



# The Tycoon's Secret Child

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**The Tycoon's Secret Child** Maureen Child

**A Lone Star paternity bombshell, only from *USA TODAY* bestselling author Maureen Child!**

Texas toy mogul Wes Jackson is on the brink of a billion-dollar breakthrough—until a sinister anonymous tipster reveals Wes is a dad! Suddenly his family-friendly company is in crisis and Wes's sole focus is finding the daughter he never knew. But confronting the child's mother, Isabelle Graystone, means resisting a chemistry that is as fierce as ever.

Wes's failure to commit sent Belle running five years ago. Now he's back, making himself indispensable and stoking Belle's deepest passions. But is his interest in her part of a bigger ploy?

## The Tycoon's Secret Child Details

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Author : Maureen Child

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## From Reader Review The Tycoon's Secret Child for online ebook

### Titania Remakes the World says

1.5 stars at this moment, I might change later IF-IF I re-read.

I thought the Hero (H) was a self-centered, spoiled dick that certainly needed to suffer and grovel MUCH MORE to convince me that he'd changed.

5 years ago, he told her, while she's post-bang snuggling with him, that he didn't want kids or marriage, so if that's what she wanted, she better leave.

Being told to your face that you're nothing more than a hose-bag "should" be a permanent mood & affair-killer, but nope!!

When she gets surprise-pregnant, she takes him at his word and leaves as she doesn't want to subject herself or the kid to hurt & rejection.

Once she left, he hops right into bed with whomever he wants, & everything he does in the tabloids, so she SEES she wasn't at all special to him.

5 years later, when he finds out there's a kid, he shows up, but only tries to buy the kid's love with fancy gifts.

He doesn't do ANYTHING AT ALL for the mom, other than stalk & stare at her around town--very creepy, and thoroughly arrogant that she'll fall into his lap just like she always has.

Which she does, totally dives at the Mr User, so there's zero chance for him to learn anything.

When his selfcenteredness & lack of empathy causes problems, she splits and in less than 24 hours, he has a total personality change. Really?

**What I'd like to have seen:** *Her to NOT be a sad little victim!!* To have at least dated or been in relationships in the last 5 years instead of pining all-alone like a wounded animal for a guy that had ZERO attachment and just used her. Or him track her down, and she's married to a better man & Mr User has to be miserable & watch Mr Better "show how it's done--son!". Force Mr. User to grow some character...and THEN the book starts a few years later when she's widowed, but she's out forcing herself to rebuild a great life by dating great guys and maintaining great, fun friendships, while he has to watch & suffer, and he has to really work hard at convincing her he's **not a self-centered little user** anymore.

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### Mem says

D2491 Jan17 Texas Cattleman's Club: Blackmail #1.

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### Maureen says

#### Another good read

Maureen Child does it again with another great read. Good characters and easy to grasp plot. Definitely worth the read

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## Monica Cardoza says

I fell in love with these characters. I fell in love with the storyline and I want more.

This is the first book in a new series that I have started to read, Texas Cattleman's Club: Blackmail. Wes and Isabelle are great characters along with Caroline. They are going to have a long journey in order to make their relationship work. Isabelle has been keeping a secret from Wes and soon the whole world know. I understood where Isabelle was coming from she truly believed that Wes didn't want to commit that he never wanted to be a husband or a father. But he never got the choice to be either and that was not fair for Wes. Wes doesn't know what to think he knows that no matter what he wants to get to know his daughter. He will do whatever he can to get to know her and if that means going to another state for a while then that is what he is going to do. There is still this sizzling chemistry between Wes and Isabelle and they can't hold off to long. Everything will go great for them if they can communicate and share how they truly feel. I know that Wes doesn't want to hurt his daughter and also Isabelle but sometimes actions or words can be taken a different way rather than how they were meant.

The Tycoon's Secret Child was a great read. It was an enthralling read and I enjoyed it so much. I loved seeing Wes, Isabelle and Caroline together I loved how Wes tried to learn ASL. He was a great father and he just needed to take it slow and things would work out for them. Ms. Child's writing style is awesome. I love reading her stories.

