



The Marriage Betrayal

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Sander Volakis goes his own way. He's forged his reputation in business, rather than relying on the family fortune, and indulges his darkly passionate, wild streak. He has no intention of marrying...

He doesn't do country weekends, either. Pitching up at Westgrave Manor is a favor to his father and a bore...until he sees Tally Spencer, so pretty and voluptuous that he can't resist her. Sander's looking forward to casually seducing her, not knowing that one night with the innocent Tally could end his playboy existence...

Sander and Tally's story continues next month in *Bride for Real*.

The Marriage Betrayal Details

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From Reader Review The Marriage Betrayal for online ebook

Jenny says

Everyone knows I'm a heroine hater but this book omg I hated this hero so much! He was cold, hard, unfeeling and he didn't deserve this sweet heroine!

Tali says

This is very much a book of two halves and if I judged it by the first half, I would be flouncing the entire book and giving it a 1 star review. Luckily, it does get better. The problem with the first half of this book is that in order to make the heroine, Tally, seem innocent and naive and kind, Graham has populated the novel with a series of vile characters that take advantage of Tally. I know it's supposed to show the difference between the 'good' poor and the 'selfish' rich, but as the hero, Sander, comes amongst the rich, it doesn't really make you think that well of him. The other irritating thing about this first half, is the relationship shown between Tally and her half-sister Cosima. Cosima is a vile, spoilt character, and yet because Tally keeps reflecting that her sister is young and doesn't know better, that excuses her behaviour. It doesn't, and the scene where she drugs Tally so that she can spend uninterrupted time with her boyfriend is just appalling. If it was me, I would be swearing and cursing up a storm as its a massive violation of trust and your person, yet by the next chapter the two women are back to being relatively friendly again. It's a horrible relationship and not one that is excused by any kind of naivety. It made me think a lot worse of Tally that she would work to keep that relationship going, even when forced to play her sister's PA because Cosima refuses to acknowledge that they're related.

Luckily, the last half of the story was much better, developing the romance between Tally and Sander and how they relate to each other. By chance, I'd actually read the second part to this story, *Bride for Real*, before I read the first, so I knew where the relationship ended up but not where it started so it was nice to see them together, even though some parts were a little sad to read, knowing where they end.

It's unfortunate really that if I'd flounced the book like I wanted to at the start then I wouldn't have gotten to enjoy the second half. And for that reason, I'm giving *The Marriage Betrayal* 2 stars.

Vintage says

This is the book the hero should have died in. Heroine is an idiot.

Books&Friends says

The last time they did this two parter thingy I promised myself I wouldn't read the first book until I had the second one ready to go. But I thought I would read the first few pages - you know - to get a sense of LG's latest. Hah! So much for that trick...she sucked me in.

I found her latest a real departure from her recent offerings and harkened back to her earlier great books. Certainly a wonderful thing, only sad because I can't say I loved it.

I was intrigued by Tally. She's the illegitimate daughter of a Greek tycoon, her mother's former fiancée. He's married with another daughter, doesn't publicly recognize her and has little to do with her other than to financially support her and her mother. For some reason she's in contact with her half-sister and is willing to

'babysit' her, at her father's request, for a weekend party where she meets Sander, the hero.

Tally is assertive, tell-it-as-it-is, and no pushover, but her judgement is skewed. Portrayed as intelligent, she makes poor choices. First getting involved with Sander. He so not hero material. He makes out with his old love in front of Tally and is cold enough to payoff, dismiss her and the baby when their birth control fails. (I could go on about that too) Shades of her father. The only reason they marry is because her father out of the blue blackmails Sander. What?! There are so many disconnects in this book. Perhaps explanations follow in part two?

I was looking for the love folks and it was thin on the ground. Lots of lusting and pragmatic discourse here. The title of 'the marriage betrayal' portends the future. You just know what's in the offing. I'm willing to bet there will be a secret child, a pseudo or actual case of adultery, the ex-girlfriend will have a skizzy role...hmmm... her father will suddenly be papa of the year....

Twenty some days and counting.

FYI-- The pouting breasts are back! Do they annoy you as much as they do me. Maybe it's breast envy! :)>

Subathra S says

how could someone become accustomed to marriage. I can accept marriage without love and discovering it as the time proceeds. But sander is trying to get back tally because he was accustomed to her in his life. that sucks.

