



The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck

Kathleen Y'Barbo

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Unlikely romance is sometimes just an inconvenient marriage away

Charlotte Beck may be entering adulthood, but she can't seem to keep to her stubborn, independent spirit from bucking social protocol. Fed up with her behavior, Charlotte's father Daniel pressures her to settle into a nice marriage despite knowing she is set on going to college. Then Daniel sees Charlotte with the handsome but annoying English astronomer Alex Hambly, and everything changes.

Though Alex and Charlotte can barely stand one another, Daniel offers them a deal they can't refuse: if they agree to marry, he will save Alex's family from financial ruin and grant Charlotte the freedom to go to college. Reluctantly the couple agrees, but in private they plot to annul the marriage as soon as possible. But when Alex's feelings change and he refuses to dissolve their contract, will Charlotte find a way out of her vows? Or will she discover that maybe this marriage isn't so inconvenient after all?"

The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck Details

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From Reader Review The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck for online ebook

Melanie says

<http://christianbookshelfreviews.blog...>

One thing I loved when reading Kathleen Y'Barbo books ('The Confidential Life of Eugenia Cooper', 'Anna Finch and the Hired Gun', & 'The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck') was seeing how the characters' stories unfolded. It is sad to see the "Women of the West" series (as Kathleen Y'Barbo dubbed these books in her acknowledgments) come to an end.

The first time I "met" Charlotte Beck she was a spoiled, trouble-making child, but in this book she's now a young lady getting ready for adulthood.

On her journey, she still gets into some trouble - including getting a man pummeled in the face, stealing that man's pocket watch, breaking a telescope, and performing in a wild west circus show!

At her 'unofficial' debut into proper society, Charlotte meets a highly irritating man, Mr. Hambly. When she tells her Uncle Edwin Beck something less than truthful, Mr. Hambly ends up with a black eye.

Edwin Beck had been itching to punch a Hambly for years. At least since the day Martin won Edwin's favorite polo pony in a race Edwin claimed was fixed. It wasn't, of course, but the younger Beck brother had never been a good sport or a good loser. That Alex had been the one to offer an excuse for fisticuffs irked him almost as much as the slight to the Hambly name. - Page 21

Alex Hambly has enough trouble without Charlotte Beck. His family is in debt, and he is the one responsible to help fix that. One of his many options is to marry a rich American lady, although the thought doesn't sound pleasant to him.

Charlotte wants to go to college and then join her father's company, but he has a stipulation: agree to marry Alex Hambly and I will allow you to go to college and after you graduate, having a four year engagement, you will marry Alex Hambly.

"Papa!" Charlotte rose. "You're not serious. You wouldn't dare trade me for some silly title. You've got one of your own. Why add another? Especially his."

"I assure you, Charlotte, my interest in seeing you yoked to the viscount has nothing to do with nobility." Mr. Beck laugh held little humor. "It is because I've never seen anyone handle you and your outrageous behavior as well as Alex does." - Page 162

'The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck' was really good. I continued reading it well into the night, until I had to stop. I really liked Alex's and Charlotte's characters and how their relationship blossomed. I found myself laughing when reading this book - some of the situations were just very humorous.

One of the only things I didn't like was how quickly the book covered some topics. I felt that had I not read the other books, I wouldn't have known what Charlotte's father was talking about when he mentioned her birth certificate. Also, I would have liked an epilogue that showed a couple of years later, how things unfolded. I hope there will be a book in the future featuring some of the same characters - I just don't want to say goodbye to them yet.

I liked this book so much that I will probably reread this in the future. I recommend this if you enjoy reading romance novels with a western theme mixed in!