I totally recommend this read!!

Received ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an Honest Review

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## Cheryl says

This is the first story in the new Texas Cattlemen's Club Blackmail series. We are introduced to Wes who has been working on a merger for almost a year and it is hampered by a rumor that he is a father! He is the first in Royal to be blackmailed and we get to see how he reunites with the mother of his daughter and gets to met his daughter. This is a heartwarming story very good beginning.

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## Andrea Guy says

Maureen Child never fails to impress me, even when the plot is very far fetched. Secret babies are my least favorite plot that Harlequin uses but for some reason Maureen makes this work. I think it has to do with the fact that this book focused heavily on Wes and Belle and Caro and their relationship rather than on Wes and Belle having lots of sex. In fact, there really wasn't much sex in this story at all, which is amazing considering this is the Desire line.

There are some things that didn't make sense to me in the modern world, like how Belle got a job and took pay using a phony name. I-9 forms make this a little difficult unless she had fake id made.

I guess that's me overthinking things though, which I'm prone to do.

As to the keeping the baby secret, I was glad that Belle was from a wealthy family to start with because that eliminated the "rich guy using his wealth to force the mother's hand" device that you see in books with this plot.

Belle and Wes were on equal footing. I could understand why Belle didn't tell Wes about her pregnancy. If you were dating someone and they made it pretty clear they weren't in it for the long haul, it would be pretty hard to give out that news, when you could just up and fade into the background.

I liked how Wes owned up to his fatherhood, though I would have liked to have him give the guy from the other toy company, what for, for not letting him give an explanation about the child he didn't know about.

Speaking of the child. Caro is an adorable little girl. Maureen Child writes great children. Caro is losing her hearing from a bad infection she got as a toddler. I liked how Wes was quick to see what he could do to help his daughter and her condition, as well as the fact that there was no sadness or pity for the child.

This book is part of a new mini-series and the villain aka Maverick is going to play a part in all the stories. I am looking forward to reading the upcoming books to find out who "Maverick" is.

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### **Kathleen Booker says**

I've read several of the TCC series and this one grabbed my heart with the little girl. Wes vowed never to have a family and Bella wanted nothing more so when she finds out she is pregnant, she runs home and keeps her baby from Wes-- Mavreick finds out and lets the secret out 5 yrs later. Wes goes to find his child and discovers she has stole his heart right along with her mother. He could have handled things a little different but it all worked out in the end.

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### **Debbie DiFiore says**

#### **Another typical story**

I have not been liking Maureen Child lately. Her books are just not romantic anymore. I hated the hero and I just didn't feel his love. Five years and he never tried to find her and thats supposed to be love. He had other relationships too of course but they weren't her. So typical. The only good thing he did was buy Caro his little girl the doll with hearing aids. But it wasn't enough to save this story. Just another blah read. And I didn't believe in the HEA. Just say no.

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### **Lu Bielefeld \*read.laugh.love\* says**

ok

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### **Nenia ? Queen of Literary Trash, Protector of Out-of-Print Gems, Khaleesi of Bodice Rippers, Mother of Smut, the Unrepentant, Breaker of Convention ? Campbell says**

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I read this book for the Unapologetic Romance Readers' New Years 2017 Reading Challenge. For more info about what this is, click [here](#).

We're doing a reading challenge in the romance group I moderate for. The goal of it is to step out of our comfort zones and try to read sub-genres of romance novels that we haven't read before - or even actively avoid. In my case, the secret baby trope is one of these latter. I've never understood the concept behind it, and there's something a little cringe-worthy about a child being used to bring two people together who maybe oughtn't to be. I never like seeing kids used to emotionally manipulate adults, especially for "love."

Since I didn't own any secret baby romances, I went to Netgalley to see if they were offering any ARCs for review. THE TYCOON'S SECRET CHILD was one that caught my eye, and seemed the least offensive. Maybe even good. The summary was intriguing at least!

To the author's credit, this story is *very* well-written and the sex scenes are decent. I even liked the heroine, Belle, for a while, because she obviously loved her daughter very much and wasn't afraid to stand up to her, even if it meant telling off her old fling and letting him know exactly where he stood.

