



The Bridal Quest

Candace Camp

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A fan-favorite from New York Times bestselling author Candace Camp, originally published in 2008.

Lady Irene Wyngate swore she'd never marry, keeping suitors at bay with her caustic tongue. But there's one man she can't scare: Gideon, long-lost heir to the Earl of Radbourne. Kidnapped as a child, Gideon grew up tough on the London streets. And though he's been restored to his family, he's still more at home in gambling dens than stately ballrooms.

Irene isn't attracted to Gideon, or so she says when matchmaker Francesca Haughston asks for her help to civilize him for marriage. After all, he is a true rogue with a dubious past. A handsome rogue, she has to admit, but as she reluctantly begins to yield to love, wicked family secrets come to light...with devastating consequences for the reluctant lovers.

The Bridal Quest Details

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From Reader Review The Bridal Quest for online ebook

Ursula says

2.5 stars rounded up to 3.

This the usual story of the determined spinster who ends up changing her mind when she meets The One. My first book by this author, and she writes well, including a little murder mystery for fun.

What I found strange about this book is that the only insight I had into a character's mind and thoughts came from the heroine, Irene. The story was told completely from her POV, and I could only guess at what the hero and the secondary characters were feeling because we are never told. Their facial expressions and tone of voice (angry, grim, embarrassed etc) are described, but by locking me out of their heads, I found it difficult to get close to them and that detachment created an I-don't-really-care-what-happens-to-them feeling in me as I read the book. It probably did not help that I have been listening to an audiobook by Kelly Bowen at the same time, where both protagonists do a LOT of thinking and I have developed a real understanding of their motives, attitudes and personal back history. (Thanks, Caz and the Audio Gals - really enjoying it!) In contrast, the hero of The Bridal Quest is a two-dimensional enigma that I, unfortunately, cannot be bothered solving.

If all the author's books are written the same way, I don't think I will be reading any more.

Laine says

i am so in love with this book. it made me giddy, excited and giggles while reading it. definitely a match for gideon and irene. irene may be so reluctant to marry but whenever gideon is present she cannot deny the excitement she feels when she is beside him and kissing him had certain effects on her. i love their banter and how gideon is such a romantic type. despite all the controversies and secrets of gideon's kidnap issue, i love how irene stood up for him and is always beside him ready to face new developments. definitely a page turner for me.

Sophie ♥ says

Honestly this book was bearable at most. I read The Courtship Dance a while back and that bored me to tears. i had been hoping that this book might be a little different but it was just as boring. I mean there was nothing wrong with it precisely... it was just so BLAND. I can't see myself ever picking a book up by this author again.

Lover of Romance says

Irene has never desired marriage in any form, despite the strong pressure from family, who doesn't understand her independent nature. Irene doesn't want to have to depend on a man for anything, or to become his property of sorts, where he can abuse her to his hearts content if its his wish. When Francesca Haughton, a well known matchmaker, comes to Irene asking for her help, Irene doesn't suspect that Francesca is trying to push Irene into the arms of Gideon. Irene instantly shields herself when she senses that he is one word

"Trouble", the sexy and irresistible kind that could land her in a world of hurt in the end. Gideon, has recently come into his title, after being informed of his parentage and that he has been a aristocrat all of this time. He didn't expect to join a family, that aren't all that bad, but they don't encourage him to join happily into Society. With their insistent pushes to get married, Gideon knows he might as well do it sooner rather than later. So he is in pursuit of a wife. When he first meets Irene, he is instantly drawn to her and knows that it won't be easy, she is going to make his life very difficult, but he thrives on challenge. Gideon knows that Irene is exactly what he wants in a wife. Now comes the hard part, proving to her the kind of man he truly is, and that marriage to him wouldn't even come close to her greatest fears. Its been a while since I had read the first book in this series. I do know that I really enjoyed it, even though its been a couple of years. So did i enjoy "The Bridal Quest" just as much? I would say "YES". I found it to be a charming story of two strong willed characters, most stubborn in their purpose. We see that love can be just as stubborn, and has a way of getting through the toughest defenses. Gideon was very sure of himself and did what was expected, but he had backbone, and didn't let anyone run over him. It was a delight to see him pursue Irene, a woman who is full on 100% against marriage. Irene was not my favorite heroine, she wasn't horrible or anything of that nature, but there were times that I found her a bit annoying. As the story progressed however, she started to really grow on me. The story line had quite a bit of a mystery plot to it, that just added something more exciting to the book. I did enjoy the sensuality portion of this story, even though it wasn't too strong, I felt like there was a good balance overall. There was I felt something missing in the story, I couldn't pin point it, but I didn't get fully 100% into it like I wanted. However it was a very enjoyable story nevertheless. Overall it was a witty and endearing story that did keep me involved in the story in a delicious way. I found myself falling in love with Gideon and Irene. I did enjoy seeing how their story progressed and had some beautifully written descriptions that only charmed me even more. Even though there were a few set backs to the story, I did really enjoy reading this one, a love story you can relax into. If your looking for a fun and flirty romance, than this one is for you. You won't be disappointed.