* I received this book for free from WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group for my honest opinion. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I've expressed are my own.*

Patty LeBlanc says

Charlotte Beck, what a character! She is a spoiled rich young woman who often gets what she wants. As such, every time she meets a certain wealthy Englishman named Alex Hambly she finds herself getting into some kind of trouble. She is very stubborn and self-absorbed, and everything she does is to please herself without any care to what anyone else thinks. Her father has had enough of her antics and decides that he will arrange a marriage with this certain Englishman by the name of Alex Hambly. The marriage will benefit both families, so her father approaches Alex with the idea. After much consideration and deliberation, he agrees only because his family is in need of the money that this marriage would provide him also. He is not very happy about it and neither is Charlotte. So, they both have plans to get the marriage annulled as soon as possible. As time goes on, situations arise that make each of them wonder whether they made the right decision. What will come of this marriage?

Another great historical romance. I haven't read anything by this author, but I really did enjoy her characters. Unfortunately, I didn't realize there were two other books in this series, but I believe they could be read separately anyway. Sometimes it is just fun to have a little bit more background on the characters from previous books in a series.

I would definitely recommend this book. I myself will be going backwards and reading the first two books of this series.

Lori says

What a great way to end this series! Charlotte Beck starts off as a real obnoxious child in the first book. This last book she is all grown up and wanting to go to college instead of getting married. Her father Daniel Beck strikes a deal with an English business man and his daughter. They are to be married as soon as Charlotte finishes school. Charlotte tries everything she can think of to back out of the deal. This book was fast paced and full of many laugh's. I really enjoyed this book!

Anne says

If you're looking for a quick-paced, fun book to read, look no further than The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck. I found it an entertaining story about a young socialite who meets her match in an unassuming but determined astronomer.

In a time when young ladies had to have their father's permission to do most things, Charlotte finds herself scheming to get what she wants, or at least she tries. But she has a very clever and loving father. He knows just what she needs to keep her straight and decides it must be a husband. Along comes Daniel, who has no

intentions of marrying anyone yet let alone Charlotte Beck. She's a menace as far as he is concerned. Let's just say that there are plenty of antics to keep you chuckling and stimulating banter to keep one turning the pages.

The cast of characters are quite appealing. I enjoyed Charlotte's relationship with her daddy the most. They share a singular affection for one another that was a pleasure to be witness to.

This is one of my favorite historical fiction books so far this year. Yes, it's zany, but that appeals to me. I hope it appeals to you!

This is the third book from Kathleen Y'Barbo in The Women of the West Series. I read it as a stand alone, but will definitely go back and read the first two, The Confidential Life of Eugenia Cooper (#1) and Anna Finch and the Hired Gun (#2).

I received this book for free from WaterBrook Multnomah in exchange for my honest review. No other compensation has been received

Gwendolyn Gage says

Charlotte may be coming of age in body, but her heart is still full of mischief and schemes designed to get what she wants—a college degree in business and a seat at her father's boardroom table. Nothing will get in her way. Not a trick-turned-societal blunder at a Buffalo Bill show, and certainly not a star-loving English viscount.

"The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck" put me in mind of an old TV sitcom—in a good way. By the first few chapters, I knew I was in for a laugh-out-loud treat. The comical situations that pushed the hero and heroine together were entertaining, and I thoroughly enjoyed their witty banter. I especially loved the hero, Alex. He had me at "astronomer", but his responses to Charlotte were absolutely endearing.

As much as I loved Alex, he needed more background, and I didn't appreciate Charlotte's surprise issue at the end, which was something that needed more setup and shouldn't have taken me off guard. And while I enjoyed the humor and laughed aloud at a doctor's office during one scene (yes, very awkward), something about the comedy as a whole caused me to step back a bit. At first I blamed the author's style, and then melodrama that didn't pet me in the right way. But truly, I can't put my finger on why I didn't really love this book—it kind of baffles me because the characters were completely adorable, and I love comedies.

This is the third book in the "Women of the West" series, but it works well as a standalone. I'd not read the previous books and didn't get lost once. If you need a good laugh, and love old sitcoms, give this one a try.

