



Starter Wife

Moriah Densley

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Linnea King has it all, fabulous social life, adorable children, and her successful husband's income... until he serves her with divorce papers. Her perfect life crumbles in a storm of police reports, cranky bus drivers, and burned dinners. The single life feels as foreign as a trendy haircut.

Just when Linnea fears she'll lose everything, her new neighbor steps in to help. Not that she's judging by appearances, but TJ Gates looks like trouble with a capital T. Tattoos, motorcycle, and sexy southern manners, TJ is the last person Linnea expects to be her hero.

A demolitions expert who takes prizefighting gigs to pay the bills, TJ has pretty much screwed up everything that matters, and rebuilding his life after a violent past is harder than it looks. He thinks the polished, expensive-looking Linnea King needs the same thing he wants: a second chance.

Starter Wife Details

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From Reader Review Starter Wife for online ebook

Elizabeth Bennet says

I guess I get to play the villain of the review board because I did not get the joy as much as everyone else seemed to have. This isn't easy because I love MD and have read all but one of her books. I tossed around how I would write this because her writing for the most part captivated me as it always does. Densley is able to detail a scene to the extent that I feel like I'm right there in the scene and that's not an easy thing to do.

TJ and Linnea both have their hands full of trouble and responsibility. Linnea had three children and her youngest was a special needs child. Three kids and a husband that was demanding a divorce. It was an ugly scene to witness how her husband treated her and you just know she is better off without the loser. She meets TJ when Avery, Linnea's youngest, steps out in the road and is almost ran over.

TJ comes diving in the scene pulling her to safety and from then on TJ seems to be her knight in shining armor. I loved how their friendship slowly formed and they weren't rushing straight to the bedroom. I was dazzled with all the excitement between the two but there was just something for me that seemed to be missing. TJ had two different jobs that required travel and for him to lay his life on the line. It defined who he was so to stop putting his life at risk would have changed what he was so I got that but it was hard for me to accept. He has a daughter and for me as a parent it was hard to think about each trip he took could maybe take him away permanently away from his Katie. He also stated the jobs tended to pay better and he was responsible for several people. He does open up about all the people he was responsible for but that got some eye rolls from me. It felt like it was just added to add to his character but didn't make any sense all at the same time. He doesn't have a real relationship with his mother and sister but I'll send them money for their rehab. It took him away from Katie, who didn't even know of his family because he wanted to protect her from that life.

I was plugging along when suddenly I realized it was almost over and it was predictable how they dealt with the ex husband and then I felt because of the busy story line she left some important moments between the H/h to be read between the lines. I felt like the rug was ripped out from underneath me because I just kept waiting with baited breath for a moment that never came. I don't think it is a terrible book but between all the struggles the h has with her kids and all the bumps and bruises the H had to endure we never got to see the two as a couple, just alone it was either cut short for a hectic schedule or the two didn't want to rush things. That made it believable but with Linnea's financial budget I didn't quite get all the fancy cooking. I admired her staying true to herself in cooking but as a mother of two there are other things that are unpredictable that I would have put money aside for. That's probably boring to say that which is why I'm not an author but my kids aren't half as mischievous as her's were. I do admire Densley's work but this is not one did not work for me. I was left wanting with this one and felt the romance suffered from all the goings on.

a_tiffyfit says

Disclaimer: I received an ecopy of this book in exchange for my honest review. I received both an early copy and a finished copy.

I really enjoyed this book. The author did a marvelous job of evoking emotion (because MAN was I annoyed at Linnea's parents. SO annoyed and her ex? WHAT A SLEAZEBAG). And I loved the chemistry between

TJ and Linnea. It wasn't a wham-bam-thank-you-maam kind of romance. It was slow and built on mutual respect and that made the steam even hotter.

There were a few things that didn't ring true for me that interrupted a full five stars (example: I know that Linnea may be accomplished in the kitchen, but how does she do that on the budget she has? I'm constantly on a tight budget and the dishes she created were definitely not in my price range. Unless...left over old ingredients? Still, it wasn't explained so seemed a tad out of place for me).

I liked the children and thought MD did a great job of conveying the confusion and emotion and desire they would have for a father figure as well. TJ and his familial responsibilities was a nice touch and I liked how they began to meld from friendship to full family feel.

The cover is darling, too, and all round, it was a goodread!

InD'tale Magazine says

4.5/5.0

Well-crafted and beautifully told, this down-to-earth novel is a must-read for those who enjoy their contemporary romances with a dash of suspense.

Read full review in the 2015 March issue of InD'tale Magazine.

