit possessive about you."

"If you get me in the right mood, I even loan him out."

Overall, **The Secret Wife** was an entertaining read with a good amount of fun and angst.

StMargarets says

This is really a 3.5 star read - not quite a four because the bickering goes on a bit too long for my tastes. And there were times the hero crossed over into verbal abuse, but he did apologize for going too far.

Grown up secret baby heroine raised-in-a-foster home is found by her father, but they only have a few months together before he dies of a heart attack. Her father never told his wife about her because she was infertile and he doesn't want her to know he was unfaithful. Greek billionaire hero lived with h's father and his wife as a child after his parents died and he thinks h was the father's mistress. The terms of the will are that the H must marry the h to inherit the father's business. (His wife had money of her own)

Hero is convinced the h is pregnant and that is why the father was talking about her on his deathbed. He won't believe that she is his daughter.

They marry and then the fun starts.

There is an OM to gum up the works and the heroine is great at lashing at the various OWs that show up. All in all a fun romp.

Chantal ♥? says

Well she was the actual daughter of step father and he felt he had to marry her thinking she was his ex mistress of the step dad. Ok when he found out she was a virgin this should have ended this asshole behavior but no! He had to continue to treat her like crap and then try to buy her affection with stupid rabbits. Who the hell care? Like that's going to make everything ok!??? Really you are just too much of an ass. He should have groveled more. Ah well she was sweet and too good. Really wished she would have told him off just once!! Come on girl get a spine!

Caro Charmie says

Este libro me fascinó! Me gustan los personajes femeninos tan impolutos, limpios moralmente, cero materialistas, humildes e inteligentes. El relato no pierde fuerza, tiene sus momentos cómicos y son brillantes, lo único malo es que fue muy corto. Me encantó Rosie y su temperamento, y como enfrenta y contesta a cada ataque de Constantine. El mejor amigo de Rosie, Maurice me tira una de las mejores frases en la escena de la feria y de los conejitos de cerámica: "Cuando alguien piensa que tiene que pagar por todo en esta vida, lo mejor es satisfacer sus deseos". Es una novelita corta pero muy muy buena, de esas que dan ganas de volver a leer.

Cecilia says

I bought this on a bit of a Harlequin binge, because I was looking for some quick reads. Sometimes you're just in the mood for over-the-top recriminations and grovelling, you know? And Lynne Graham certainly can deliver on those. This was an all right read for that set of conventions - one particular bonus was that there were no babies, either secret or epilogue. One particular downside was the pacing - probably 90% recriminations, 5% sex scenes, 4% grovelling, including a post-grovel sex scene, and 1% protagonists getting to know each other (and giving the reader any reason to think they might actually be able to have a relationship). 2.5 stars (mainly because it was pretty much what I expected, not because of any particular enjoyment)

MBR says

The Secret Wife by Lynne Graham is a novel that I seemed to have missed out on previously. It tells the story of how Rosalie Waring's world collides by a twist of fate with that of the ultra rich Greek tycoon Constantine Voulos brought about by the conditions set aside on the will of Anton Estrada, adoptive father of Constantine.

Rosie is stunned when after a period of blissful happiness of 4 months with Anton, he dies suddenly leaving her bereft and alone once again. When Constantine jumps to the worst of conclusions about her relationship with Anton, Rosie's bitterness towards Constantine who has had a lifetime of moments with her own father lets her keep the explanations under wraps until Anton's will forces Constantine to ask for her hand in

marriage.

It is a blazingly resentful Constantine who calls Rosie a gold digger and much worse that turns up for the wedding along with our prickly as a hedgehog heroine whose instinctive reactions of self protection is the tendency to lash out and give as good as she gets, an aftereffect of being in state ward care since the tender age of nine, that makes the joining of holy matrimony of these two a volatile one at best.

Though Rosie tries to come clean with who she is, Constantine is not one to believe a word that comes out of her mouth and this charade continues throughout the book, each of them insulting one another blinded by the fury at the inconvenient desire that they feel for each other.

For me, *The Secret Wife* didn't make for such a great read. The premise of the story which promised to deliver an angsty read failed to do that when Constantine refused to listen to whatever Rosie had to say and Rosie refused to try and make Constantine see the light after his initial rejection. For me, I would gladly take Rosie's side because Constantine just grated on my nerves with his inability to see beyond what he wants to see, and even when eventually the truth does come out, he is quick to lay the blame at Rosie's feet rather than accept his own doing in complicating matters.

This story is told from Rosie's viewpoint and I for the world of me cannot understand how it is that Constantine falls in love with Rosie. For someone who loves finding the hero's feelings via his reactions towards the heroine; I just didn't feel the love in this one.

Recommended for those who love the marriage of convenience theme and fans of Lynne Graham.

Rating=3/5

Original Review posted at MBR's Realm of Romance

Debbie "Buried in Her TBR Pile" says

2 stars

This one was kind of dull - I skimmed a lot. h gave as good as she got - but not enough to carry this book. The majority of the story occurred in the course of 1-3 days. And, I swear there is another HP with this same plot device that is much better. I am going nuts trying to remember title and author. I have it packed up in a box and can't get to it at the moment. That's how sure I am. If anyone knows the one I am thinking of, please let me know.

Vintage says

[is the daughter of the man who raised him, and the H is determined that his adoptive mother doesn't find out about her because she must have been his adopted father's mistress. (hide

Naksed says

Painful to read from the first to last page.

