



The Marrying Season

Candace Camp

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The third novel in the *New York Times* bestselling Legend of St. Dwynwen trilogy depicts the delicious romance between a haughty lady and the gentleman who coaxes her to drop her guard at last.

Genevieve Stafford, the younger sister of the Earl of Rawdon (*A Summer Seduction*), is an icy but beautiful aristocrat. Determined to make the sort of marital alliance expected of a woman of her station, she becomes engaged to the scion of another noble family. However, when Genevieve finds herself entangled in scandal, her fiancé breaks things off. Shamed, she has no recourse but to retreat to the family estate...until her brother's friend, Sir Myles Thorwood, offers to marry Genevieve and salvage her reputation.

Genevieve expects to have a loveless marriage of convenience, but the handsome, charming Myles has other things in mind. As the two of them work to discover who engineered the scandal that could have ruined Genevieve's life, Myles shows Genevieve just what it means to be man and wife. Genevieve finds it difficult to resist the passion Myles evokes in her, but can she risk losing her heart to a man she thinks sees their union as only a duty?

The Marrying Season Details

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From Reader Review The Marrying Season for online ebook

CoffeeTimeRomance andMore says

Genevieve Stafford can always be counted on to do the right thing. She is always calm, always in control, and always within the bounds of society. Genevieve even agrees to marry the boring Lord Dursbury because he is utterly decorous. Surely, a marriage built upon the solid foundations of breeding and manners will be a success.

Charm and wit come quite naturally to Sir Myles Thorwood. It is not his fault that women seem content to throw themselves in his path. He knows he will eventually have to settle down and marry. Until then, he finds himself satisfied by the witty repartee he shares with Lady Genevieve Stafford, the sister of his childhood friend.

When Genevieve's carefully ordered world collapses around her, it is Myles who steps in to offer an unexpected port in the storm. She marries him because she has no other choice. Beyond that, Genevieve begins to realize that there is far more to Myles than she ever suspected. Behind the careless rake is a man who is willing to offer her unconditional acceptance and the love of a lifetime.

Those readers familiar with the St Dwynwen trilogy may remember fondly the charming and roguish Sir Myles. Although the romance between Myles and Genevieve is filled with plenty of twists and turns, it is rather difficult to see Genevieve as a truly sympathetic character. In the end, readers may be left thinking that Myles has got the short end of the stick.

Kaitlin

Reviewer for Coffee Time Romance & More

Mary - Buried Under Romance says

Posted on my blog: Buried Under Romance

The last of the Legend of St. Dwynwen trilogy by Candace Camp features a few familiar tropes - friends to lovers, marriage of convenience - but nonetheless creates a good, though perhaps not superb, read. **3.5 stars**

This was a satisfying read involving a marriage of convenience turning into something more. While the story has a few bumps in the middle and a rather abrupt ending, the first half of the book made up for its somewhat convoluted resolution. I may be of the minority of readers who like the heroine, Genevieve, more than the hero, Myles, for the fact that Genevieve has a far greater depth of character than the archetypal kind and charming Myles, whose exhibition of a myriad of pig-headed behavior lessened my esteem for him.

The story starts with the wedding of Genevieve's brother, Alec, the Earl of Rawdon (A Summer Seduction), and introduces the familiar cast of characters from the previous books who are heavily involved in this one. Genevieve is known as an ice princess, a cold beauty whose seemingly haughty demeanor and strict adherence to proper behavior leaves only faraway admirers. She is a childhood friend of Sir Myles Thorwood, and their teasing dialogue reveals a friendly relationship that is unlikely to be anything more. However, months later, Genevieve is placed in a scandalous situation, her fiance having cried off, and Myles steps up to offer his name in order to save her reputation. Neither wanted to marry the other, but both are

convinced to make the best out of this marriage. Can love possibly enter the equation?