Melanie says

The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck
Kathleen Y'Barbo
WaterBrook Press

London 1887, Charlotte Beck is visiting her Grandfather along with her stepmother Gennie. Charlotte is making her debut into social society, armed with the social graces taught her by her tutor Miss Pence. Unfortunately Charlotte is not very graceful and falls from the balcony into the arms of Alex Hambly. The two can not stand the site of one another, yet their paths continue to cross all the way back to Denver. Charlotte may be a 'menace' but has a head for business and desires to go to college and then work in her father's business. Mr. Beck rather Charlotte get married and have children as women are supposed to do. Alex's family is in financial despair and Mr. Beck offers Alex a proposal.. literally to marry his daughter and Mr. Beck will rescue the Hambly family estate. Charlotte will be able to attend school for 4 years then they will have to get married for her to take her place on her Grandfather's board.

Agreeing to the proposal, the 4 years go quickly and the day comes to wed. Still neither want to wed but know they must follow through with the promise. They concoct a plan to get an annulment shortly after the wedding so that neither of them are trapped into this forced marriage.

Alex has a change of heart though as he realizes that he has feelings for Charlotte, and a commitment to God to honor his vows. She of course is furious and trys all of her menacing ways to get him to give her an annulment.

Charlotte is one of those loveable characters that make you laugh out loud. Alex is every woman's dream beau, gentlemanly, adorable, and rich.

This is the first book I read by Ms. Y'Barbo and there are 2 others in this series. It was such a fun, light read that I plan to get the other 2 to read. Very enjoyable book!

I received a free copy of this book from Waterbrook Multnomah in exchange for a review.

Michelle Brown says

The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck is a sweet, funny, fast-paced romance that carries you from the ballrooms in London to the hills of the Rockies. You are first introduced to Charlotte Beck; headstrong, independent, feisty...those words would be mild descriptors of the young heroine of the story. While her father and stepmother long for her to be married, she longs to attend a university and one day, take her place by her father in his company.

The Viscount Alex Hambly is in a similar predicament. As the "younger" twin, he does not stand to inherit; however, with his brother Martin not emotionally stable enough to handle life, let alone the family's business ventures, Alex must step in. Yet all he wants to do is pursue his study of the stars.

As she descends the stairs on the night of her unofficial debut into English society, her eyes fall on the handsome, and amused Viscount. Later that evening she finds herself tumbling into his arms – quite literally tumbling from the balcony into his waiting arms. From that night, the two are intertwined, despite their best efforts otherwise. And when her father proposes a marriage that will solve both of their problems, how can they refuse?

Y'Barbo takes the standard, "Marriage of Convenience" and puts a fresh and humorous twist on it. Each chapter leads with a quote from Miss Pence, Charlotte's tutor assigned to help her make her proper debut, without embarrassing anyone. Such as,

"Speak when you are spoken to and do not assume nobility cares one whit for your ramblings."

The characters are fresh and vibrant. You will adore both Charlotte and Alex, though at times you might

want to throttle them. Alex isn't your standard handsome rake seen in most romance novels, and Charlotte, who may at first appear a bit formulaic in her independent nature, also adds humor with her bumbling antics, quick wit and sarcasm.

I did wish she would have stayed longer in one character's head, as the POV switches often. I think that would have provided more emotional attachment to the story. I felt as if I was hovering above the story, a fly on the wall witnessing the events, rather than immersed in the story and emotionally invested in it.

Overall, I gave the book 4 stars. It is a great light read, with a sweet romance. Though the message isn't too deep or thought-provoking, it is a great book to curl up and read one rainy afternoon. It would also make an excellent book for teenage girls, 16+.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the publisher through the Blogging for Books book review program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255

Camille says

The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck by Kathleen Y'Barbo

I received a copy of this book through WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group through their Blogging For Books program. I am under no obligation to write a positive review, just an honest one. I received no compensation for writing this review other than receiving a copy of the book to review.

Charlotte Beck is a young woman entering adulthood who has ideas of her own about how she wants to live life. All she wants is to go to college, study mathematics, and then join her father's business.

But she is so stubborn that she causes problems and breeches social protocol, embarrassing herself and her family, at every turn.

Her father pressures her to marry, thinking that if he can find the right match for her, perhaps it will tame her wild spirit. And that's where Alex Hambly comes in. For once, there seems to be a young man who can manage her wild spirit.