Juliana Philippa says

Great tension, arguing, and battle of wit and wills between main characters - definitely better than the first Matchmaker book

This book is the second in Candace Camp's Matchmaker Series and follows The Marriage Wager. My main complaint with the first book of the series still holds true here, but it wasn't as bothersome. I don't know if this is Camp's normal writing style, but in neither book does she show the hero's POV (except for once for a total of 4 lines in this one) and I find it very disconcerting. The story is told exclusively from the heroine's narrative, with small exception - the aforementioned 4 lines and we do see Francesca's (the matchmaker of the series) POV occasionally. In all of the other historical romances I've read, the story is told in third person from ****both**** of the main characters' - and sometimes secondary characters' - POV (for good reason!).

Camp doesn't do this; in The Marriage Wager it really bothered me because we didn't see enough of the hero in other ways so that at the end of the book I felt I still didn't really know him. She does a much better job of this in The Bridal Quest and I would happily have given the book 5 stars if it weren't for the fact that the hero's perspective is still needed. Other than that, this book is a charm and I will undoubtedly reread it.

SUMMARY:

Lady Irene Wyngate (25) is a sharp-tongued witty young woman (known by the ton as a shrew) who is very unusual for a lady of her class - she has absolutely no interest in ***ever*** getting married. Watching her drunk lout of a father wreak havoc in everyone's life with his whoring, gambling, and frightful rages and tempers convinced her long ago that she wanted to be under no man's rule and would remain as independent as possible for the rest of her life. She has never questioned her decision until she meets Gideon, Earl of

Radbourne, for although she tries to cling to logic and remember what a boorish, arrogant, and rude man he is ... every interaction with Gideon excites her, her body comes alive when he's around, and she can't help but want to see more of his rare smiles and almost-never-heard laughs.

Gideon, Earl of Radbourne (31) was kidnapped at the age of four and grew up in the tough East End of London instead of living in comfort among the English aristocracy. He was recently restored to his family and they are anxious for him to get married; though Gideon is determined to decide on the lady himself, he is amenable to the idea and so agrees. His family asks for Lady Francesca Haughston's help, however, for they fear that it will be difficult to find a proper, young lady who is willing to marry Gideon, since despite his wealth, title, and handsome looks, he's rough around the edges, his hair is too long, he continues his involvement in his business affairs (a tradesman ::gasp::), he is far too direct, he doesn't dance well, and the list goes on. A country house party is organized and although Irene insists that she is attending in order to get her and her mother away from her horrible sister-in-law for awhile and NOT to be one of Gideon's prospective brides, Gideon is determined to change her mind ...

COMMENTS:

The relationship between Irene and Gideon is wonderful - a clash between two opinionated and strong-minded people. It's highly entertaining watching their attraction develop, despite both of their attempts to fight the undeniable chemistry between them (her caustic remarks are priceless and it's so funny when despite his anger he can't bring himself to write her off). There were several laugh-out-loud moments for me and I love the scenes when Irene finds herself defending Gideon against rude criticism despite herself and that she slaps him - not once, but twice!! This book was wonderful and the hero and heroine were perfect for each other - they're both strong, honest, intelligent, loyal, kind, and straight-forward and blunt to the point of rudeness.

Candace Camp combines a completely lovable hero and heroine (with wonderfully antagonistic - but humorous - interactions and great chemistry and dialogue), both friendly and horrible relatives, a family mystery (was Gideon really kidnapped? what happened all those years ago?), and the continually entertaining and curious relationship between Francesca and the Duke of Rochford (which will finally be resolved in the fourth and final book of the Matchmaker Series, *The Courtship Dance*, out February 1, 2009!!) to create a delightful historical romance.

???'s Xamante de los spoilersX says

Muy bueno el romance, mucha química entre los dos, interacciones hilarantes y originales además de que el argumento es super interesante y te hace dudar de vez en cuando (¿es verdad que Gideon fue secuestrado?, ¿como paso?, etc). Y me encantó que la protagonista es extremadamente racional algo con lo que coincido mucho, me sentí muy identificada.