The spark between Genevieve and Myles ignited their passion and sustained the story to a blissful respite until the midpoint, when the question of the culprit who tried to besmirch Genevieve's reputation came up. Genevieve's cold demeanor has been thawing under Myles's care, and she has repeatedly shown herself to be kind and caring, even to spend hours playing with Myles's nieces and nephews. Genevieve's coldness is in actuality a facade, crafted under the guidance of her noble grandmother, and one she uses to hide her insecurities. Indeed, Genevieve so often disparages herself that she seems to lack confidence, actualizing the rumors of her coldness. Her devotion to her grandmother to make a match befitting their noble lineage and her loyalty to her brother show her to be a noble character. Her initial reason to refuse Myles, on the basis that he deserved better than a cold woman, also proved her to possess a heart. It annoyed me greatly that many people in the story kept on mentioning her not having a heart, when that is entirely false.

Myles, I felt, could have done with a bit more intellect. Sure, he was charming to begin with, and was kind to Genevieve, but he so often lashed out hurtful words and behaved like an idiot in the latter half of the book that I had trouble believing his laconic declaration of love in the end, literally on the last page. I also do not feel that he deserved Genevieve, as it took him a long time to see the true Genevieve, and harbored foolish notions of her only caring for a title.

The mystery aspect of the novel was left with an abrupt resolution (the culprit was also fairly obvious) with nothing on a due punishment or consequences. As it stands, I feel there were far too many love scenes and not enough on the rest to balance out the plot of the story, but perhaps a good epilogue could have remedied that.

Though this book has some flaws, it is fairly engaging and makes for a good afternoon's read. If nothing read, read this for Candace Camp's lyrical writing and lush imagery as they do make up in part for the deficiencies in plot and the hero.

I received an ARC from the publisher via edelweiss in exchange for an honest review

A. says

I was SO JAZZED to get to this book that I blasted through the first two in the series which to be honest I think might have been a mistake, as all three books share some undeniable structural similarities, e.g.:

the OTP is in some way forced to stay together in a small house away from society where they at last explore/consummate their intense passion,
only to return to society where they must separate once more because of [x reason specific to each couple].

(The sex is fairly formulaic, too, with each couple going through the same basic evolution in bed.)

BUT WHATEVER!!!!!! Let's talk about the real shit here:

Fffffffffffffuuuuuuuuck, THIS IS A GREAT OTP. BLESS ME. BLESS YOU. BLESS MY ENTIRE FAMILY. BLESS MY COW. I want to like pick Genevieve/Myles up and eat it and carry it with me forever in my heart and/or digestive system. First thing you need to know is um, OBVS I was going to love the shit out of Genevieve and Myles. 1) She's haughty and socially awkward, with no friends and little idea of where to start, and she finds most people irritating or boring. 2) He's a charming and outgoing flirt who befriends

everyone and has no trouble whatsoever fitting in wherever he goes. 3) They've known each other almost their entire lives, as he's best friends with her older brother. 4) !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! PUT A CHOCOLATE GLAZE ON THAT BUSINESS AND GIVE IT TO ME STAT. NO, I DON'T NEED A FORK. PUT THAT NAPKIN AWAY, I'LL LICK MY FINGERS CLEAN

OK, so, ANYWAY, Genevieve gets jilted by her fiancée, Dullsbury (SNORESBURY) (I'm hilarious) (his name is Dursbury), in such a way that her reputation is perhaps Ruined Forever. In steps Myles to heroically propose to her. BUT ALAS, FOR THEY ARE BUT FRIENDS AND NOT IN LOVE, wait, no, I'm sorry, they are totally in love and it is g r 8, GREAT, but ofc they're all like NO IT IS A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE and Genevieve is all O MYLES HAS SACRIFICED HIS LIFE FOR ME, HE MUST DETEST ME and Myles is all O GENEVIEVE THINKS I AM FECKLESS AND THAT I HAVE DONE THIS ONLY OUT OF DUTY, SHE MUST DETEST ME and I'm all [emotionally tearing at hair, face, life, soul, very fabric of the cosmos].

The real conflict in their relationship arises from the very thing that makes their relationship so strong, and that's the history they share. Genevieve, knowing Myles has seen how very Proper she is and how difficult it is for her to maintain even friendships, fears he thinks her cold. Myles, knowing Genevieve has seen how very Improper he is and how very quickly he moves on from one thing to the next, fears she cannot trust him. Apart from society, with only each other, they are able to ignore these things - rather, these things aren't relevant to their immediate situation, and the newness of this change in their relationship, this sudden *allowance* to want and touch and love each other, is such that these things that might be problems seem not to exist. But when they return, for external plot reasons, to London, to society, to the expectations *of* society and of the reputations each possesses, their reputations come to define them even within their relationship. (In this way, that aforementioned structure common to each book in the series works for me here as it did not in the previous two books.)

