



The Substitute Bridegroom

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Elizabeth Goldsborough is the happiest of young ladies--set to wed the most handsome gentleman in town. Then, shockingly, all is stripped from her when an accidental encounter with an arrogant captain leaves her with no choice but to marry a man she despises. From the author of *The Black Widow*. A Regency romance reissue.

The Substitute Bridegroom Details

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Author : Charlotte Louise Dolan

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From Reader Review The Substitute Bridegroom for online ebook

BURMA says

2.5

Prometía más y acabó predecible y monótono. Tiene incluso escenas tontas.
Sin más.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

4.5

I really enjoyed this one. I thought it was really well written and it flowed nicely. I normally don't like too many POVs, but in this case I thought it was handled well. I liked all the secondary characters and thought it was fun to see things from different perspectives. The reason for Elizabeth and Darius to marry was different than I was expecting. I thought they had good chemistry, when they were together that is. Elizabeth was a very likable heroine. She is so sweet and understanding. I do wish she would have confronted Darius a little more. Darius was also likable, but so closed off to Elizabeth. He was also quick to think the worst, which was highly aggravating.

While I really enjoyed the story, there were a few things I would have changed. For one, I would have liked more time spent with Elizabeth and Darius. I would have liked their conversations to be a bit more meaningful. Another thing, Elizabeth was always saying she wanted to break down his walls, but we never really get to see her do it. Even though they are married early in the story, they spend very little time together. I felt like that took away from their story.

I still really enjoyed the overall story and will definitely be looking for more books by Charlotte Dolan.

Content: Clean, PG. Since they are married there are marital relations, but it's all behind closed doors and somewhat vague. Also, the "D" word is used a lot.

Kate Maxwell says

Cute, clean regency story of, "an eye for an eye, a bridegroom for a bridegroom." Misunderstandings Galore! quick read that I found myself wanting to get back to in order to see what happens next.

Mou says

I liked the heroine, but can't say same for the hero.

The Hero was an honest, loyal and honorable person in every way but one thing about him really pissed me

off. I can understand his viewing about women and the reason behind it, but that doesn't give him THE ACCESSES to judge every single woman. He thinks every woman is a hypocrite and cynical, but what about man? Surely not all men are good?

The writing style is good. The side characters and subplots are also good enough.

Overall It was ok.

Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says

With Spoilers

This regency has a forced moc plot, but with a little twist. The H, a captain on leave from Spain, ends up hurting and scarring the h on the face while curricle racing with a friend. Her fickle fiancé dumps her as he cannot bear to look at her ruined face and her brother decides that if it can be 'an eye for an eye' it sure can be 'a husband for a husband' too! The H, a dedicated career soldier and a misogynist who has no intention of ever marrying, offers for her not because the h's brother challenges his honor but because it's something his vampy sister warns him against! This H had some serious woman issues.

The h is as pure as driven snow in thoughts, heart and body, of course.

The bad people are as immoral, self-seeking and lacking in anything good as the people of those infamous mythological cities of yore. The level of immorality and promiscuity suggested is unbelievable.

(..*your sisters have brought their husbands, their lovers, their lovers' wives, their husbands' mistresses, their husbands' mistresses' husbands—*")

The H is rigid and judgmental - and a doubting Thomas of the worst kind. He thinks all women are duplicitous and depraved who fool men. (Men, of course are the faithful, incorruptible babes in the wood.)

The tone is vague and distant, and apart from when telling about the debauchery and evil deeds of the bad people, the reader is told of things rather than shown. The h/H barely spend time together for most of the book (as he's off several times, to teach the Corsican upstart a lesson), and do not really connect even when they are together. It's also has the problem of keeping the blacks and whites too stark and undiluted. Since this is my first book by this author, I don't know if this is her usual style.

But still a good formulaic read. The servants, her neighbours and her young cousin make up for the lack of warmth, with their (fairytales-ish) dedication to the h. The exchange of letters is also a good touch.

Jeri Stofa says

Fun read

This book was an enjoyable read, it was fun and entertaining, you are able to just escape for a bit. Parts were definitely predictable, but all in all good.

Ririn says

3.75 stars

Englishrose says

I simply love this book. The plot moves along at a good pace and the dialogue is fantastic. I really feel for Elizabeth who is such a sweet character even if she is a bit quiet. Darius is a great character who shows growth even while being a consistent figure. There are times I want to hit him over the head, but so does the heroine, so I count that as a good thing. Their romance is sweet and a good roller coaster. Side characters are colorful and fun and really flush out the storyline as they add in their own plot twists. It keeps you guessing what will happen next and how it will all work out. All in all a fun romance with some good laughs and perhaps a few tears as you root for true love to prevail.

www.cleanromancereviews.com

Georgie says

I liked the initial premise very much - that the hero proposes from a sense of guilt, and that this is explicit from the start. That should set up an intriguing "Does he love me or is it just guilt talking?" situation. Unfortunately, that potential is not really explored.