The problem is, neither one can stand the other, which isn't the best start for true love...

So, Charlotte's father strikes a deal with the two, he will give Alex Hambly the money to save his family from financial ruin and allow Charlotte to attend college if (and only if) they agree to marry one another.

Alex and Charlotte begrudgingly agree, but secretly plot together to attain an annulment as soon as they possibly can after the sham wedding.

But Alex's feelings change and he refuses to annul leaving Charlotte stuck, married to a man she can't stand. A most inconvenient situation.

Will Alex and Charlotte come to care for one another? Or is ending the marriage the only option?

Read The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck to find out!

I have to say this book was hard to push through. It's hard to pin exactly what I didn't like about it, but I will give it a try.

I think, for starters, Charlotte Beck is incredibly annoying. She is so fickle and unwilling to hear anything else anyone has to say to her. I found her frustrating and therefore couldn't get myself to care for her well-being.

And Alex Hambly wasn't a very deep character. All I gathered about him is that he is a man who likes astronomy and that's what he wants to do with his life. There was little depth or believability to his character.

The rest of the characters were the same, surface level, no depth, and impossible to connect with. And it's so difficult to read a story and get enthralled by it when you don't really feel for the characters.

I also found myself very frustrated by how weak of a character Charlotte was in the sense that she was pushed around. It's a weird juxtaposition because she thinks she is so strong and she is most definitely willful, but she isn't really strong because she collapses so easily in the end. I don't think I'm giving too much away to say that she falls in love (duh, it's a romance novel) but the change is so quick it's like she's broken rather than matured. I realize that in that time period women didn't have choices for their own lives, at least not like we do today, but other authors have written strong female characters in that time period that persevered so much better.

All-in-all I give this book 2.5 stars.

Linnette says

Charlotte Beck is an incorrigible little gal, yet you can't help but love her. She's always getting herself into messes and from the moment she steps out into society Alex Hambly has the unfortunate responsibility of getting her out of trouble. While Alex would much rather bury himself in astronomy, he's too much of a gentleman to say no to Charlotte's pleas. Of course, she does make very enticing promises – nothing untoward, mind you. If you must know, you'll have to read the book. ;-)

This is a great story illustrating that love is not maximum emotion, but rather maximum commitment.

The only complaints I have are: 1) Kathleen wasn't clear enough throughout the book about the internal issues driving Charlotte's decision making. Nor did she make clear the issues surrounding her mother in the end. That part of the story was confusing.

Regardless, "The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck" is a highly entertaining story written in a unique voice and I enjoyed it.

~This book was a given by Water Brook Multnomah as part of their Blogging for Books program. I would appreciate it if you would rank my review. Just go here:
<http://waterbrookmultnomah.com/bloggi....>

Molly says

It's tough wading through all the long flowery dialog without getting tired after a few chapters. I thought this

would be fun read with a lot of light-hearted moments, but the jokes fell flat for me.

The plot seemed simple enough: independent and business-minded Charlotte wants nothing to do with marriage but ends up having no choice but to marry... until the marriage of convenience becomes irresistibly inconvenient.

But once I started reading, I couldn't find what was so inescapable about the marriage. I was confused as to why Charlotte and Alex felt they had no other choice. Plus, they were obviously already attracted to each other, so what gives? The premise just didn't feel very believable.

Charlotte's Papa, the one who proposed the marriage, appeared to me more manipulative than loving, despite his apparent affection for his daughter. I just can't understand why he's so bent on making his daughter marry when she expressed a desire to stay single and focus on her career.

And the way it was all resolved was terribly rushed. Charlotte suddenly realizing, in the space of one paragraph, her true reason for refusing marriage--honestly, that's such a stretch. It pertained to Charlotte's mother, who was barely mentioned throughout the book, only to be resurrected in the end as the central motivation.

Meanwhile, Papa's big revelation just came out of nowhere to tie all the loose ends neatly. And the resolution between Charlotte and Alex was weak--after years of animosity, suddenly you can just switch on the romance? If I was Alex, I'd be suspicious Charlotte had something up her sleeve, yet again.