Much of Camp does with their romance is delightful: Myles does not "claim" Genevieve or pressure her, and (view spoiler)

So the romance is wonderful - Myles is respectful and supportive of Genevieve (and he so clearly adores her from the very start), and Genevieve's emotional growth is the central focus of the book, with *her* needs and feelings emphasized over his - but!!!! The Marrying Season does something the first two books didn't: there are so many ladies!!! So many ladies and they're friends and they support each other, and Genevieve gets to proactively investigate her Mystery with the help of Damaris and Thea, and Myles' sisters and mother and Genevieve's grandmother all work to help her in different ways, and it's just like, gosh! Oh, gosh! And it isn't Myles who saves Genevieve at the end, it isn't Myles who Solves the Mystery, Myles who claims Genevieve as his, it's *Genevieve* who saves herself, Genevieve who Solves the Mystery, Genevieve who claims Myles as her own; and she does these things with the friendship of women, with the confidence she earns not just in her relationship with Myles but in her relationships with her grandmother and Damaris and Thea. It's lovely.

(view spoiler) YAY, MORE LADIES? Yeah. Always yeah.

P.S. spoiler alert: Genevieve and Myles were in love the entire time lololol.

Farrah says

This review also appears on my blog at <http://www.thegoldenruleof666.blogspot...>

An absolutely lovely romance! I loved this book so much-it was just fantastic.

If you've seen my reviews before, you know that I love the idea of childhood friends falling in love. I think it's just so sweet. And The Marrying Season didn't disappoint.

Genevieve was likable, though a bit trying at times. She was easy to relate to and a very strong heroine. But, as it says in the summary, she's a bit cold. It made her somewhat mean. And she was decidedly stubborn about assuming the reason behind Myles' kindness-which she didn't get right. She assumed it was all for duty and almost destroyed her marriage because she was too stubborn to consider that Myles might be acting so kind for more than just duty. That being said, Genevieve could be kind, when she wanted to be. Despite her flaws, I did like her character. And the fact that I can say that despite my frustration with some of her actions and mindsets means that she really was a great heroine.

Myles was soo sweet. I loved him so much. This man was just too perfect. Sweet as sugar, charming, gentlemanly, determined-basically the definition of a perfect hero. It is impossible to read this book and not adore Myles. He's...sigh...amazing :)

Genevieve and Myles were very cute together. Despite the bumps in the road, they managed to do very well together. And not only were they sweet, but there were some serious sparks flying. And when they ignited...I think you know what I mean ;)

The plot of The Marrying Season didn't tarry. It takes off immediately, then keeps you hooked until the last page. The ending was very cute-a nice, sweet, romance happy ending.

The Marrying Season is a wonderful book. Any and all romance lovers should definitely give it a try.

*Thanks to Edelweiss and Pocket Star for a copy!

Ramonita Roldan says

Genevieve Starfford & Myles Thorwood story was amazing. Genny was dealt a horrific blow, which in turn demonstrated her inner strength. Myle will do anything to protect those he cares about. Together they will form an union against the prejudices of society. Loved their story. Highly Recommend. Happy Reading!

Beth says

Someone is trying to destroy Genevieve Stafford's reputation. When she is attacked by an amorous suitor in the library, Sir Myles Thorwood comes to her rescue. To avoid scandal Myles offers for Genevieve's hand in marriage and she reluctantly accepts.

Expecting a loveless marriage, Genevieve is slowly seduced by her brother best friend and now her husband, Myles. Myles never expected the explosive passion in his new bride, but he realizes quickly what a treasure he has in Genevieve. But just as the romance begins to thrive, trouble comes rushing back at Genevieve. Can Genevieve and Myles hold to this young relationship or will the Ton and its manipulations tear them part?