HAPPY READING:)

KC 2.0 says

Better than its sequel. I liked how Tally stood her ground with Sander. Sander was a very playboyish playboy at the start, but I warmed up to him. The ending closed on an optimistic note that gave me the warm fuzzies.

I wished the author had left it at that because Book Two destroyed all the progress made in Book One. They were so happy at the end. Why ruin the fantasy?! Sure, Sander hadn't told Tally he loved her yet, but that seemed to be just a ploy to force readers to read the second book.

StMargarets says

[
Heroine's father forces him to marry her. Hero is angry he is being forced and ignores her for the first month of their marriage.

When she con

LuvGirl says

I couldn't get into this book from the start. The heroine seemed like a door mat the way she was treated and talked to by her 17 year old sister, and to tell you the truth I couldn't see what the hero saw in her. There was nothing special about her that would make me believe that a guy like that would be into her. Her personality was so bland and uninteresting. If I can't get into the leads after 30% into a book it's no use I continue to try, so goodbye.

Carol Storm says

Meh.

Lynne Graham used to be my all-time favorite Harlequin Presents author. AN ARABIAN COURTSHIP just about fried my brains when I first read it twenty-some years ago.

But this new one was just sort of meh. A girl gets pregnant. Her hunky guy mopes a lot, but marries her. Her parents are no good schemers. She cries. She packs her bags. He stops her at the airport. Everything felt bland and warmed-over.

Where was all the luxury? Where were the exotic locations? Where were the sizzling love scenes?

Meh.

Aly is so frigging bored says

Main characters:

Tally Spencer

Sander Volakis

Why I added the book: I don't remember why... I think I was in one of my "Oh, billionaires! Cool." moods.

About the book: The book started well, Tally is a 20 year old college student who comes from a broken family. Her dad kind of orders her to go with her younger half-sister to a house party to keep her out of trouble. There every girl behaves atrociously since he's the "hired help" but she meets the attractive Sander who wants to bed her. They have some mishaps, he goes to fast and she keeps rebuffing him(which was funny). This part was so good that considered giving it 5*, but, evidently, stuff went bad. Sander keeps being an a-hole the whole book and Tally becomes a 80% Mary Sue character. I can't say more about what made me lower the rating so much without spoiling this more, just let me tell you that it's kind of predictable...

All in all I liked the novel, though I was disappointed that it took such a turn. I'll be starting part 2 very soon.

Would I recommend the book: It's ok for a fast read and the writing is pretty good. It has the stereotypical characters from a Harlequin Presents book.

Final rating: 3.5*

Diana's says

Wow this one ended on a cliffy!!

Jess the Romanceaholic says

This is a Quickie Review. For the full review, please visit The Romanceaholic.

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Author's Website: <http://www.lynnegraham.com/>

My Source for This Book: Netgalley

Part of a Series: Yes, Book 1, Volakis Vow

Series Best Read In Order: N/A

Steam Level: Hot

Years ago, Tally's mother tried to trap a tycoon into marriage by intentionally getting pregnant. Unfortunately for her, he didn't succumb to her machinations, and instead merely provided for Tally, whom he considers to be his dirty little secret. When he asks her for the favor of watching out for her half sister at a house party, she reluctantly goes along, even though the 17-year old resents her presence, and refuses to acknowledge her as family. Instead, Tally is forced to pose as her sister's "assistant", and is treated as little better than a servant amongst her sister's rich friends.

Sander Volakis is an independent man. His older brother was the apple of his parents' eye, and nothing he could do ever compared to his paragon sibling. When his brother dies, Sander is forced back into the family fold to help with the business that is floundering under his late brother's control, and when his father insists that he attend a house party thrown by the family of his deceased brother's fiancée, he can do little but simply go along with the plan.

As soon as Tally sees Sander, she's mesmerized. His physique and presence awaken dormant feelings of desire for the first time in her life, and the fact that he seems taken by her is a huge ego boost as well. Despite the fact that she has never been with a man, she begins to feel a connection to Sander, and gives herself to him in what turns out to be a very dissatisfying and even humiliating experience.

Put off of physical intimacy completely by that horrible experience, she walks away from Sander and never intends to look back. Unfortunately for her, he is intrigued by the woman who refuses to be enraptured by him, and sets out to seduce her. When she bluntly informs him that she expects exclusivity from any man that she has a relationship with, he's furious because he thinks she's just like other women who try to pin him down. He quickly realizes though, that if he wants to pursue their attraction, he'll have to make concessions, and agrees that so long as he's still interested in her, he will remain exclusive.