Even with the hasty happily-ever-after, some issues were left dangling, like the question of Charlotte's faith. Her papa and husband raised the issue of her dwindling faith, and she admitted it was shaky, but after the big happy ending there wasn't a question of it anymore.

What I would've liked to see is Charlotte coming to terms with what it means to be a wife, to realize the beauty of God's design.

For what it's worth, I did read the book to the end. I could easily predict the ending but I wanted to see how it would unfold.

Rachel Brand says

GENRE: HISTORICAL ROMANCE

PUBLISHER: WATERBROOK PRESS

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 21, 2011

RATING: 7 OUT OF 10

Making her debut into London society, Charlotte Beck receives more than she bargained for when she tumbles out of a window into the arms of Viscount Alexander Hambly. The American heiress and English noble find their lives forever entwined as a result of the night's events, much to the dismay of both parties. Charlotte is known for her inappropriate antics, and while she'd like to escape from the expectations of her parents – a suitable marriage, home and family – by attending university, her father has other plans for her. Charlotte is to marry Alex, whom her father has a business proposition for. Although her father insists that she is not simply a pawn in a financial deal, and that he believes Alex is the perfect match for her, being the only man who can control her and make her stop talking, Charlotte is still unhappy with these plans. It is

only when her father and her betrothed promise her that she may attend university before getting married that she agrees to the arrangement. But four years is not as long as she expected, and when she returns to her parents' home she discovers that no one has forgotten her impending marriage, and there is no escaping it – unless she can convince her new husband to agree to an annulment. But Alex has not forgotten Charlotte and how amusing her teenage antics used to be. Without either of them realising it, Charlotte has already stolen his heart, and he is determined to show her exactly why she should remain married to him.

Charlotte is the sort of character will have you laughing out loud, no matter how restrained you try to be while reading this book. Her escapes – entirely inappropriate for a young woman of good breeding – were hilarious to read about, as were her interactions with Alex and his family. Alex and Charlotte have brilliant chemistry together, even if neither of them realised it to begin with. I thoroughly enjoyed the first part of this book, where Charlotte and Alex slowly get to know each other through Charlotte's little accidents and near social suicides. They are certainly unusual characters for a historical novel, with Alex's interest in astronomy and Charlotte's painting skills being well thought out and described. In a way, Charlotte and Alex are two misfits in the world of courtship and balls, making them perfect for each other.

I also enjoyed the dual setting of this novel and reading about the characters experiences in both London and Denver. I've not read many historical novels written by American authors but set in Britain, so this definitely made a nice change. It was interesting to read about the differences between London and New York society, the debutantes, clothing of the period and expected etiquette for young ladies. The pieces of etiquette wisdom given at the start of each chapter are absolutely hilarious, as are Charlotte's attempts to succeed in achieving them.

While I did love the characters, settings and events of the first part of this novel, I really felt let down by the latter part. As the second section of the novel begins, Charlotte returns from university to live with her parents pending her marriage to Alex. I'd been really looking forward to reading about Charlotte and Alex managing to adapt to married life, which I imagined would be a lot of fun to read about, giving their shenanigans in the first part of the book. However, in the four years that have passed between Part I and II of the novel, Charlotte's character had undergone a complete transformation. I imagine that Kathleen simply wanted to show how Charlotte had grown up, but she had none of the spunk or ingenuity of the previous Charlotte. To be honest, most of the time she just came across as grumpy or selfish, and the chemistry between her and Alex was completely gone. Alex, on the other hand, was exactly the same as he had been in the first part of the book, which just succeeded in showing how entirely different Charlotte's character was.