This was an absolutely enchanting historical romance. Pulling on my emotions, Candance Camp created a brilliant story with riveting characters, strong personal growth and a wonderfully romantic plot. The mystery

behind the villainous actions against Genevieve was intriguing, sucking me deeper into this fabulously woven tale. I thoroughly enjoyed **The Marrying Season**, it was an absolute pleasure to read.

This ARC copy of **The Marrying Season** was given to me by Edelweiss and Pocket Books in exchange for an honest review. Publish Date April 23, 2013.

For more reviews, check out Tome Tender:

The Window Seat says

“There are none so blind as those who will not see.”

From the opening chapter of *The Marrying Season* through to the end of the book this quote kept rattling around in my head as the theme of the entire story. In almost every scene that characters Genevieve Stafford and Myles Thorwood find themselves in together this quote is appropriate. Having two main characters that are completely blind to all of the feelings that exist between them only to fall into one misunderstanding after another just left me completely underwhelmed with their story.

Genevieve and Myles have known one another for many years, with him being best friend to her older brother Alec, and in all of their acquaintance they have never seemed to get along. Myles has a very easygoing and playful nature that tends to bring out a different side to Genevieve's more reserved and proper disposition. When they do interact with one another their verbal sparring matches give everyone in their circle the impression that the two cannot stand one another. Both Genevieve and Myles also seem to believe that their exchanges prove they would never suit. Myles is certain that the woman for him should be just as affable and lighthearted as he is, while Genevieve is sure that her perfect husband should be more grounded. What is fairly clear to the reader even in these early scenes is that Myles and Genevieve are actually perfectly suited to one another, yet they are both too certain of their expectations to see it.

For the full review, please go to <http://www.thewindowseat13.com/2013/0...>

Desi says

Very sensual and romantic first half. I liked the contrasting personalities of the leads. They were both lovely people who balanced each other.

I did dislike the, super unnecessary, mid book artificial conflict the author created just to stir up some drama between them because things were going along too swimmingly.

Other than that nothingburger dragging on too long, the far fetched motivations of the caricature-like peripheral villain and an eye-roll worthy confrontation with said nemesis, it was quite enjoyable.

I loved all the “warm hearted beneath a crusty exterior” folks that peppered the story.

And I adored the cottage sequence. It's so rare that authors take time for a proper get to know you honeymoon phase. And I appreciated that the author didn't take the easy way out and introduce an

aggressive mean family as conflict directly after. It's nice when novel families are loving and normal rather than viciously against the heroine.

Camp should just marry all her protagonists early. Then they can have fun relationship appropriate sex that doesn't distract from the story because they're not violating any period norms with all the skinny dipping and shagging in the bushes.

Quick note to disclose that I am extremely biased towards the forced marriage to gradual love trope, it's my favorite. So I was totes ready to like this. Read it straight through in one go. So, you know, make up your own mind.

Feminista says

Rating: 3 out of 5

The Marrying Season by Candace Camp

It's Genevieve's marrying season. Having accepted an offer of marriage, she is looking forward to this being her last season. However, circumstances arise which lead to the engagement being broken off, and in steps Myles. Myles, the second most sought after bachelor (the first being her previous fiancé), but one whose name does not match hers. Not that Genevieve is complaining about that, although she is proud of her own name, she does not think lowly of Myles for not comparing. No, instead, she knows that the marriage proposal from Myles comes out of a sense of responsibility, and she initially does not want to accept it because of that. Nevertheless, she realises that she has little choice, as the only other option is spinsterhood.

Candace Camp weaves a tale of a convenience of marriage, wrought with miscommunication and pride. The latter two started to get weary as it extended for the better part of the novel. Neither was willing to back down and at times I found Genevieve a bit too prideful and seemingly always wounded by words or gestures (or lack of) from Myles. Nevertheless, if you are looking for a good historical romance with a satisfying HEA, you might very well enjoy this book.

ARC courtesy of Edelweiss and Pocket Books.

Jen says

What's A Suddenly Unbetrothed Ice Princess On The Verge Of Scandal To Do?

The Marrying Season is a charming and sometimes humorous historical romance. Even though this happens to be the third of the series and I haven't read the previous books, the character development and background information given more than made up for my lack of knowledge and this book can easily work as a standalone novel.