There were some very nice touches, though, in the hero's sharing with his men the Letters from Home, the attitude of the servants in the Big House, and some gorgeously bitchy sisters.

The hero is Strong and Silent, and since he doesn't say much, and what he does say is often curt, it's very hard to understand him. His actions at the start of the book cause the heroine to be badly injured, but we don't see him ever apologise to her. The heroine writes to him constantly while they are apart, but it doesn't ever seem to cross his mind to write back. When his neglect *is* pointed out to him, he still doesn't provide any explanation for it. He jumps to conclusions on the flimsiest evidence (even when the evidence isn't really evident) and consequently treats the heroine badly. His eventual redemption is ... unconvincing.

So that all makes it difficult to empathise much with the heroine who has fallen in love with a really not very nice man. By 3/4 of the book they have spent just two weeks together, most of it in the company of family, with little one to one conversation. I found myself rooting for her to put down the bitchy sisters, call the hero out on his appalling behaviour, do Something to assert herself, other than (view spoiler) But she didn't.

So, sadly, although the heroine fell in love, I didn't - and I do need to love the hero just a bit to love the book.

Angela says

So well written you don't want to stop reading until you finally read that Darius love his wife.

Kagama-the Literaturevixen says

I didnt care for this at all. I never made it through the whole book, there was just something so bland and off about the whole book.

Something else that annoyed me was the author cutting to scenes.

The hero is carrying the heroine to her home to get her help, then in the next paragraph some time has passed.

The heroine is waiting for her fiancee to come visit her

Then cut! to the heroine telling her brother "yep my fiancee was here and broke the engagement, because he cant stand to look at my face"

It was like the author was to go to the effort and write those scenes.

Isnt there an useful rule for writing? How does it go again? Oh yes...

show dont tell

And the hero was too arrogant He was a bit too casual about crashing his curriple and nearly killing a small child(heroine was trying to rescue it)

Then the heroines younger brother gets it in his head that since the "hero"(i say hah!) was responsible for his sister scarred face leading to her believe no one will want to marry a woman like that, the brother decides to call on the ~~hero~~ guy.

He is essentially made fun off and sent away.

When I read the blurb I thought it sounded interesting but the characters were so one-dimensional I couldnt finish it.

I wouldnt recommend this at all. :I

Ridley says

While it's no standout for innovation in traditional regencies, it's absolutely perfect as what it is - a light, fun marriage of convenience story with enough wit and drama to stay entertaining from start to finish.

Army Captain Darius St. John is just about to pull even in a carriage race down a narrow country lane when he has to suddenly swerve at the last second to avoid a child in the road. As he does so, a woman dashes in front of him and yanks the boy clear of the road. Everyone survives the accident, although the woman is injured by flying debris in the ensuing collision between the curriables and is left with a jagged scar down her

face.

Elizabeth Gainsborough was the shining belle of the London Season and set to marry an equally sought after gentleman at the end of the summer. When she notices how he can no longer bear to look at her marred face, she calls off the engagement, unwilling to marry a man who's disturbed by her appearance. Though she's content to retire to her family's country estate and be a doting aunt, her brother thinks otherwise, and sets off to demand Darius substitute himself for the dismissed fiance.

So, like I said, this book wins no awards for innovation. It's your standard marriage of convenience plot. There's the awkward wedding night (though this book is fade-to-black in the bedroom), the surprising appearance of mutual affection, the misunderstanding that sets them back and the climactic event that brings them back together. Even in 1991, this was old hat.

But, I mean, so what? The characters are all a satisfying mix of motives, quirks and other traits that it's still a fun trip. The flirtatious banter between Beth and Darius sparkles as much as their mixed signals rankles. They both make mistakes, but they do it in ways that are true to their characters, so it's suspenseful rather than exasperating. You know they'll work it out, but you want to stick around and see how, if only to see them giggle to each other about how wrong they'd been.

The only complaints I have for this fun story would be with the uncomplicated supporting characters. The antagonists in particular were too clearly written as bad people. The dismissed suitor, selfish cousin and slutty dowager duchess were almost cartoonish in their actions. They'd have been much more satisfying and effective characters if there had been more ambiguity in their behavior and motivations.

For a fun, light regency, this is a joy to read. So long as you're not expecting a groundbreaking sort of experience, there's a lot to like here.

Susannah Carleton says

A wonderful story! The characters and the tale are as delightful on the tenth or fifteenth reading as on the first one.

Gerrie says

[the hero injures and disfigures the heroine, and her

Megzy says

[Just to be clear, the main characters