My other complaint with the second part of the book is that Charlotte suddenly has a fear of getting married, brought on by something mysterious that apparently happened to her biological mother during her marriage to Charlotte's father, who is now remarried. This mysterious "something" had never before been alluded to in the book (or if it had, not enough for me to pick up on it) and seemed to come completely out of the blue. It was as if the author had felt that Charlotte needed a reason for her distrust of marriage, and threw this fear into the story in order to validate Charlotte's behaviour. To make everything even more confusing, the whole issue is wrapped up two or three chapters after Charlotte's fear is first revealed, when she has a discussion with her father and coincidentally just happens to come across a letter from her grandfather that explains everything. Then, of course, her fear is gone and she can stop being so harsh to Alex. Maybe if Charlotte's misconceptions about marriage and the mystery surrounding her father's first wife had been incorporated better into the story as a whole I wouldn't have minded this part of the novel so much, but as it is I really felt that this part of the plot needed to be expanded in order for it to feel credible and not so rushed. On the whole, I think that the second section of the book needed to be at least fifty pages longer as all of the events felt a bit rushed and quite detached from the first part of the book. At times, it actually felt like I was reading an entirely different book.

While *The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck* began with a promising start, the section of the novel that focused on the actual marriage between Charlotte and Alex was a letdown. The chemistry between the

characters petered out due to Charlotte's change in personality, and events were rushed to their conclusion by the introduction of a mysterious and previously non-existent plot device that was over and done with far too conveniently. I'm afraid that I was a bit disappointed by this book, although more the second section than the book as a whole. Charlotte and Alex were originally wonderful characters, but their personalities seem to have got a bit lost along the way. Although I didn't love this book, I would consider reading others by Kathleen Y'Barbo in the future as she creates great characters and families. Perhaps the difficulties I had with this book were not due to her writing but the four year gap between the two parts, in which much goes unexplained.

Review title provided courtesy of Waterbrook Press.

Iola says

The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck is the story (obviously) of Charlotte Beck, an only child who was English-born and American-raised, and the grand-daughter of an Earl. At seventeen, she is keen to take her place in society, and wants to attend college to study mathematics so that she can prove to her father that she can work in the family business (very unusual for 1887). At her unofficial debut into proper London society, she meets Martin Hambly, the stargazing heir to an earldom. Their relationship gets off to a rocky start (she literally falls into his arms, while he is actually Viscount Hambly, Martin's twin brother), and common interests keep bringing them together until they find themselves engaged to be married.

I enjoy reading romance novels with the marriage of convenience plot device – two people forced to marry through a twist in circumstances beyond their control, who come to love each other as they work together to overcome some common obstacle. Janette Oke's *Love Comes Softly* is probably the best known of the genre in Christian romance, but many authors have successfully used a variation on the theme to produce an enjoyable novel with likeable characters that you want to get their happily-ever-after. The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck is not one of these books. Why not?

Firstly, the marriage of convenience only occurs two-thirds of the way through the book, after the couple have had a four-year engagement. Admittedly, they are still virtual strangers at that point, having ignored each other for the entire period of their betrothal. Secondly, no matter how much I tried, I just could not like the heroine. She came across as intelligent, but headstrong and troublesome to the point of being irritating. Thirdly, this is supposed to be Christian romance, but the 'Christian' was so minor as to be almost an afterthought. Finally, there were a couple of minor plot points that were only raised at the very end of the novel and were then explained away very briefly, yet they seemed key to the overall resolution. As a result, the conclusion was not altogether believable, because if these plot points were important, they should have been introduced earlier.

This is the final book in Kathleen Y'Barbo's *Women of the West* series, and really needs to be read in sequence. As the author says in her Acknowledgements at the conclusion of the novel, Charlotte Beck first featured as "an impish child in *The Confidential Life of Eugenia Cooper*, and then as a young lady longing for adulthood in *Anna and the Hired Gun*". Perhaps if I had read these first, I would have had an understanding of Charlotte's background and issues, and would not have got confused at certain points in the story. Perhaps, too, I would have found her a more likeable heroine. As it was, I found the book confusing and the heroine annoying.

If you read and enjoyed the first two books in this series, you will probably enjoy *The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck*. Otherwise, I would advise you either start at the beginning of the series, or ignore this altogether.

Thanks to Waterbrook Multnomah Publishing for providing a free ebook to review.

Michelle says

More like 4.5 stars.