HÜLYA says

Söz Dinlemez Kalbim-Candace Camp

Yazar'ın Matchmakers Serisinin 2.Kitab'ı idi Goodreads Puan'ı 5/,3,84 Benim puan'm 5/4

Seri 'u 'ekilde;

Matchmakers (Çöpçatan Serisi)

1. The Marriage Wager (2007) A'k Engel Tan'maz

2. The Bridal Quest (2008) Söz Dinlemez Kalbim
aka The Bridal Conquest
3. The Wedding Challenge (2008)
4. The Courtship Dance (2009)

Serinin ilk kitabı Aşk engel Tanmaz'ı çeviren Ceren Kurtoğulları'nın çevirmesi yayın evi adına isabetli bir karar bence..Kitabı yine çok rahat okudum..Candace Camp'in kalemini seviyorum çok akıcı bir üslup ile yazıyor.Erkeklerin iç seslerine romanda pek yer vermiyor..Bu da sanırım yazarın sili..Ama beni çok fazla rahatsız etmiyor..

Serinin ilk kitabından tanıdığımız Lady Francesca Haughston'un Rochostor Dük'ü ile tuttuğu iddiadan hatırlıyoruz..Bu ikili benim kalbimi fethetti..Olan kardeşi evlendirme de başarısız ile Dük ile olan iddiayı kazanmıştı..Ama maddi durumu henüz düzelememişti..

Serinin 3.Kitabında Dük'ün kız kardeşi Carla 4.Kitabında bu çok merak ettiğim ikilinin kitabını okuyacağız..Tabii ki en çok Francesca ve Kusursuzluk timsali Dük'ün hikayesini merak ediyorum..

Serinin 4.Kitabı Söz Dinlemez Kalbim'e gelince kurgusu çok güzeldi..Hiç sıkılmadan okudum. Evlilikten ödü patlayab Lady Irene Wyngate ile Radbourne Kontu'nun varisi Gideon'un hikayesi idi..Irene'nin korkusunun en büyük sebebi zalim ve bencil babasının davranışları yüzünden diğeri..Bu yüzden evlinerek erkeğin hükmü altına girmeyi ret ediyordu..

Gideon ile Irene'nin yolları da genç kızın babası yüzünden bir gece yarısı kesişti idi diğeri..Babasının emrinde çalışan bir kadına musallat olduğu için uyardığı gelen Gideon Irene'yi kendisine çevirdiği silah ile ilk kez görmüştü..Genç kız da unutmamıştı..

Bu olaydan tam 10 yıl sonra bu iki gencin yolları tekrar kesişir..Gideon'un gizemli ve aykırı geçmişi çok çarpıcı ve sırlar ile doludur..Küçük yaşta terkedilip büyük zorluklar ile yaşamış babasının o kaybolduktan sonra bulmak için beklediği çabası göstermemiş olması Gideon'un cevaplarını aradığı sorular..Yıllar sonra kavuttuğu ailesinden beklediği sıcaklığı görmemesi ünvanın her şeyden çok önemli olması onun canının acıtmıştı..

Öte yandan Irene babasını kaybetmiş olup babasının bıraktığı borçlarla boğulan ailesini evlendikten sonra annesi ile birlikte onu evlendirmek için fırsat kollayan sevmeyen yengesi ile birlikte yaşamaktadır..Zaman zaman yaşanan tartışmalar canının acıtsa da evlenmeye kesin kararlı olup sert ve açık sözlü bir genç kız olup erkekleri yanına yanaştırmamaktadır..

Ama yeniden bulduğu ailesi Gideon'un aileden yapılan baskıları sonucunda Irene'yi oldukça hareketli ve heyecanlı günler beklemekteydi..Çünkü Gideon tanrıca bekar genç kızlar için düzenlenecek davette çöçatanlık yapan Francesca'ya özellikle Irene'in isimin vererek davet edilmesini sağlayacaktı..

Büyük bir keyifle okudum..Francesca ve Dük'ün olduğu sahneler çok fazla olmasada kitabın sonundaki sahne gelecek iki kitabın daha da hareketli ve heyecanlı olacağını göstermişti..

Umarım bu sefer Candace Camp'i okumak için çok fazla ara verilmez..Tavsiye ederim..

Μαργα Γεωργοπούλου says

**I really liked it! More than the first one! It has a better plot and more interesting main characters!
Also, I liked the mystery in the story!**

Desi says

Leído en Nov 2011

me gustó.... bastante entretenido!!

Nikoleta says

Ευχαριστο βιβλίο. Τι πρέπει για να χαλαρώσεις, ακατάλληλο όμως για σες (εννοείται απευθύνεται σε γυναίκες κοιν?) έχουν υψηλή λογοτεχνική κριτική. Χειρσο, μυστήριο, - φυσική- πολύ ρομάντζο και εξαιρετική χημεία ανμεσα στους πρωταγωνιστές.
3,5/ 5 αστέρια

Kari Maass says

I loved Gideon and Irene's road to HEA! Candace Camp is a master at writing the enemy to lovers trope and she adds a mystery into this story. Irene was a tough heroine to bring to the marriage deal but Francesca has a way of easing a reluctant bride into favoring the idea. She now has to successful matches to her credit and I'm hoping she can bring the Duke of Rochford around soon as well. I love this series!

