



## **Stranded with the Secret Billionaire (Harlequin Romance)**

*Marion Lennox*

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*Rescued by a brooding stranger...*

Jilted heiress Penny Hindmarsh-Firth sets her broken heart on escaping high-society city life. Instead, she's trapped by floods in the Outback and a handsome stranger on horseback comes to her rescue!

After a betrayal shattered his life, Matt Fraser withdrew from the world—but he can't deny Penny a refuge. The secret billionaire is reluctantly intrigued as the society princess starts proving there's more to her than meets the eye...

## Stranded with the Secret Billionaire (Harlequin Romance) Details

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Author : Marion Lennox

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## **From Reader Review Stranded with the Secret Billionaire (Harlequin Romance) for online ebook**

### **Hilary Mack says**

I've never read a book by Marion Lennox before, but I certainly will be looking out for her works in future. This book was a joy. I found myself laughing out loud at Penny's antics from the beginning, and I felt Matt's disbelief as he realised a pink princess had invaded his very rugged outback terrain. I also cheered when she showed him she wasn't just a pampered socialite, but she could hold her own.

The dialogue between the two sparkled, and fitted them perfectly. I could hear the Australian accents in my head as they talked. Their relationship flowed, and brought healing to them both in a way that felt natural. Not one moment of it rankled.

I especially liked the way Matt ignored Penny's father when the man tried to belittle him. It was all the more enjoyable for us because we knew just who the man was insulting. I would have liked to see his reaction when he discovered that, but hey.

A very enjoyable read. I wish I could give it more than five stars.

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### **Nicole says**

I loved the uniqueness of this story. The society girl running to the wilds of Australia and getting stuck in a river. The knight in shining armor rides up and takes her in for the duration of the flood. The characters are quite lovable. The story is one of a kind and very interesting. Once I started, I couldn't stop. Loved it. I haven't read this author before, but I would read again.

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### **Claire Scott says**

I really enjoyed this book, the characters were well written, and the scenery was described beautifully. The story focuses on Penny and Matt who both have demons to deal with, form a friendship that develops into more. The relationship didn't feel rushed which made it more realistic. When you meet Penny's family and learn more about Matt, you can fully understand why they are the way they are and I loved reading how these lost souls found themselves and each other. If a book can make you smile and feel good at the end, then it's a winner in my books. Will read more from this author

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### **Caitlyn Lynch says**

Don't be put off by the cheesy Harlequin title. This book is an absolutely FANTASTIC romance. Matt and Penny are completely adorable and I just wanted to smoosh their faces together and shout NOW KISS.

I'm thinking in foodie terms because Penny, the heroine, is a trained chef, and I reckon this book is like a

lemon meringue pie; it's sweet, sugary, fluffy and delicious... and yet at the same time there's enough tart tanginess to make it interesting.

Penny has been betrayed one too many times by her overbearing father and now by the half-sister who just stole her fiancé. Taking a job as a chef at an Outback hotel, she never even gets there when flooding rains trap her on a remote sheep property... just in time to step in as cook for a team of ravenous shearers and their slightly desperate boss, Matt Fraser.

Matt never expected to be rich, but his first farm turned out to be sitting atop a gigantic bauxite deposit. He doesn't want or need a billionaire lifestyle, and stepping into that world even briefly to help Penny with her overbearing family is obviously difficult for him. It's not an easy path to love for them; Penny's got a massive case of once bitten, twice shy, and Matt's got his own ghosts in the closet.

The happy ending is never in doubt, but the way it came about was so inventive and charming, and utterly believable. I absolutely adored this book and I have no doubt I'll still be smiling about its sweet aftertaste for a while. Five stars.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book for review through NetGalley.

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### **Maggie Hesseling says**

What a lovely read. It's not that faced paced, but really takes a moment to delve into what characters think and feel. I also enjoyed the fact that it takes place in the outback of Australia for the most part. And though they're both rich, they're searching for something more- a desire to belong and have a support system that they can really rely on, not just hope for. Well crafted and an easy read, it's definitely a great read for the summer.

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### **Book Gannet says**

This was such a sweet, easy, feel-good read with an ending that left me all warm and fuzzy inside. It's a small piece of perfect escapism and I thoroughly enjoyed it, right from the start with the flooded pink car and the grumpy rescuer. If you're looking for something to take you away to another place and leave you with a goofy smile, this will probably do the job.

I loved Penny. She may be rich, drive a pink car and have a fluffy poodle, but there's so much more to her than her double-barreled name. In fact her family – namely her father and awful step-sister – are horrible and despite all that wealth, all Penny wants is a chance to cook. Which is why she runs to the middle of nowhere after her rat-fink fiancé hooks up with her sister. I loved how she might not have ended up where she planned, but she still knuckles down and gets on with it, because cooking is what she's good at and she actually has a chance to be appreciated for the first time in her life.

I really liked Matt too. Life has given him a few hard knocks in the emotional department, yet he still has enough heart to see Penny for who she is and appreciate her appropriately. She might not have been what he wanted in his life, but the pair of them are adorable together and I really wanted them to be happy.