Denise Van plew says

This is her first novel in contemporary a switch from usual genre. First off love the little tidbits written under the heading of each chapter the reader enters. I looked forward to seeing what she was going to write next just as much as getting to the next chapter. She starts off this novel with a bang and quickly grabs the readers attention with Linnea and what happens with her daughter. The adorable hunk TJ and his dog is one neighbor that would be a addition to any neighborhood. From there you are sent on a ride that depicts Linnea's life and the events she has going on with her children from the skunk of a what will be ex with TJ and her forming a relationship. He has a daughter that plays with her kids when he is not out of town doing his missions. She fills this with humor and day to day quips that go with the relationship that builds between Linnea and TJ that has more to the story then just what can happen in the bedroom. She builds the courage to fight and stand up for herself and her kids regardless what the low down husband she is trying to get away from throws her way. With a man like TJ by her side she can do nothing but win. He does after all have expertise in that being also a fighter to provide income for his home. I tell you truthfully this was one interesting romance that is filled with humor and encounters that fit with the personalities of these two. Even though truthfully she probably could of had her parents fight her battles because of their standing in where they live she does not go that route which gives encouragement to women trying to make it. The challenges she faces she meets head on and as time goes by with that hunk TJ helping with moral support. Even if he thinks he is not good enough for her so glad their relationship still grows. Love can mend lots of things and in this novel the author shows how it mends two people making them stronger together than they would of been apart. I did laugh really loud when I got to the line that uses the title of this book because it is inserted in just the right spot to make it sweet. Wonderful read of two people with their story of how with love bringing you

together you end up with one ole big happy bunch.Received a arc for a honest review.

Gwendolyn Sliter davis says

I will start my review by saying I do not usually read contemporary romances. It's probably my least favorite genre, but I love Moriah Densley's historicals and I received an advanced copy to provide a review.

This book is really, really good. The characters are like people you know and actually like. I love that Moriah captured the wounded and vulnerable feeling that Linnea felt after her husband left her. I remember feeling the same way after a similar situation. Moriah nailed the grieving process from initial abandonment through finding strength in herself and getting over it; but not becoming dependant on her new love. TJ is just yummy, but not a cookie cutter hero. Where can I find one just like him?

I think the hallmark of a good author is that you connect with the characters so well that you imagine their lives after the book ends. I find myself wondering if Linnea's parents come around and if the ex leaves town or ends up paying for his "indiscretions".

Putting this book down was hard; so I didn't. I finished in an afternoon. If you haven't read anything else by this author you are missing out.

B.E.Love says

I have heard nothing but great things about this book unfortunately this book was just ok. I actually almost put this book down but I was interested enough and wanted to see how it ended. For me this book was just ok, there were spots and things in the book that pulled me out of the story, and there was also things I wanted more information about in this story that I didn't get. In the end I found myself skimming but at the same time finishing the book so I could see how it ended.

Debbie Carnes says

Oh my goodness, I'm so in love with TJ the main male character

This is such a wonderful romance novel, you get drawn into the book .

I have read a lot of Moriah Densley's book and it seems each one is better than the next.

Starter Wife is one of those books that you will want to read again.

A must read

Amy says

First off, I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. Second, this is my first contemporary romance by Moriah. Previously I only read her historical romance. I have to confess. I was more intrigued with this contemporary than the historical ones for the most part. This novel was well written with contrasting lead characters and humorous remarks that had me giggling out loud. Here are lines and scenes I really enjoyed:

"TJ Gates, you are a beautiful, beautiful man. Don't worry, I'm not going to kiss you. Maybe your shoes, though."-Linnea

"Full steam ahead! Ordered her shoulder angel, and she didn't stop to think. TJ tilted his head, nudged her lips with his, then covered her mouth in a deep kiss."-Linnea/scene description

"Love you."She slapped a hand over her mouth. Talk about Freudian slip. Only two heartbeats passed before he said, "I love you too, sweetheart."

I highly recommend this read.

Rachel says

[no - not between the hero and the heroine (hide spoiler)]

Cletta M. Liddie-Juip says

A really good read

I don't usually read contemporary novels but I like Moriah Densley's novels and I also think it was inexpensive, which was a plus. Her novels aren't sleezy or overly sexy but with imagination, it's all there. Not to mention her people are true to life. Sweaty, usually a bit flawed in the normal sense yet, oh so human. In this book, TJ's daughter gets her first period and his mother-in-law is getting Alzheimer's. He's a former marine and a place professional fighter.

Linnea is getting a divorce from a rich scumbag who calls CPS on her and keeps her under surveillance, her daughter has Down's Syndrome and her sons are angry. She is a very good cook and I think I gained some pounds in my two nights of reading.

This book is really entertaining. If you like historical novels, my favorite, I think, is Song for Sophia. It made me cry happy tears and I remember screaming in or part--or it may have been one of her other books. No two are alike and they are not at all predictable, which is one more reason to read them.

Susie Carson says

Moriah has done it again! I loved this book. Linnea is a wonderful heroine. She is so strong and spunky - even more than she realizes at first. And don't get me started on TJ Gates - what an awesome hero. Military,

UFC fighter, and gentle, doting father? You wouldn't think those would all work in one man, but it makes perfect sense. I love the setting, as I lived in Las Vegas for years. Unfortunately, it's all too accurate. The combination of romance and mystery (not a huge mystery, but it involves her ex-husband and the Yakuza - yikes!) would make for a wonderful movie, as well. Well-written, and a page-turner. Highly recommend!

Disclaimer: I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review. The views expressed are 100% true and 100% mine.

