



Almost Forever / For the Baby's Sake

Linda Howard

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Almost Forever (Spencer-Nyle Co #2) by Linda Howard

Max Conroy didn't let anything get in the way of his job—and his job was to lead a corporate takeover. But to do it, he needed information, the kind the lovely Claire Westbrook could provide. All he had to do was seduce her....

But when Claire dared to let down her defenses and open her heart to him, Max found his loyalties put to the ultimate test. Now his biggest risk wasn't a business deal, but what would happen when Claire discovered the truth.

BONUS BOOK

For the Baby's Sake by Christine Rimmer

Andie McCreary was an independent, self-sufficient person, and she was perfectly capable of taking care of herself — and the precious new life she was carrying. But her old friend Clay Barrett swore her child had to have a father, and he was actually prepared to marry her to make it happen. Trouble was, for him this marriage was strictly for the baby's sake — but for Andie, it was becoming far, far more...

Almost Forever / For the Baby's Sake Details

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Author : Linda Howard

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Jbgreendawn says

I did only read the first story in this two book collection as it is the second in a Linda Howard series. (it felt fairly short and more than a little bit totally unbelievable so, I think I need to avoid these really old stories that are not making their way to Kindle)

Sarah says

I'm still reading this book so I'm hoping it improves but, I'm not holding my breath. I kind of relate to Claire in that she tries to protect herself from being hurt but...if a man ever treated me that way (severely controlling and borderline abusive) he would not only find himself becoming acquainted with my taser, he'd be laying on the floor, zip tied in a very uncomfortable position while he waited for the police. I've enjoyed Linda Howard's books in the past and I don't remember being so completely pissed off by them but, it has been a long time since I read one.

Jae says

[McStudmuffin came from a titled English family, which is not so big a deal, but he didn't disclose this to Violetinsky until he was literally introducing her to Lady Mummy McStudmuffin one week before their wedding. Since his past misdeeds i

ms bookjunkie says

I liked it.

If I'd read it, say, fifteen years ago, the book would've been an instant favorite, a comfort read and would have been read and reread many times over the years. It has that old skool Linda Howard magic. Sadly, I've grown up, my tastes have changed—*times* have changed—and while I enjoyed the book a lot, it just didn't sparkle rainbows for me the way it would have when I was younger.

Jodotha says

I wasn't sure if I would like this or not. I adore a good romance, but if the story is too formulaic - so much so that it brings me out of the narrative - I don't appreciate it. So I generally stay away from Harlequin, as that's sort of their thing. Spotted this at the library, though, so gave it a shot.

When I began this book, I rolled my eyes a lot. The characters seemed trite, with the shockingly handsome hero and the mousy but secretly beautiful heroine. I was already writing this review in my head by page 50 (not a good sign). But as I read on, the characters (though still formulaic) began to at least become more

themselves and less paper-dollish. They began to take on depth that I found interesting, especially from the heroine.

In truth, the book was at times frustrating, seeming so over the top as to be a mockery of women's need for intimacy. But it was that same identification that compelled me to keep reading. Was it worth the time spent? Maybe, maybe not. It was a decent enough way to spend a few hours. I figure...Don't expect too much from your light reading, and you won't be disappointed when it's just that - light reading. I gave this three stars because I didn't dislike it - it was okay reading. Not great, but not a waste, either. And, to be honest, good enough to at least whet my appetite.

Anita says

ALMOST FOREVER by Linda Howard

This is an older Alpha-hole hero, angst ridden heroine early Harlequin. Beware, you just might feel the need to hurl it against the nearest wall. The style it is written in is not my taste at all and there was absolutely nothing that made me care for these two either. Unless you are a true Linda Howard fan, don't waste your time with this one. Even as a true Linda Howard fan you may want to skip it. Like a lot of her early work it is just not that good.

Claire is very self-contained and content now with the way her life is. She lives on her own, has a job and boss she really likes and things are ... pleasant. After her disaster of a marriage to a member of Houston's society where she felt she never measured up, she is now in a good place in her life. Things are about to change.

Max is a man on a mission. His goal is to get inside information that will enable his company to mount a successful takeover of Claire's company and he has pinpointed Claire as the weak link. His method to extract the needed information is seduction, of course. No woman has ever said no to Max before and Claire will certainly not be the exception.

Claire has no intention to let Max upset her balanced life, no matter how handsome he is or how attentive he is to her. Handsome, charming men - been there, done that, have the broken heart to prove it. Not happening again. Except for all the deep layers, many facets and blah, blah, blah to Claire's personality, she falls in love with Max anyway and when he betrays her it really, really hurts.

Max is a man on a mission. His mission is to win Claire back, because even if Max is the consummate love em and leave em type, he just can't leave Claire so broken and he finds that he really doesn't want to leave her at all.

FOR THE BABY'S SAKE by Christine Rimmer

Jennifer Kirkey says

Max Conroy didn't let anything get in the way of his job-and his job was to lead a corporate takeover. But to do it, he needed information, the kind the lovely Claire Westbrook could provide. All he had to do was seduce her....

But when Claire dared to let down her defenses and open her heart to him, Max found his loyalties put to the ultimate test. Now his biggest risk wasn't a business deal, but what would happen when Claire discovered the truth.