Of course, nothing is that simple and there are several spanners loitering around, ready to jump into the works and bring it all to a crashing halt. I did really like how mature the pair of them are about everything. There are no needless dramatics here, no moments of random foolishness to ruin it all. They're practical and caring and forge on even when their hearts are breaking. Which, for me, made the ending all the sweeter – because they thoroughly deserved all the good things.

Okay, if I'm being a bit picky, once the shearers leave the plot did sort of dally aimlessly about for a little bit before the next set of challenges came along. And I would have loved to have seen a lot more of Matt's side of things in the second half of the story. Without it, certain moments spring out of nowhere. Yes, it helped with the romantic gestures, but I still would have liked to have seen more Matt.

Overall, though, this was lovely. The romance is sweet and clean, the characters are extremely likeable and it gave me all the good feels at the end. A perfect pick-me-up for less than great days and an excellent way to while away a damp spring night.

(ARC provided by the publisher via NetGalley.)

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### **Elizabeth Neal says**

"Courage to change the things that can be changed, strength to accept those things that can't be changed and the wisdom to know the difference..." - Matt

Penny is up sh&t, err I mean, her car is stuck in a creek and the water is rising fast. As she's escaping her life, she can't exactly call home for help, not that her Dad would be concerned anyway, and her engagement ended with a betrayal so her fiancé, well former fiancé soon-to-be-brother-in-law (yeah, did you catch that? Yikes.), is out. Maybe her new employer...

Matt, a sheep farmer, is unable to shear his stock as planned thanks to the weather, which seems to be apologizing by sending him some entertainment in the form of a blonde, a poodle, and a sports car. See, it even sounds like the beginning of a joke. Matt quickly helps her car escape the growing water levels, then informs her she won't make her destination due to the weather, as well as that she's now stuck at his place until the levels recede.

Matt realizes who Penny is, as in her billionaire father, and knows he could essentially throw her under the bus to get what he needs to complete his shearing, but he can't do it.

Penny realizes she's stuck with a stranger for two weeks, not to mention her new job surely won't be put on hold for her, and it seems as if Matt needs a cook to feed a lot of shearers. Yes, it'll be hard work feeding twenty men, but she's looking forward to feeling useful, needed, and being able to forget the betrayal she left behind.

As the days pass, Matt can't help but be impressed by Penny's skills in the kitchen, as well as attracted to the woman he's getting to know. They've shared their heartbreaking stories, something Matt isn't prone to do, and have developed a friendship. When Penny confesses that her original job offer was rescinded, and Matt knows his job ends in a few days, he finds himself doing something he never thought he would. He asks her to stay a little longer.

"The night held its breath and Matt Fraser took Penny Hindmarsh-Firth into his arms and he kissed her."

But what happens when memories of Matt's past intrude and overshadow his time with Penny? Can he separate her from his mom and ex-wife's actions? Will Penny stay after Matt inadvertently hurt her? When Matt's life suddenly changes, how will it impact his and Penny's growing relationship? Does Matt want her to? Can both Matt and Penny let go of their pasts and look to the future? If so, does it include each other and a HEA? Or are some demons too hard to overcome, regardless of the cost?

One-click now and follow along as two people meet under unusual circumstances and discover a love that can heal their broken hearts.

**\*\*I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Reader Copy of this book.\*\***

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### **Kathy says**

content: not squeaky clean because there is sex but there are no details and it fades to black quick with no real scene.

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### **Beyond the Pages says**

Quick Summary: Sweet love story; low simmer chemistry that was beautifully revealed

Rating: 4-/5

Recommend: Yes

Audience: A

Chemistry/ Intensity: +/-

Conflict/Drama: +

Humor/Wit: +/-

Family Dysfunction: +

HEA: Yes

Source: NetGalley

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### **Amy Ella says**

Our heroine, Penelope Hindmarsh-Firth, 'Penny' is feisty but nevertheless very charming. My first impressions of Penny were that she reminded me of a pop princess, all boobs, with big blonde curls and over-sized pink earrings... But boy, was I wrong! Our heroine is no pop-princess but a woman of substance and full of, "Pink Bravado!"

Penny was running away from a disapproving Father, a broken engagement and scandal; falling straight into the arms of our hero Matthew, 'Matt', Fraser.

Matt is a cowboy knight with a black steed, oh, two Kelpies, horses and a lot of sheep! Matt is a tender hero but strong and commanding. In the eyes of our heroine he is,

“A loner. A man of strength and courage. Matt.”

The conflicts between our hero and heroine are very relatable in regard to family values and of having a sound moral compass. However, the secondary characters create some daring conflicts, conflicts, I felt myself, as the reader, difficult to digest.

I believe even villains need a redeeming feature. Whether it be the wicked Stepmother who deprives her Stepdaughter of love, secretly, is she only doing it out of the love she has for her true children?

However, all I felt from these 'villainous' secondary characters, was greed and self-worth, not a redeemable feature insight. A little one- dimensional.

However these conflicts do not detract from the central romance, which is both a loving and tender journey to their 'happily-ever-after.'