No, what killed the story for me was said old fling. The "hero," Wes.

**\*\*\*WARNING: SPOILERS\*\*\***

Wes is the CEO of a number of Texas-based companies, one of them being Texas Toy Company. The biggest project is the "Just Like Me Doll," an American Girl-doll like clone where children can get customized dolls that look like them, along with personalized accessories. He's sure the doll will be bigger than Cabbage Patch Dolls, and is the process of brokering a merger with another company when an anonymous internet hacker going by the name Maverick drops him a weighty bombshell:

He has a daughter.

Said hacker also changes his Twitter handle to "Deadbeatdad," which sends local news into a frenzy. Suddenly, Wes's secret baby is big news, and the owner of the company he wants to merge with backs down, being a family man, claiming he doesn't like how Wes runs his personal life.

Wes immediately hunts down Belle, the father of his baby. He's angry, because he thinks that Belle should have told him that she was pregnant, and that he is entitled to the child simply because he helped make her, even though he essentially cut ties with the mom because she was too clingy (i.e. she wanted to marry him and not just carry on as his mistress of the night). Belle is not happy with this attitude, which makes Wes even angrier.

*He'd missed her pregnancy, missed the birth of his daughter, missed every damn thing. If anyone deserved some sympathy around here, it was HIM (64).*

Which is just crazy, because this is what he said to her when she told him she loved him back when they were still going out:

*"You said that you weren't interested in getting married...had no intention of EVER being a father, and if that's what I was looking for, I should leave" (71).*

Wes's response to this is totally irrational. He said he was talking about "hypothetical" children, not "real" children. This is his go-to argument whenever Belle (rightly) brings up his past attitude as her reasoning for hiding Caro from him. She didn't want the child hurt, how was she to know that he was just saying he didn't want children on principle, but that he'd be totally okay if one showed up? LOL! This is "internet troll" logic right here. Stand aside, Wes. I don't have time for your games.

Then the stalking and intimidation begins:

*"You don't want to take orders from me? Well, I sure as hell don't take them from you. I'll stay as long as I want to, and there's not a damn thing you can do about it" (79).*

After he shows up at her house without warning.

*For the next week, Isabelle felt like a caged tiger in the zoo. Someone was always watching her - and that someone was Wes. Every time she turned around, there he was. At the grocery store. At Caro's school - (110).*

After Belle reluctantly agrees to give him a *chance* at bonding with his daughter.

But don't worry, there's still time for selfishness:

*If he could convince Teddy Bradford that he, Belle and Caroline were really a happy little family, then he might be able to salvage the merger that meant so much to his company (122).*

Wes manipulates Belle into coming to Texas with Caroline, where he pretty much then does his utmost to ensure that the child won't ever want to leave. Upon arrival, Belle discovers that not only does Wes already have a fully furnished room set up for Caroline packed with expensive toys, but he's also bought the girl a dog (because the mother wouldn't get her one, thereby making her the bad guy in this). He throws fast food, presents, and affection at her, even telling the child - without consulting the mother, first - that she could stay *longer* if she decided to go to school in Texas.

What makes this even more disgusting is that Caro has a degenerative hearing problem that is slowly causing her to go deaf, and Wes immediately barges into that sensitive issue, consulting doctors for treatments without asking the mother's permission, and - on the very first night *that he shows up unannounced at their house* - even attempts to schedule a surgery right in front of poor shocked Belle, taking it for granted that this is perfectly ok, to interfere with all of Belle's care.

The one touching thing Wes does for Caro is that he gives her one of those Just Like Me Dolls, even giving it hearing aids like Caro's so she can have a doll like her. Belle is so touched she has sex with him that night, but he ruins it when she comes to his Texas mansion because he announces that because she slept with him, he didn't bother giving her a guest room so she wouldn't have to "sneak" into his. Because one yes means infinite yeses, so why even bother asking first. What a prize.