Aarann says

This is another Linda Howard favorite that I decided to re-read. It's a loose sequel to "Sarah's Child", a WTF-ery filled funfest if there ever was one. I prefer this a lot to its predecessor, mostly because it doesn't feature weird, selfish protagonists. Well, it does a bit, I suppose, at least in the sense that any romance main character has the capacity for selfishness, but Sarah's Child was a special level of selfish. Another reason I prefer this one though is because I just plain like Max better than Rome -- even when I was reading "Sarah's Child" I kind of wanted Sarah to run off with the much more charming and likable Max, than to stick with the brooding, intense Rome.

The gist of this one is that Max Conroy is sent to obtain secrets from Claire Westbrook's boss. To do that, he decides to get up close and personal with the emotionally elusive Claire. It isn't long before he realizes he has a jones for her and even though he knows what he's doing is wrong, he figures he'll get the business stuff out of the way and she'll be mad but he'll help her get over it (presumably with the power of his magic wand). This goes about like you'd expect.

It takes a while to get to the discovery of the betrayal (let's face it, the angst is the main reason I read stuff like this), but this is one of those books where Max's initial pursuit is pretty interesting on its own, thanks to Claire's general reticence toward romance. One thing I liked about this one is that Claire *doesn't* just give in to Max within a few pages of the discovery his betrayal. I wouldn't say Max grovels in the traditional sense, but he definitely has had his initial "Oh, she'll be mad, but she'll get over it," certainty of winning her back in question by the time everything wraps up.

This is definitely a favorite of mine and is on my keeper shelf. Recommended for anyone who likes romance that borders on old-skool, along with general angst and a bit of good old fashioned alpha male groveling.

Bonus: In doing this review, I actually discovered that there is a third book in the series, featuring the almost unbearably perfect Derek Taliferro, who was a teenager in both this and the preceding book. It looks like a short story, which is probably for the best since Derek borders on Mary Sue territory and I don't see a full-length book featuring someone that perfect being all that great to read about, but I definitely wouldn't mind picking it up at some point in the future.

Sue says

I read the sequel because the first book of the series was pretty good, this book wasn't as good. But the characters were pretty likable. But it was easy to put down, which tells me I can't rate over 3 stars.

Tanvi says

*4.5 out of 5 stars

This is just a good old-fashioned steamy romance that takes your breath away and makes you blush at the oddest times. I absolutely adored both the characters, the hero more so because he was really maddening at times and I loved it! Won't go into details here but I love almost all of Linda Howard's books and this one was no exception!

Naksed says

Hot, possessive, Alpha hero paired with insecure, negative thinking h. Big Betrayal. Yaddi Yaddi Yadda...Kiss and make-up. It was just ok. Nothing that would push me to rant and rave, like the preceding volume in the series, *Sarah's Child* did. Neither did it make me swoon like some of LH's better and more fleshed out novels such as *Midnight Rainbow* or *Duncan's Bride*. H was great. Even though he was behind the Big Betrayal, he wasn't the Big Fat Jerk that LH sometimes favors and worked very hard to get back into h's good graces. h was just too much of a down-on-herself, weak character. Additionally, her "Marcia, Marcia, Marcia" petty jealousies over her older sister did nothing to endear her to me.

Megha says

Max & Claire. somewhere there story is expected. but that doesnt mean it aint a good read. i enjoyed reading it and loved the easy going character of MAX and the idiosyncrasies of Claire.

Mojca says

It's astounding how big a disappointment this story was for me. The various elements just didn't seem to mesh. The heroine was obnoxiously annoying, the hero was all over the place, I simply couldn't see the chemistry between them, and the plot just didn't click for me. This story was a complete dichotomy and I just couldn't bring myself to care about any of it.

Merged review:

I bought this book because it contained a Linda Howard story, yet ended up disliking said story immensely. Almost Forever was all over the place and its elements simply failed to mesh.

The second story, the bonus story, For The Baby's Sake by Christine Rimmer was it's complete opposite. Refreshing, engaging, bitter-sweet, extremely emotional, it made all the difference.

Mo says

Max Conroy didn't let anything get in the way of his job—and his job was to lead a corporate takeover. But to do it, he needed information, the kind the lovely Claire Westbrook could provide. All he had to do was seduce her...

... he studied the photograph: the woman was a pretty, dark-eyed blonde, but no great beauty. There was a reserved expression in her dark eyes.

This book is 20 years old. Is it dated? I suppose it is in a way. The clothing descriptions, no mobile phones. But Linda is a fantastic writer so I can overcome these and just enjoy the story.

But when Claire dared to let down her defenses and open her heart to him, Max found his loyalties put to the ultimate test. Now his biggest risk wasn't a business deal, but what would happen when Claire discovered the truth.

"Do you know how many 'bloody damns' and 'bloody hells' you've just said?" she whispered.

"What the bloody hell difference does that make?" he asked.

Overall an enjoyable read. The ending might have been a bit rushed. And even if the book is old, if it is Linda Howard, it usually hits the mark for me.

Cruth says

[Max (our "hero") is sent t