Genevieve Stafford is the sister of a recently married Earl and her brother's newfound marital status has given Ginny the push she needs to find her own advantageous match. That's right fellas...she's single and finally ready to mingle. Staid, solid men possessing an even temperament need only apply. In other words, Ginny's wants a man who shares her reserved personality. It doesn't take long for her to nab her socially

acceptable, reliable and utterly BORING fiancé. The problem with socially acceptable fiancés is that they run far, far away from anything remotely smelling like scandal, as Genevieve learns when she's set up to be compromised at a very public gathering. Enter the charming and easy going *ton* hottie Sir Myles Thorwood. Myles is the best friend of Genevieve's brother and the two have spent a great deal of time together over the years. Sure, most of that time has been spent arguing and snapping at each other, good naturedly of course, but Myles can see beyond Genevieve's cool exterior to the fiery and witty personality she keeps hidden. It doesn't hurt that Genevieve's beautiful in that ice princess kind of way most men can't resist. He immediately offers for her, saving her and her family the embarrassment that often accompanies a fiancé leaving his betrothed to hang in the wind.

The marriage, due to its auspicious beginnings, is a source of insecurity for Ginny. She's convinced Myles has given up any chance at personal happiness to save her from ruin. As the story unfolds, we come to learn Genevieve's reserved personality is due to her shyness and her perceived awkwardness, not because she's a stuck up snob. She can't believe Myles would want her and she feels guilty for ruining his life. Myles just wants his Ginny to lighten up a bit and realize that marriage can be a pleasurable and fulfilling experience. He sets about proving this to her on their honeymoon and ends up succeeding. Does he ever. Who knew our little Ginny was a sex goddess under all that propriety?

The two lovebirds return to London and this is where the story got a little iffy for me. Because Genevieve's been raised by her tough as nails, model of decorum Grandmother, she's under the impression there are things that are just not *done*. Sexy times with your new husband in the middle of the day or, heaven forbid, sharing his bedchamber are unheard of in respectable society. Aren't they? Even knowing how she was raised and how much pressure she puts on herself to remain in society's good standing, Myles takes a head scratching approach and decides to "break" her. She'll come to him begging to share his bed; he won't be the one to submit. Of course this tactic makes for a confused and uncertain Ginny. When she retreats into herself, Myles is left wondering if all the talk about Genevieve is right...is she simply a cold fish? These actions and the later ploys he used to try and get Genevieve to fall in line, so to speak, seemed uncharacteristic of the Myles I'd come to know. He really seemed to "get" Ginny and then all of a sudden it's like he doesn't know her at all. The last portion of the book lacked the humor and personality I've come to appreciate in a really good historical romance.

Overall, I enjoyed reading *The Marrying Season* and would recommend it to any die hard historical romance fan. While it was a little staid at times and the last half of the book lacked the witty dialogue I've come to love in historical romances, I still liked it enough to seek out the other books in the series.

This book provided from the publisher through Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

Julie says

The Marrying Season is the third in the St. Dwynwen series. As always this book can be read as a stand alone. This book is a pocket books publication and is scheduled for a April 2013 release.

Genevieve has a reputation for being an ice princess. She uses the reputation to ward off advances, but eventually she knows she must marry and finally accepts the proposal of Lord Dursbury.

At a social engagement, Genny meets up with her brother Alec's best friend Myles. They engage in their usual mild flirtations and arguments. Before the evening was over though, Genevieve finds her reputation in

ruins and her engagement off.

Myles, unable to bear her misery, offers to marry her. Under extreme pressure, Genevieve accepts and she and Myles are married.

Things are not too bad at first, but then Myles gets wind of a plot to ruin Genevieve's reputation and they return to London before the honeymoon is over. The disagreements and misunderstandings mount between the newlyweds until Genny thinks she may have to leave London.

Myles wants to have a real marriage, but keeps putting his foot in his mouth. He is at a complete loss as to what to do. But, he also knows he must get to the bottom of the lies that continue to circulate about his new wife. Someone is out to destroy Genny and he intends to get to the bottom of it.