Maybe this sounds mean, but I thought Wes should have suffered for what he put the heroine through. Between breaking up with her because she wanted a bit of commitment and romance, and stalking the heck out of her and her kid, he came across as a really bad guy. I didn't like that Belle gave into him so easily, and I wasn't pleased with their HEA. He never had to sacrifice anything, and he put the heroine through the wringer. That was not okay.

I've been told that the Harlequin Desire line caters to women who enjoy possessive, controlling heroes, which I do not, so maybe that's the problem: I'm not the target audience for these books. In any case, I've now read my first "secret baby" book, and I think I can safely say this genre is not for me!

Thanks to the publisher/Netgalley for the review copy!

1 star.

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### **Melody Cox says**

Wes Jackson was an a\$\$, a stalker, a jerk, a user...and many other things. There was no salvaging this story and I was greatly disappointed.

Just a horrible hero who had far too few consequences for his rotten actions.

Absolutely no way I can recommend this! Awful!!

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### **Diane says**

Wes is on the brink of the biggest deal his company has ever had. Imagine his surprise when he is outed as a dead beat dad and the deal starts falling through. DAD? To his knowledge he has never even had a child. But when he gets a picture of the little girl he knows his former lover has some explaining to do.

Isabelle Graystone was in love with Wes Jackson 5 years ago, but he made it perfectly clear that love and marriage were not on his agenda. When she flees home with the broken heart and a baby on the way she knows one day she will have to face the reckoning. Now Wes has shown up on her doorstep and wants to have a place in his little girl's life. But for how long till he becomes board, or becomes the absent father. Belle cannot let that happen to her daughter.

As the two try to come to grips with the how to handle the whole situation, Belle finds herself and her daughter back in Texas with Wes for a while. But when she overhears a conversation about he positive publicity the photos of the family have caused she realizes he just has them here for the company and not for her or her daughter...she leaves again.

Wes is devastated when he finds his family gone. Now he must prove to Belle that he want both her and their child. Because without them he can never be happy.

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### **Mommaleena says**

The Tycoons Secret Child (Texas Cattleman's Club: Blackmail) by Maureen Childs

- Surprise

Sometimes you need a wake up call to make you realize what you're really missing. Just as with Wes and Isabelle. What happens between these two former lovers when they come face to face again? Kinda intense, you'll have to read The Tycoons Secret Child to find out. Maureen Child made you feel as though you were right there beside the characterize while you read. I really likes this and look forward to more in this series as well as from this author. ARC received from Netgalley for an honest voluntary review.

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## **Fran says**

I hate writing bad reviews, but I have to be honest and say that this book did not work for me. To start with, all the characters in this book were blond! Hero, heroine, the child, the ex, etc. What's up with that?? Also, I did not feel any chemistry at all between Wes & Isabelle. As for romance, if there was any, I missed it because 97% is all about getting to know his daughter and doing damage control to his reputation & the business deal that was in jeopardy. While I do think H/h were likable characters on their own (he is not a man-whore & she is not a doormat), neither together worked. Why? Wes & Isabelle were boss & employee and became lovers five years ago, but Isabelle became pregnant and left Wes because he told her he didn't want marriage & children and if that is what she wanted, to leave. So she becomes pregnant & leaves without telling him. Five years later, someone hacks into his twitter account and sends him a picture of his daughter and calls him a "Dead Beat Dad" causing him to lose a big business deal. We never find out who did this, but his excuse for not wanting a family & love was pretty lame for a grown up 35 year old man with "daddy & mommy" issues. What I also didn't like is that it was Belle who was the aggressor in restarting the relationship in terms of the first to make a move on him and have sex. It left this reader at least wondering if she had not done that, would he have wanted a relationship again with her? I'm sure there will be others who will like it but if you are like me and want a hot, steamy romance with a lot of "feels", well this is not for you. Four stars for at least not having another playboy/man-whore.

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## **Kristy says**

Well written story as always from Maureen Child. I liked the characters Isabelle and Wes, and their cutie-pie daughter. But the romance was a little light. Also disappointed that you don't find out who exposed the secret, although I didn't know it was part of a continuity series when I picked it up. A light read with sweet people. I'd be interested in hearing more about Belle's brothers.

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