Yukino says

ok la trama è sempre quella..lei single che non vuole sposarsi e poi incontra lui..e cambia idea.

però l'ho trovato divertente, romantico e con un pò di mistero al punto giusto.

si lei è troppo indipendente per essere una vera dama dell'epoca..ma i suoi battibecchi con lui sono stati davvero esilaranti.

La parte più divertente? ovviamente lei che si ostina a dire che non prova interesse per lui e poi appena lo vede va in brodo di giuggiuole..e si fa un sacco di storie mentali..vi giuro sono troppo divertenti! forse perchè un pò mi sono rivista in lei, forse perchè è leggero e si legge in velocità e mi ha fatto dimenticare i pensieri quotidiani..m ale quattro stelle per me se le è meritate.

D.L. says

During the first few chapters, I came very close to setting this book down and never picking it up again. Lady Irene Wyngate is determined not to marry, and insists on making this clear to everyone. It's great that she's an independent heroine, but I just couldn't envision some woman talking to the ton at a ball and spouting out why she would never marry. While I liked that she was a modern, independent thinker, her talking openly about it didn't jive with her desire to be considered proper.

Other than that, I really enjoyed the book. Her not wanting to marry (and the reasons she doesn't want to marry) set up for good tension between her and Gideon. I loved their sparring. It brought both characters to life. And there were several wonderful, sensual love scenes.

At first I didn't know what to make of the plot since it focuses on the fact Gideon was kidnapped as a child and grew up in the slums of London. It's a somewhat odd plot, but it provided enough twists and surprises to keep everything moving.

While this is not one of my favorite romances overall, I came to really like both the hero and heroine.

Ivana Azap Feješ says

I honestly thought going into this that I'd have to endure scene after scene of Irene spouting her feminist ideals about the rights women should have, but that's not at all the case. I love this quaint unorthodox romance match between the main characters Irene and Gideon. Irene was a person who was determined to remain a spinster for valid reasons. Gideon who was kidnapped at 4 years old and grew up as a poor urchin later to gain his own personal wealth using the hard knock methods of survival and thrived. Gideon did not wish marriage but knew he must provide and heir to his estate. Irene is no exception: she won't get married because she doesn't want to "belong" to a man the way her mother belonged to her abusive father. The reoccurring character is Lady Francesca, the matchmaker. I actually enjoyed this book; it had a mystery intertwined with the storyline. This time, we meet Irene and Gideon. Irene is dead set against marriage fearing its bonds after being raised in a house where her father drank, gambled and treated his family with violence. Lady Irene Wyngate really should marry. Her brother's wife doesn't like her and she doesn't have enough money to move out. She's sharp-tongued and most of the eligible suitors avoid her.

I really liked it! More than the first one! It has a better plot and more interesting main characters! Also, I liked the mystery in the story! Great tension, arguing, and battle of wit and wills between main characters - definitely better than the first Matchmaker book. This book is the second in Candace Camp's Matchmaker Series and follows The Marriage Wager. My main complaint with the first book of the series still holds true here, but it wasn't as bothersome. I don't know if this is Camp's normal writing style, but in neither book does she show the hero's POV (except for once for a total of 4 lines in this one) and I find it very disconcerting. I'd already read the first book in the Matchmakers series and honestly had no intention of reading this one, but when you find a book by an author you like at the library you have to check it out. The heroine didn't really interest me based on what I'd gotten from the summary. Turns out, I was very wrong. Once again, another fun read from Candace Camp. I love her stories because her heroines aren't helpless; they tend to be a little older, a little caustic, with lots of spunk. The hero in this book is great, too. This is the second book in the matchmaker series. Once again, could not put it down! Two for two in this series. Again, she favors "older" heroines and people who aren't necessarily wealthy beyond words. Truly wonderful, touching story, great characters.

Gaby Cordova says

Me gusto mas que el anterior.

Irene es independiente, terca y con muchos miedos hacia el matrimonio, lo que la hace un poco molesta cuando rechaza a Gideon. Gideon creció en la calle y ahora es un exitoso hombre de negocios. A esta novela le falto profundizar mas sobre todo, hay muchos temas interesantes que no llegaron a tejerse como debieron por lo que sentí quedaron como hilos sueltos.

Sigue sin gustarme eso de leer nada mas los pensamientos de Irene y Francesca. Que por cierto, esta ultima se sigue llevando el protagonismo...