Their relationship progresses until one night, Tally catches him kissing and caressing another (more beautiful and sophisticated) woman and walks out on him. Of course, things are never that simple, as she soon discovers that he's left behind more than just her broken heart — she's pregnant!

I was a little surprised as to just how much I enjoyed this one. The angst was absolutely delicious and the love scenes were incredibly hot. You could feel the chemistry between the two of them, and their explosive liaisons never disappointed. I really adored how the fact that she was a powerful man's daughter came into play, and how her having hidden that fact initially made things that much worse in Sander's eyes.

It is absolutely killing me that this book is actually part of a duet, because it ended on such a happy note that I felt that the story was complete. Instead, the next book (due out in August in the US) opens with Tally and Sander getting a divorce! This knowledge detracted greatly from my satisfaction with the ending, and while I'm sure that *Bride For Real* will end in a HEA, I'm not sure that I'll be able to trust it when it comes.

Overall, however, this was a delightful read. Full of melodramatic angst and misunderstandings just like all of my favorite Harlequin Presents novels, I would highly recommend this one for fans of accidental pregnancies, heroes who are blackmailed into marriage, and affairs that end on a sour note yet turn into a sweet love.

4/5 Stars

Nicole says

It has been a very long time since I read a straight up romance book. After reading this one, I remember why I stopped. The story is a familiar one. Woman is self-reliant and from a broken home. As a result she is looking for love, but holding out for the one. Man is a spoiled playboy who is not used to hearing the word no. Man likes the thrill of the challenge that woman brings and wants to sleep with her, but doesn't want to have a relationship. Woman puts up half-hearted attempts to resist while still maintaining her secret identity. Of course said resistance lasts all of a day under the overwhelming onslaught of Man's advances that come while he is trying to dodge his deceased brother's fiancée. This all happens in a 48-hour period.

Once back home in the real world, Tally tries to stay away from Sander but of course she is unable to resist. Relationship, if you could call it that, continues and of course she ends up pregnant. Include the stereotypical "you are trying to trap me and it's your fault you are pregnant" argument and a blackmail plot that really wasn't much of a plot but more an ultimatum and you pretty much have the whole story. The love scenes were nothing spectacular and in all honesty, I found myself skipping over them entirely. The main characters are both very annoying. Tally manages to come across as having no backbone at all despite all of her posturing and Sander the playboy is so laughable it's not even funny.

While the story idea sounds good in and of itself, the execution of it leaves a lot to be desired. It is a relatively short book at 192 pages and is actually part one of a two part series. Even though I really didn't enjoy this book, I am going to read the second one. It will be interesting to see if after reading the second one if I will like the first one better.

Mandy says

Take a strong, independent young woman, throw her into a romance novel, and suddenly she forgets everything. I couldn't help being disappointed.

Disclaimer: A copy of the book was provided by the publisher.

RLA says

The hero Sander and the heroine Tally meet at a weekend party. Tally is only there in order to keep an eye on her half sister, although she has to pretend to her sisters assistant. Due to the circumstances of her birth Tally has never been able to acknowledge that she is the illegitimate daughter of a wealthy Greek businessman. Sander is part of a powerful Greek family, as well as being successful in his own right. He enjoys his freedom and doesn't ever plan on settling down despite pressure from his family. He is immediately drawn to Tally and fiercely desires her, he also recognises that Tally doesn't seem to have any ulterior motives that most women in his acquaintance have. But he doesn't expect Tally to be innocent and despite his attempts to stay away they begin an affair, with Tally constantly challenging him and his own surprise at how much he likes being with her. All that comes crashing down when Tally discovers she is pregnant. Sander is furious thinking she has done it deliberately, especially after he finds out the truth of her parentage and her father blackmails him into marrying Tally.

I really enjoyed this book. As expected from Lynne Graham the plot is very intense, deeply involving and fantastically written. The details of the plot are really well thought out and added to the overall 'angst' of the book. The hero and heroine are brilliant; Tally is a wonderful heroine, she is smart, feisty and genuinely nice. Sander is a great alpha-male, although I was surprised that at 25 he is younger than your typical Modern/Presents hero. The chemistry between them is literally scorching. What I really like about this book is that even though it is part of a duet, this book ends on a [seemingly] HEA. Which I think adds suspense in wondering what will happen in the next book.

This is a intense and passionate, a fantastic Modern.

Originally posted at <http://everyday-is-the-same.blogspot...>