Kay says

4 Stars ~ Rosie was Anton Estrada's dark secret; she was the product of an affair, and it was destined that he would never be able to publicly claim her. At the time of her birth, Anton and his wife, Thespina had reconciled and had adopted nine year old Constantine whose parent had just died in a car crash. Unknown to Rosie, her mother had sent photos of her to Anton each year, until she died when Rosie was nine. How ironic that Constantine the adopted son should lack for nothing but Rosie the blood daughter should be shipped off upon the death of her mother to foster care by a cruel and uncaring stepfather. Building a tough skin, Rosie became fiercely independent, so when Anton sought her out when she was 20, she was reluctant to join him in London. They shared a rented home, and slowly forged a bond. Anton's sudden heart attack and death devastated Rosie, the 4 months hadn't been enough. Packed up and about to leave, Rosie is surprised by Constantine demanding to know what hold she had had over Anton. When Rosie tried to tell him that Anton had been her father, Constantine refused to listen and jumped to the conclusion that Rosie had been Anton's mistress. Further she'd dumped Anton into thinking she was pregnant, which forced Anton to change his will, still leaving his estate to Constantine but with a stipulation that he marry Rosie. A marriage that Constantine is determined to see takes place, for if the will is left unfulfilled it would come to light that it had been changed, and the secret of Rosie would become knowledge, especially to Thespina. It's to be a marriage on paper, and once fulfilled they would go their separate ways, and later the marriage would be dissolved and no one need ever know. Once married, Rosie has a feeling of approaching disaster, and it comes in the form of a newspaper article declaring their marriage. With their marriage now public, Constantine insists that they remain married for at least four months and he takes her off to Greece to present her to Thespina as his bride. Only Thespina isn't there, she's off to Spain visiting friends, and so Constantine takes root in his own home to wait for her return. Feeling threatened by her growing attraction to her husband and hurt by his constant belittling, Rosie sneaks away in the middle of the night and heads off to Majorca where her father had recently reclaimed his ancestral home. It's only a matter of days before Constantine finds her there.

This compelling story is one that I could not put down until I read the last word. Ms Graham has a talent for setting a dramatic scene and creating situations that have you on the edge of your seat. Poor Rosie, sadly misjudged but too proud and stubborn to set things straight. Constantine uses steam roller tactics to get his way, only to be met with one tiny spitfire with the tongue of a wasp. Though Constantine has the ultimate upper hand, it's only because Rosie is too soft to hurt Anton's family, but she fights back ever time he tries to corner her. There are some moments where I really disliked Constantine, but then Rosie would throw a zinger and it was obvious that she wrapped him up in knots. These two spark in the most delightful of ways.

Jacqueline says

This one hit the spot for me even if it wasn't perfect. I greatly enjoyed that the heroine had a back bone. She had him all twisted up throughout. For example, he tells her that she needs to make their marriage convincing and act like she's really his wife, so when his mistress comes to talk with him she promptly sends her packing acting like a regular virago then turns to the hero and says

"Well how did I do?" the silence pulsed as if it were about to explode. "How...did... you... do? Constantine framed between audibly grinding teeth. "In the newly married woman stakes...was I convincing? I mean there is just no way a wife would walk past a scene like that in her own home. As you reminded me, I am not just a guest here." Constantine swung away from her and spread lean brown hands in a unsteady arc of scantily leashed rage. She had the feeling that he couldn't quite believe what had just happened to him.

There were quite a few episodes like that where she had him flustered. I really enjoy books with heroines of that nature.

The only thing I didn't really like was the weird way he acted near the end when he finds out she's been telling the truth all along. The author was stretching it quite a bit to make me buy into his bizarre rational and motivations there. I think a bit of filler was happening there. But the rest of the book was so strong that I forgave it. Also the hero could have groveled just a bit more at the end.

All in all a satisfying Lynne Graham read.

Tilda says

The only way to like this book is to see it as a parody of romance.

Both the hero and the heroine are TSTL, "irrational lunatics" as one of the secondary characters called them. Nothing adult-like about them at all.

A caveman-with-a-real-bad-toothache and a young woman with a totally childish attitude. Simply horrible.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

This is one of the older Lynne Grahams that I read many moons ago, but I didn't remember most of it. It was a good reread. The hero in this was a jerk. I think Rosalie was nicer to him than he deserved, but she wasn't a pushover. He always managed to see her in the worst light, if not an avaricious femme fatale, than a spineless tart. I felt that he really did need to earn Rosalie's love. I like that he was so jealous of her roommate and friend, who was by all accounts, a beefcake. By the end, he was remorseful, but still a bit too high on the horse for my tastes. I like that his adopted mom guessed right away what was going on. That was pretty funny, considering all the changes they went through to hide the truth from her. Constantine would never be a favorite LG hero for me, but I really did enjoy Rosalie and I like that she held her own with him, or somewhat.

IamGamz says

Oh I had fun reading this one. Rosie gave Constantine a well deserved run for his money.

He was an insulting, overpowering, obnoxious bastard to her during most of the book. He accused her of all manner of crap and refused to believe her when she attempted to defend herself.

But she got her own by turning his life upside down and making him chase her around Europe. I enjoyed it waaay too much!

A great read from Lynne Graham.
