



Trapped by Viali's Vows

Chantelle Shaw

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Escaping...with his heir!

After falling for the notorious Italian tycoon, waitress Marnie Clarke is horrified to discover that—in Leandro Vialli's world—she's "his dirty little secret." It breaks her fragile heart and she flees with her dignity...and their unborn baby!

Leandro refused to believe the child was his until a paternity test proved him wrong. So when a shocking accident steals Marnie's memories, he seizes his chance. Convincing Marnie that she's his fiancée is Leandro's only chance to secure his legacy.

But before Leandro can say, "I do," the past comes crashing back and Marnie remembers everything...

Trapped by Vialli's Vows Details

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From Reader Review Trapped by Vialli's Vows for online ebook

Mary says

I almost gave this 4*'s, because this was so involving, but I disliked how much of a doormat Marnie was, and she was content to be his mistress (yes, despite what she said & thought, their relationship was based *only* on sex). Somehow it didn't seem realistic for them to be living together for a whole year and yet they knew absolutely nothing about each other beyond the bedroom. Did Leandro really have no contact with her except the physical one?

That said, I liked the whole scene when she (view spoiler) I'm still not sure that he grovelled enough for me, but it was close at the end.

Debbie DiFiore says

Another good HP (spoilers may be below)

I truly hated the H through 80 percent of this book. He was arrogant, cruel and demeaning. He really didn't deserve Marnie. She loved him and he just thought of her as a commodity. He could take her or leave her. And when she left the first time he was thinking that he had no desire for the women he had taken out to dinner that week and I was like he was dating already???? What a pig. And then the amnesia started and I really don't like amnesia books at all but I stuck with it and he still was oinking like a pig the whole time so I almost didn't finish it. It wasn't a wall denter but it was just too much. Then when he found her and watched her give birth I saw him change but it was almost a little too late for me. He became a great Father of course to little, and I hate this name, Stella! (I just kept picturing Marlon Brando screaming it in the street.) And he loves loves loves (I hope I gave it enough loves) Marnie and they live happily ever after. And ride off in the California sunset and she becomes an Astronaut or something. Typical HP and I liked it but it just wasn't great. Maybe I need to move to something non HP for awhile.

Paula Legate says

This book had heart break, passion, amnesia, and a surprise pregnancy. The hero was a jerk most of the book, but he won me over the last few chapters. The book cover says the heroine is a waitress, but it didn't say she was going to college to be a scientist. She was a smart heroine, that ended up falling in love with a super-rich guy. He was arrogant, and mean until she left him. Loved the fact she had a backbone. Once she was gone, he realized how much he really loved her, even tho he didn't believe in love... eye roll. I'm glad he finally found out what was important to him. Good book.

Carol says

Wow. I knew the plot of this book sounded ridiculous and over the top but the book itself was awful. Sure, the writing was decent but the story and most of all the characters were terrible.

The heroine Marnie was so naive in her relationship with the hero Leandro she was close to be in the dumbest female alive. She was such a doormat. And so needy for affection it made her blind to what was so obviously in front of her. She claimed to have fell in love with him during their year long liaison but honestly I doubt it was anything close to real feelings of love. More like an abundance of affection mixed with lust. Topped off with Leandro being her first real relationship and lover.... Sigh.

Leandro was an emotionally stunted jerk. I understand his reluctance to be in a actual relationship that's not based on sex after his disastrous first marriage. Top that with some serious mommy and daddy issues and you've got a boat load of issues.

This is exactly the sort of book I usually avoid and refuse to finish when I stumble across them. Their over the top, over dramatic, predictable and worst of all give the dumbest of characters life. I am so done with these naive too stupid to live heroines. Enough already.

StMargarets says

Lots of great reviews on this more-than-a-mistress-now-that-she's pregnant story, so I won't go into details. Suffice it to say that I really enjoyed the amnesia twist so the heroine could get mad at the hero twice. :) He really was a stinker with all of his secrets and distrustful nature. That NASA would want an undergrad in astrophysics from England so bad was kind of a stretch - but then so is retrograde amnesia. :)

Chantelle Shaw's style kind of reminds me of Jessica Steele. She's not the most lyrical writer, but she's logical, shows clear character motivations and always ties off her plot threads.

Jenny says

This book had drama, angst, passion and I was about to give it 5 stars! Then I read the epilogue where our very successful ruthless tycoon decided to become a stay at home dad so that his super brilliant wife, our heroine, could work for NASA. Hero was emasculated and they lived happily ever after. This book could be titled "The Happy Feminist Manifesto." Not what I like when I read a Harlequin Presents.

Fanniny Moreno Zavaleta says

2.5 stars

Marnie, Marnie, Marnie... After a year of living together you're surprised you're only his mistress... But how can you be surprised? He never took you out to socialize, you've never met his parents, you don't even know who they are or if he has siblings. Besides, it looks like you're not into sharing your life with him, you've never told him you have siblings or your sad past or your life's dreams.

If she had made the effort of communicating him about her life I would have felt deeply betrayed by the pig hero but she didn't make the effort so didn't even feel sorry for her.

I'm not saying he wasn't despicable, just that I didn't care for her. And I'm not ranting about him because there are great reviews detailing his *pigginess*, so I'll save my effort.

I don't know if I'm way too dumb or what but I honestly can't understand this heroine's logic, which applies to many other HP heroines:

"Her only regret was that Leandro still had not told her he loved her, and she had held back from saying the words to him. But she was sure he cared for her. [...]"

"She told herself it wasn't surprising that he found it hard to express his feelings. He had felt unloved by his father and had been abandoned by his mother when he was a boy."

His duplicity aside... So, you know his issues and still are expecting him to be the one to say "I love you" when you are the emotional woman who feels deeply the feelings and you haven't expressed them verbally to him ever (she kind of did, but can't remember because amnesia).