Genny has the help and support of two really good friends when not only her reputation and marriage are in trouble, but she finds herself dealing with feelings she never had before. She tries to stay true to herself and wants Myles to love her the way she is.

She and Myles engage in a war to see which one will give in first.

As the plot unfolds concerning the deliberate attack on Genny, Myles and Genny learn to work together instead of against each other and discover the two may have love match after all.

Although they are married before they make love, which is actually much more accurate to this time period, it doesn't take away from the sensuality. There is quite bit of steam that slowly builds and builds as Genny is awakened to certain advantages of marriage.

Attention new authors of Regency romance novels- and maybe even more seasoned authors could take note. This is the way Regency period romance should be written. This is a perfect model. The language, the social strictures of the "ton", the scandals, and how innocent certain ladies were about lovemaking before they were married and the adjustments most people make when first married.

The friendship that was in place for Myles and Genny helped build a true love relationship between them, but not before they went through the usual gowing pains.

This book has all the elements I love about romance novels.

I highly recommend this novel. A++ Thanks to the publisher and Edelweiss for the ARC

Caz says

I gave this a C at AAR, so that's 3 stars here.

Genevieve Stafford has a reputation as an ice queen. Her behaviour and reputation are impeccable and she has been tutored by her formidable grandmother into being everything a proper young lady of good breeding should be. She has had plenty of admirers, but none of them have incited her interest and Genevieve herself has come to believe that she is cold and not made for love.

At her brother's wedding (I believe his story was told in the previous book in the series), she is told the story of the Legend of St. Dwynwen, and how a maiden who prays at her shrine will soon find love. Genevieve scoffs – but, beginning to worry about the prospect of having to spend the rest of her life without a husband, sneaks off to the shrine and – hey presto! – her prayers are answered and she becomes betrothed to the handsome (albeit rather stuffy) Lord Dursford.

The action skips forward several months to another ball, but this one has disastrous consequences for Genevieve when she is all-but assaulted by a drunken guest; but this being the 1800s, it's Genevieve who is judged to be at fault and her reputation is left in tatters. There's only one course of action which will help to

re-establish her in the eyes of society; she must be married, and quickly. Of course, the drunkard who groped her is not a suitable husband for her, but Sir Myles Thorwood, a long-time friend of her family, steps in and offers her his hand. Genevieve is most reluctant to accept, knowing he's offering for her only out of duty and concern, but is quickly brought to see that she has no other option than to marry him.

Genevieve and Myles have known each other all their lives, and are friends – even though they are constantly bickering and sniping at each other. But it's all good-natured for the most part, and for me, the couple who bickers together is the one that usually stays together, and I always enjoy a spot of light-hearted banter.

The first half of the book is really quite appealing. It wouldn't win any prizes for originality, but Myles – in particular – is a very attractive character, and he sets out to woo his wife with a mixture of humour, attentiveness and charm. Genevieve is delighted to discover that her grandmother's warning about the pain involved in marital duties was complete tosh, and is beginning to discover that she is not so much of an ice-maiden as she had feared.

But at around the half-way mark, the story suddenly veered off track, and what had begun as a charming friends-to-lovers/compromised-into-marriage romance (incidentally, two of my favourite tropes in the genre) turned into a mess of misunderstandings and a sometimes unpleasant battle of wills.

It all starts when Myles discovers that the reason Genevieve had been alone in the library on the night of the ball during which she was compromised was because she had received a note – purportedly from him – to meet him there. Myles' reaction to the fact that she hadn't mentioned it (why would she, if she thought he knew because he'd sent the note?) is completely over the top as he accuses her of thinking that he would be so careless with her reputation as to arrange a secret assignation. From then on, the temperature between them very quickly drops to below zero. In a fit of anger about the fact that Genevieve establishes a separate bedroom for herself in their townhouse – it isn't the done thing for husbands and wives of the ton to share a bed, and Genevieve was always a stickler for propriety – Myles says some nasty things, accuses her of being cold, and storms off.

Genevieve is horrified, and starts to retreat into her shell of impeccable propriety in an attempt to stop herself from being hurt; she reminds herself that Myles only married her to save her reputation and thinks he doesn't care for her.