This was a fun story for a number of reasons. First, I read it in less than two days because I kept wanting to know when they would change their minds. The anticipation kept me reading. Plus, I adored the hero. Charlotte was a bit of a twit at times and quite annoying, but she had her tender side, too...when she allowed someone to see it. Alex was so patient I wanted to give him a medal for that. He was also a good man like her father noted. I thought their scheme made sense at first, but I couldn't help admiring Alex's strength and heroism at times. He simply couldn't help being a gentleman.

My favorite scene was the one where they stumble upon the cabin. I was like...finally, only to have the inevitable deferred again. Of course, when the moment passed there were second thoughts...again. But I suppose it was best for a decision to be made with one's wits about them and being in Alex's arms would make any woman forget those wits. At least, that's how I felt. She never did find out about who he "almost" married. I wonder if that will come out in a future book.

I normally find stories with strong-willed and stubborn women a bit unappealing and unrealistic, but for some reason this story and the way the author wrote the character made me smile because it was handled in such a humorous fashion. I enjoyed her clumsy antics and crazy ideas. I enjoyed the historical tie-in to Buffalo Bill Cody as well. I thought it was funny how Charlotte was always trying to outwit or best her "competition" and that made the story shine. She was spunky and fun, and I could see how Alex would be intrigued by her. When she responded to his kisses, it made me smile. She simply didn't know what to say. They overpowered her so much that she lost some of that snark and wit. I liked that he had such an influence on her mood that he could soften her up with a gentle touch or heated kiss. Overall, this was a fun historical romance and I enjoyed it very much!

BlueJeansAndTeacups says

ALL 3 BOOKS IN 1 REVIEW (4star, 5star, 4star)

The Confidential Life of Eugenia Cooper– Women of the West #1 of 3

•°• A Wild West Adventure •°•

Gennie Cooper is a fine New York, young lady of the late 1800s, destined to marry a respectable banker of admirable acquaintance, but she is looking for adventure like she reads in the popular (although not to be shared or discussed in proper society) dime novellas about Mae Winslow.

Daniel Beck is a businessman who splits his time between Denver Colorado, where he resides with his 10 year old high-strung daughter, Charlotte, and Leadville where his mining company produces silver.

When Gennie's parents go travelling, she discovers her new maid's sister is planning to provide temporary Governess services out west, and promptly concocts a plan to take her place.

A great adventure ensues and Gennie and Daniel collide (quite literally) with each other, changing the course of their lives forever.

This book was a nice diversion, with bits of faith sprinkled in. I found it enjoyable; not WOW, wonderful,

but I was entertained.

This book also contains a short story at the top of each chapter, which is the dime novel about Mae Winslow, along with a short chapter at the end finishing her story. It was fun at first, but I really could not get into the bonus story, and lightly skimmed the end.

I was loaned this copy. My opinion is my own and without compensation. I give it a 4 star rating.

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344 pages

Read: 4/18-19/2015

Reviewed: 4/20/2015

Anna Finch & the Hired Gun – Women of the West #2 of 3 Kathleen Y'Barbo

•°• Love Pinkertons! •°•

This was my favorite book of the series. In fact, I read it in one day, I was enjoying it so much. It features a handsome, faith-filled Pinkerton detective – Jeb Sanders – hired to watch the spunky Anna Finch, whom her father believes causes so much trouble she can't catch a man.

Jeb believes he has been assigned the worst case ever – to babysit *some rich girl instead of catching thieves and murderers and following leads on the ruthless Doc Holliday (whom he has a personal vendetta against). Anna, by all appearances, is *just that. But, secretly she is a published author, and a girl who's heart desires riding the open plain from time-to-time, not sitting around wasting her days stitching and her nights at social events. She is also the last of 5 daughters and the only one not married. Her father intends to remedy that as soon as possible and has hired the Pinkerton Detective Agency to guard his willful daughter and keep her out of trouble, until such time as she is properly wed. The story starts off with a bang (literally), and Jeb and Anna are thrown together in an unexpected way. His job is made exceedingly difficult when she makes the acquaintance of Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, and begins friendships with them. The story involves lots of sneaking around and even a healthy dose of danger, which was most enjoyable. For a faith-filled novel, I liked that the author gave us a little more danger and a little more passion than some authors of this genre without crossing the lines, in my opinion.