Jodi Ciorciari-marinich says

I have to say I loved TJ. He was so rough on the outside but sweet to everything he cared for. Linnea was great too. she was trying to be strong for her family when anything and everything goes wrong for her. thank goodness for TJ. Really enjoyed my first contemporary romance by moriah. I already love her historical books...

maggieandteddy says

4.5 stars. Very strong first 60% or so. I loved both the H and h. Linnea, the h had a bad self image after her scummy-no good-dirty rotten scoundrel of a husband dumps her after degrading her & their entire marriage. The low self-esteem could have been too much of a downer, but Linnea's frequent internal pep-talks pulls her out when she needs to deal with what she has going on. The POV is 3rd person- alternating between Linnea and the H, TJ. It seemed to be more of Linnea's POV, since TJ had a job that took him out of the country on ---- jobs. TJ's job is soon revealed-he also has a job back home that also has Linnea worried. I was debating with My friend JLC--Is this is a romance or more Chick-Lit?

Well, after finishing, I agree with her, that it's more a romance- a REAL romance not just sex acts over and over. I did miss some smexing-I can't imagine either of them in real life holding out...although I do know that there are rare couples ^~ TJ is very sweet-big, hunky, soft and gentle. The chemistry between Linnea and TJ is really intense, there are several times they get interrupted. Linnea is very skittish about getting involved with a man again- but is very attracted to TJ. Linnea has 3 children 10 yrs and under. TJ is a widower with a 10 year old daughter.

Linnea's ex-husband Evan is one of the worst secondary characters. The setting is Las Vegas, and he plays an evil, calculating lawyer. Evan is so bad, their 3 children don't miss him-or mention him. He leaves them behind so fast-it's like the cartoon where the Roadrunner leaves a trail of smoke behind.

I really enjoyed Moriah Densley's historical book: Song for Sophia. I am so happy that she wrote this contemporary love story. After, I finished Starter Wife, I realized that I didn't read any swear words-the characters are just mentioned as "cursed" or one time a character 'said the f-word'.

This may be the cleanest UFC fighter-US Marine soldier/Las Vegas divorce' stories I've ever read!
I still loved it though!

RL says

I received an ARC from the author, Moriah Densley, of this book, Starter Wife, late last night. I began reading it this evening, just after 6PM. It's now just before 10 PM and I've finished it (I've also cooked and eaten dinner during that time, but that's another story). The fact that I read a book in a few hours is probably no surprise to those that know me well. The fact that I chose to do so on a work night, when I have to get up before 6AM, is unusual. Yeah, it's that good. It is about a youngish woman, a mother of three (including one special needs child) that has painfully discovered that she was merely her husband's 'starter' wife.

Linnea is funny, self conscious, and her self esteem has taken a severe bashing. Her ex is the lawyer from hell. And, yeah, she put him through law school. It's an old story that, unfortunately, is still happening. The story is well-written and well worth a read. It had me laughing out loud in a few places. I recommend it.

Jenny - Book Sojourner says

Starter Wife was a great read, and at just the level I was looking for at the time. Actually, I take that back. I randomly picked it out of my hundreds of unread books on my kindle because the cover was light and fun, so I figured it would be a light and fun read. Well, I wouldn't call it a heavy read. But it had far more depth than I had wrongly assumed going in, but also the love and lightness I was hoping for. And this was a pleasant surprise and one I enjoyed immensely.

We have Linnea, verging on divorce from her loser husband, who is also tackling the reality of raising her three young children as a single mom and figuring out how she's going to keep enough food on the table without having to approach her parents for help. She meets TJ, her new neighbor and single dad, in a completely unexpected way, and though his actions are heroic, his appearance is rough and grisly. When you have three young children, who have minds of their own, however, they don't judge a book by its cover, and the inklings of a friendship begin. And this friendship, and more, is just what the two of them need to get through not only the coming events in their lives, but give them the much needed second chance at life and love they both desperately need.

Character-wise, I loved Linnea and TJ. They have wonderful depths about them, as well as completely endearing personalities, and I just loved reading about them, learning about them, and cheering for them. They have a tangible chemistry between them, but instead of their relationship becoming all about sex, the author truly brought out a deep friendship, a wealth of commitment, and the beauty of two people who truly are fighting alongside each other as well as for each other. Their romance is genuine and believable, and I loved it. Then, when you add in all the kids and the beautiful connection felt between everyone, I couldn't help but root for them all.

Plot-wise, this is more than just a romance. There are things going on in both Linnea's and TJ's lives individually that are having major impacts on their present and potential future. Plus, stuff from the past still needs to be dealt with and resolved, one of which is Linnea's loser ex-husband. But these things added so much to the story, and watching how the characters dealt with injustice or danger or vulnerability, endeared me to them even more.

I really enjoyed Starter Wife, the characters, the romance, the whole thing. I will also comment that this is a fairly clean book, with some inferences/references here or there. If you're looking for a sex-driven book with

a lot of cursing, this is not that book. But if you are looking for a great love story, a great family story, a second chance not just in romance but in life, then look no further.