Added into this is the fact that Genevieve continues to be the subject of scandal-sheet gossip. Someone is intent on ruining her reputation – but who? Myles and Genevieve's brother Alec set out to find who it is – at which point Genevieve bawls them out for not letting her tag along and making decisions for her. I found that her attitude stretched my credibility a bit too far. On the one hand, she's concerned about what is and isn't done, but on the other, wants to go chasing off into the less salubrious parts of London on a man-hunt. Some of Genevieve's other actions – like chasing a maid through the streets – don't fit with her character as it's been established. She also has this idea that Myles is insisting she "submit" to him by "giving up" her sense of self as Genevieve Stafford – but I have no idea why she should be thinking that. Myles is a pretty easy-going chap who just wants his wife to be a wife, and while he said some hurtful things in the heat of anger for which he tries repeatedly to apologise, Genevieve has thrown up her barriers and won't let him in.

The dénouement, when it comes, happens pretty quickly, when the identity of the person who has been providing the scandal-sheet with gossip is identified (although it's been fairly obvious who it is for some time), and with Myles and Genevieve declaring their love for each other on practically the last page.

Overall, I get the impression that there wasn't enough material in *The Marrying Season* to sustain a full-length novel. The first half, as I've said, was charming, and had it been a novella that concentrated on the coming together of these two friends and turning them into lovers, it could have been quite a satisfying read.

But the second half felt like so much padding.

The characterisation of the heroine was probably the strongest of all the characters. Most of the story is seen from her point-of-view, so the reader is able to discover that she is actually quite insecure and uses her icy exterior to protect herself from hurt. Myles is less well-developed, however. He's pleasant enough – handsome, charming and everything you'd expect in a romantic hero, but as so little of the story is seen through his eyes, it's harder to get inside his head. As a result, he comes across as little more than a congenial man who is miffed because his wife won't sleep with him!

All in all, this isn't a book I'd probably read again, although it was pleasant enough in parts to pass the time.

kris says

Genevieve Stafford is going to marry a Proper Husband, until suddenly, she isn't. Myles Thorwood, childhood menace, steps in to marry her because PLOT PLOT PLOT. After a week of straight up sexing-in-the-woods, the shit hits the fan because otherwise there wouldn't be a book. ANGST, DRAMA, and YELLING later, we get the rushed, still-smoldering remains of a HEA.

1. WOW TALK ABOUT FAST. There is no 'chill' in this book; everything either is or isn't. Genevieve's lust, for example, goes from 0 to 100% during a chapter break. Their relationship goes from bantery-pals to friends-with-benefits (& FEELINGS), to ice cold. It's all very harried and underdeveloped and kind of...whiplashy.

2. For example, part of the conflict is the premise that Genevieve is considered 'cold'. She doesn't do small talk; she holds herself apart; she doesn't appear to have any of the hotter passions that her brother/sister-in-law/etc. have, and she feels that absence keenly. And if you know nothing about me from my many tirades, know that I am always going to be into the exceptional heroines. The ones who are not 'kind' and 'warm' and 'witty' and 'well-liked' and occasionally 'constant sunshine while trapped in circumstances outside her control'. The ones that, after their book, fade into nameless, smiling props in latter books.

Except Genevieve's arc ends with her acting 'out of character' because LOVE and OF COURSE the EVERLASTING POWER OF LOVE has burned away all traces of 'coldness' that might have existed and here is where I LIGHT THE BONFIRE OF MY TINY MANGLED RAGE. WHHYYYY. What stupid formula is this that all woman who fall in love turn into the same carbon copy of the author's 'ideal woman'?????

GIVE ME FREEDOM FROM THESE CLONES.

3 IN ADDITION, the writing was just...not well-honed. Here is a quote that made me straight up laugh: "He looked up at the sound of Thea's footsteps *and smiled*, pushing his chair back *and smiling*." (EMPHASIS MINE) True, this is an over-the-top example, but the lack of a thorough editing shows up in the overuse of other phrases and words, too: "jittering", "jangled", etc. Congrats on the new vocabulary! Use it sparingly or your audience will end up going "AGAIN?????" every other chapter.