Marion Lennox creates vivid scenery, almost as if you could smell the dew droplets on the grassy verge... I want to say it was a 'homely' tale as the blossoming central romance made me feel cosy and comforted. To quote our heroine Penny,

“It felt like home... it felt right.”

My shining moment from this title was Matt's mantra, Something I feel we should all strive for as human beings everyday! Have the,

“Courage to change the things that can be changed, strength to accept those things that can't be changed and wisdom to know the difference...”

Although the central romance between Matt and Penny was the highlight for me. This tender tale isn't one I'd read again. 3/5 stars from me.

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### **Gwessie Tee says**

I completely adore this book Marion has written such a beautiful book as always, was able to laugh cry and get immersed completely in the story, was able to visualise the beautiful places featured as well as feeling justice was also served ( no spoilers I promise), truly wonderful honour to read before it comes out shortly, I very much recommend it to all who like romance thank you Marion

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### **Susan says**

Fantastic book. Penny is on the way to a new job in the Outback, escaping the heartbreak and notoriety of her broken engagement when she gets stranded by rising floodwaters. She's rescued by Matt, a sheep farmer out checking his land. He sees a blond woman with a pink car and a poodle, stuck in the stream and immediately writes her off as a ditz, but can't just leave her there. He reluctantly invites her to stay with him until the flood waters recede.

I loved their first meeting. Penny is trying to remember that she is a strong woman who doesn't need a man in her life ("I am woman. Hear me roar."), but reluctantly admits that she needs help getting out of her present predicament. Matt's mind is on the fact that he has twenty shearers ready to start work and the cook he's hired is on the wrong side of the flood. He's brusque but amused at Penny's bravado and figures he can handle a couple of weeks of company. After all, he'll be busy with the shearers and won't see much of her. When she offers to help with the cooking, he doesn't expect much from a society princess, but he'll take what he can get.

That first day was a real eye opener for Penny. Her initial offering was pitifully inadequate, and Matt's reaction was a blow to her feelings. But it was also a boot to her pride, and a challenge she couldn't resist. I loved seeing her go from slightly cowed to Iron Chef in a heartbeat. Her no nonsense instructions to Matt and the speed with which she was able to improvise was amazing. By the end of the day, Matt realized just how much he had underestimated Penny.

I loved seeing the development of their relationship. Over the next ten days, they got to know each other pretty well and formed a solid friendship. Though their days were busy, in the evenings they talked. I loved how Penny was able to share what her life had been like, the good and the bad, and begin to overcome the humiliation she had felt. Matt was more closed off at the beginning. His difficult childhood and then the disintegration of his marriage had destroyed his trust in people. I liked how Penny's willingness to share her story helped him to open up about his. By the end of the shearing time, each of them has realized that there is something more growing between them. I liked how Matt asks Penny to stay longer, using the excuse of needing help to get the house ready for a possible visit from his daughter. The attraction that has been building between them comes to the surface, and they agree to see where it takes them. But when Matt learns that his daughter will be visiting much sooner than expected, both his and Penny's fears return. Penny leaves to go back to Sydney, feeling rejected all over again.

Penny's return isn't all bad. Her time with Matt has given her the confidence to stand up to her father. I loved seeing her take this time to pursue her own dreams. She misses Matt and still hurts over the way they parted. She is in for a surprise when Matt arrives at her home in time for the dreaded family dinner. This scene is so emotional, as Penny fights her desire to lean on him and accept his help, yet has trouble trusting that he doesn't have some motive of his own. His patience and kindness, along with a bit of amusing deception were a joy to witness. He continued his gentle assault on Penny's fears the next day, as he also requests her help with his daughter Lily. But the real icing on the cake was when he and Lily arrived to take Penny and her mother to the wedding. I loved how perfect they all were together and the effect it had on Penny. Matt wasn't finished, though, and I loved the plans he had made with Lily's help and collusion. His big moment there was sweet and romantic exactly what Penny needed to push her over the edge of her fears. There was a final perfect moment on the last few pages that cemented how right they were for each other.

I loved the author's descriptions of life on the sheep farm. I could almost hear the sheep bleating and smell the atmosphere around the sheds. The rigors of shearing and the effort it takes day after day made a vivid picture. I also loved the amazing beauty and peace of the waterfall and pool, which reminded me of places I had visited in Hawaii. It has intensified my desire to visit Australia someday.

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## **Kate's Book Spot says**

When you pick up a Mills & Boon book you know you're going to get romance and often a bit of sexual tension thrown into the mix too. You can rely on them to provide you with a brief romantic escape from



reality and this book did a cracking job of that! It was fast-paced from the start and I was quickly caught up in Penny and Matt's story.

The chemistry between the two main characters wasn't immediate which was unexpected in a good way - I prefer a gradual connection as, I think, it makes for a more entertaining read. Learning to trust again was a big part of the storyline so this would explain why their relationship moved slowly.

The author whisked me away to Australia and filled my head with romantic scenes set in the most unlikely of places. Fabulous descriptions made it easy for me to visualise everything from a pink car with a tiny poodle to a busy farm with a load of hungry workers.

This was a lovely read, one that contained a pleasant mixture of romance, fun and even a few emotional moments. A great start to my Mills & Boon Insiders experience.

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