This book also contains short quotes at the top of each chapter regarding Doc Holliday and Wyatt Earp, my favorite being “This is funny.” – Doc Holliday's reported last words. Ch. 8, pg. 73.

Additionally, there are historical facts about them listed in the back of the book.

I was loaned this copy. My opinion is my own and without compensation. I give it a 5 star rating, and recommend to others who enjoy historical, Christian novels – particularly western.

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325 pages

Read: 4/20/2015

Reviewed: 4/21/2015

The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck – Women of the West #3 of 3 Kathleen Y'Barbo

•° London & Colorado Collide •°

Fun Quote: What happened unobserved did not have to be admitted. Chapter 8 page 63

This is the 4th Kathleen Y'Barbo book I have read. Admittedly I did enjoy it overall, but with a few issues. Charlotte Beck is only 17 and throughout much of the first half of the story, she is a bit of a brat. At times she is amusing, but not as sensible as I would like. The 2nd half of the book picks up 4 years later, and she remains as stubborn as ever, even having gone away to college. Where she should have matured, it causes the story to drag. Alex Hambly is a royal viscount with a strong sense of family duty. Overall, a pleasant character to read about. He is thoroughly vexed by Charlotte who literally drops into his life. Not quite as plausible for me; four years is a long time to carry a torch from someone Alex Hambly barely knew. Although he is obligated to her, as we read, and has buried his feelings, they return all too quickly for me. It just didn't make good sense.

A huge issue for me is a very detailed scene where Charlotte's grandfather makes a big show of summoning Alex to give him an important letter, which he is then to deliver to his father. However, Alex's father dies before he can. Shortly thereafter Alex crumples up the paper and we NEVER find out what was written on it. I felt ripped off! At the end of the story (small spoiler alert), Sept. 7, 1891 Charlotte loses something precious in the river. The next day, Sept. 8, when everyone is getting ready for a huge party at Charlotte's home on the Colorado prairie, Alex has managed to ride out to the river, find the damaged item, get it to a restorer, have it restored, and wrap it up and present it to her that same night. Hmmmm. Doubtful. Overall, it's a good and enjoyable story with lots of potential. It just fell a bit short for me. However, I have enjoyed this author's more recent works over this one, so I do not count her out (and having read book #2 in this series, have high hopes).

I was loaned this copy. My opinion is my own and without compensation. I give it a 4 star rating.

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337 pages

Read: 4/15/2015 (I accidentally read this book first instead of last in the series)

Reviewed: 4/16/2015

Loraine Alcorn says

I received an advanced readers copy from blogging for books

The Inconvenient Marriage of Charlotte Beck by Kathleen Y'Barbo

I have to say this was a very nice fun summer read that was a load of laughs.

Charlotte Beck is a very different kind of turn of the century woman .she is always doing unconventional things that do cause some grief to her family . Charlotte, most wants to attend college so she can have the smarts to take over for her father and grandfathers business but because of her latest escapade that caused her to look reckless in front of her peers in London her father insists she marry .

His hope is that it will settle her down and help her become the proper 1880s lady she should be .At the same time,Charlotte meets Viscount Alex Humbly and though they do not exactly hit it off ,Charlotte has a plan that will get her to college and also help out the Humbly's terrible financial problems .

This story is filled with fun and laughs as Charlotte proceeds with her plans and hopes for the best . The one

thing she did not count on is Alex coming to love her and really want to keep this marriage even though Charlotte so wants to be rid of through annulment . Charlotte most want to be her own free agent and not have to be told what to do by anyone including her father . Charlotte see marriage as just a different way for her to be controlled and she is not having that .

Throughout this story Charlotte learns how to follow her faith and the faith of her inconvenient husband who seems to be taking his marriage vows a bit to seriously for her future plans . Daniel Beck ,Charlotte father keeps a close eye on his daughters progress and hopes with all his heart she will stay in a marriage she is to fearful to accept .