4. The drama-llamas attacked with no mercy in this! Myles and Genevieve are straight up happy until she mentions the alleged letter he wrote summoning Genevieve to her scandal-ridden doom. EXCEPT HE DIDN'T WRITE IT, DUN DUN DUN. So then they spend the next 40% of the book (this fight literally starts at 50% like it was pretty obvious what was going down) fighting about EVERYTHING. How he DIDN'T WRITE THE LETTER. How Genevieve thinks he regrets marrying her. How she's cold. How the sky is

blue. How they don't need no satisfaction.

OF COURSE, this leads to the "I WILL NOT SUCCUMB TO YOU" sex-capades game which is so gross. STOP USING SEX AS A TOOL. In a world where sex is used to degrade and destroy women on a routine basis, it is not okay to casually toss in power games like that. EXAMINE YOUR DYNAMICS. There is a god-damned reason why Genevieve reacts poorly to the idea she needs to submit: because society has demanded nothing less of her since she was born. SUBMIT, WOMAN.

So that entire plot point was like a mouthful of bad eggs. And it is handled with kid gloves and abandoned at first light, because suddenly Genevieve is A-OK with being Myles wife and no discussion is ever had about *why* she set up her own bedroom or refused to go to his bed. SHE WANTED SOME AUTONOMY. SHE WANTED TO REMAIN HER OWN PERSON. WHY WAS THIS NOT WOVEN INTO YOUR CLOSE, CAMP? YOU HAD THE PIECES OF AN INTERESTING RESOLUTION BUT TOOK THE EASY WAY OUT AND I AM *JUDGING YOU*.

5. The villainess is a cartoon character: she plots evil because she wants to get with the hero and turns into a screaming harpy when she is foiled. Sigh, grumble: where is her depth? SHORTCUT PLOTTTTT.

6. This had markings of an interesting MOC but was foiled by SHORTCUTS and BAD PLOT POINTS and just all around MEH.

WELCOME TO 2017, FOLKS.

Lover of Romance says

Genevieve, knows that it is time to get married. So she accepts an offer, but then the worst happens. During a ball, she receives a note from a friend, to meet in a private room to discuss something of great importance. When she arrives however, she finds herself being attacked by a man she is acquainted with, who is drunk and as she tries to fight him off, ends up being seen by numerous members of the Ton. Now she is embroiled in a scandal, and her fiancée rejects her in front of others in the most unscrupulous way. Then Myles, a friend of her brothers, makes a respectable offer to her of marriage. Even though at first she refuses to accept his offer. The last thing that she wants to do is hurt Myles. But she knows she doesn't have many options, she accepts his offer. At first she doesn't know what to make of this marriage. She cares deeply for Myles, but he has known her since she was a little girl. Genevieve starts to have mixed feelings about Myles, she is starting to feel much more for Myles than she ever did before. Now she is starting to feel a deep desire for Myles, he has awakened her senses and she she knows she risks losing her heart to him. I haven't read Canace Camp in quite some time, so when Edelweiss offered me this ARC copy to read and review, I was overly excited. I just have loved every book that I have read from this author so far. So I was so excited to read this especially after reading the blurb. It took a chapter or two to get into the story, and then once I really got into it, I was fully enthralled. I found it difficult to put down. Genevieve I found to be a very endearing character, and I was on her side through most of the story. Among most people she seems to carry the image of being ice cold, when she isn't the most social of people. She is more shy than anything, (which I find I can relate with a bit :). So I really enjoyed seeing her come out of her shell throughout the story. From the start I fell for Myles, he is the type of hero you just want for yourself. He is very honorable, and caring but still has a strong and protective personality. I really loved how these two were together, it was so sweet and tender at times. But they surely did know how to argue and fight...so much so that it was widely entertaining and amusing. There were many things that I loved about *The Marrying Scandal*. One is the intriguing plot that had some mysterious elements and even some suspenseful moments involved. Second were the depth of the characters and how well their emotions and actions were portrayed throughout the

story. Also there were definitely sparks flying between these two that just sizzled and danced. A Lovely story that is full of everything that you need for a satisfying tale of romance. A True Treasure!

Inshirah Kamal says

"'Tis the appearance of propriety that is paramount, my dear"