Honestly, how can the heroines demand to hear first the three little words from their closed up heroes when they claim themselves to be the emotionally opened up ones and haven't ever said a thing.

In the end it looks like the H totally forgot about poor Henry, who's on the way to become a H for a future HP. And the H's half-sister what? She wasn't formally introduced to the h but she was at the attempt of wedding just there completely forgotten.

My favorite line:

"He almost laughed out loud at his arrogance. What he 'deserved' was to rot in hell."

The bonus:

He was celibate (or at least I wanted to believe that) and she made him work for it not a few seconds but a few months.

Jacqueline says

Thoroughly satisfying Hp read. It had amnesia, yeah! Totally differently set up so double yeah! Well written, kept me interested. The hero was quite dastardly. But he he got what was coming to him and had to struggle to get the heroine back. Heroine eventually had a nice bit of backbone. Fun OTT read all around.

Xai Xai says

I enjoyed this one tremendously! The H was harsh and cruel but he repented and what a way to grovel! We saw the evolution of a waitress to an astrophysicist. A weak pathetic women to a strong protective mother. I loved this one and wouldn't mind reading it again

Vintage says

Uh oh. To quote Obi Wan Kenobi, I have a bad feeling about this.

He's Italian; she's blonde.

He's a \$\$\$ tycoon; she's a waitress.

She buys a dress she can't afford for one of the H's office parties, a dress that is surprisingly tighter than it should have been (eye roll). To make matters worse on the heels of one of the Leandro's exec's telling her she's "Leandros' dirty little secret" she finds out that she wasn't even invited to the party in the first place.

Ouch.

Update #1:

She's studying astronomy and has an offer to go to NASA. Nice!

Abandonment issues. Rotten relative/bad parents alert on both sides. There is little hope.

Major violation of the billionaire/mistress trope. Apparently when he jettisons one of his mistresses, he gives flowers instead of the ubiquitous diamond bracelet. So not only is he an ass-hat billionaire, he's a cheap ass-hat billionaire. The upside is he orders them himself rather than some poor but voluptuous put-upon PA he will later have an affair with and get pregnant. Wait, that's a different Italian bazillionaire.

Update #2 OMG, he's so machiavellian. Awful. Terrible. Devious. Epically so. Some Harley-land readers are going to love all this ANGST. We are heading into some good stuff, but I'm going into spoiler lockdown.
(view spoiler)

There better be an epic GROVEL.

Spoiler # 2(view spoiler)

Okay. Spoilers stop here. If you have read my reviews, I will slam down a 1 star review if the H is a total unrepentant ass-hat and the h is worthy of the title of tiny h aka door-mat. The resolution here does not fall under either category so a solid 3 to 3.5 stars for me.

KatieV says

One of the better new HPs I've read in a long time. It's a basic, time honored HP plot that I happen to love - *Mistress who thinks she's a girlfriend until cruelly set straight by the hero*. It had a lot of positives.

*The heroine acted like a responsible adult and went to H to tell him she was pregnant even though he was a giant ass.

*Amnesia!!!

*The heroine did not insta-forgive after the "I'll just marry her while she has amnesia and doesn't know I'm a shithead." plot is revealed

*Hero was a shit, but *come on* we wouldn't read HPs if that was a no-go. We love to hate on our cruel heroes. Plus, he really did show a lot of growth in the end and had to work for forgiveness.

*Amnesia!!! (just in case I forgot to list that one)

A note on the controversy re: the stay-at-home dad epilogue (view spoiler)

boogenhagen says

Well this one starts out bad, gets a bit worse and then really excels in h assertiveness at the end. I was proud of the lady, she stood up when she needed to and got that emergency backbone transplant right.

The H on the other hand, well I've made it through Robyn Donald books with more horrible H's but not that many. Still there is a decent H redemption at the end and so overall I liked this book.

CS usually writes the most doormatty h's in all of HPLandia, but she got it right this time and I can only say It Is About Time and also, this was very well done. I am almost liking the new HPLandia again.

Hazee says

Nice plot, likeable characters and an overall enjoyable read. I guess it deserves a better rating.

But.

Eeesh. I was waiting for that tug, that emotional reaction or anger or something when the hero was an ass, but sadly got nothing. I know me and Harlequins don't mesh well, so I will just stop trying. Sorry.

Fanny says

Cuando leo una novela de este tipo no espero que sea demasiado original o impredecible, sino que este medianamente bien escrita, en este caso en concreto me sorprendio para bien, no es la mejor que he leido pero es entretenida y sobre todo fue agradable que la protagonista femenina no actue completamente como un felpudo, en Despues Del < Si, Quiero > Marnie pone en su lugar a Leandro (aunque sea en los ultimos capitulos y despues de bastantes desplantes), solo por eso la historia me agrado un poco mas. Recomendada para las fans de esta tematica o para cuando quieres desconectar leyendo, sino no creo que sea de tu agrado.

2.75 Estrellas!

RomanceLover99 says

“The Sicilian’s Mistress” “The Greek Tycoon’s Convenient Mistress” and “A Tempestuous Reunion” are Lynne Graham books that Chantelle Shaw has obviously read before and got inspiration from for this book. “Trapped by Vialli’s Vows” is a combination of all three (if not more) of these three earlier Lynne Graham books.

This book had all the tropes that I like in romance novels however, I can’t get over how much Chantelle Shaw appeared to borrow from Lynne Graham’s earlier books. This book had a good Alpha hero who at the end became weak and beta, which was disappointing.

The book was enjoyable because it reminded me of some of my favorite Lynne Graham books however, it lacked originality. I understand that it can be hard to be truly original in HPlandia however, this book borrowed way too much from Lynne Graham.
