



## The Best Man's Baby (Harlequin Desire)

*Karen Booth*

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## **It's a second-chance baby!**

Julia Keys has everything going for her—beauty, brains and a Hollywood career. So why does she keep ending up in Logan Brandt's bed? The sexy former pro baseball player has wreaked havoc on her heart for years. But when their latest fling ends with a plus sign on the pregnancy test, Logan makes the case for marriage.

Julia knows the only wedding in their future is the one they're both attending, no matter how hot the chemistry between them still burns. Can two high school sweethearts who've made a mess of love finally get it right...even if the baby isn't Logan's?

## **The Best Man's Baby (Harlequin Desire) Details**

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Author : Karen Booth

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## From Reader Review The Best Man's Baby (Harlequin Desire) for online ebook

### Shaundra says

It's a good book especially for one telling an IR love story. The cover was beautiful and eye-catching. I typically go for BWWM, so I thought I'd switch it up with a BMWW one.

I liked the main characters, for the most part. The hero was strong without being overly Alpha. The heroine was a little weak, but I liked her style. She's a movie star, but totally doesn't act like it. It was actually a little unsettling. I loved the fact that race was treated as a matter-of-fact type thing as opposed to being an issue. I feel despite all the craziness in the current societal climate, this is where we're headed if not already there.

The supporting characters were very lacking and shallow, especially the heroine's sister. I feel there was a backstory there that was only slightly touched on. Also, the ending was HORRIBLE! I felt robbed. I wished I hadn't read the epilogue at all. You'll see what I mean. How editors let that go for a romance book that's supposed to be HEA is beyond me. I guess they were going for something different. In women's fiction, it would have been great. For contemporary romance, it was infuriating.

There was a lot of potential here that was missed somehow. But the love story and tone of writing were good so that's why I give this book a three-star rating.

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### Coral says

Plot: 4/5

Characterisation: 3/5

Prose: 4/5

How much I enjoyed it: 3/5

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### Lesley says

Wow! Such unlikeable characters - except Logan. Poor Logan. Where to even begin. Julia is pregnant and doesn't know who the father is..her sister gives bridezilla new meaning. No one is nice and I got tired of all the attitude. Happy to put this book behind me.

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### Lynn Brooks says

4 1/2 STARS!

A swoon-worthy take on a reunion story! It's quick and easy to read, filled with a drama filled week leading up to a final meeting of the minds on love conquering all!

Actress Julia Keys appears to have it all ... a Hollywood career, her leading men falling at her feet, beauty

and brains --- but she's never had the man she truly wants by her side.

Logan Brandt was her high school sweetheart. They had a powerful relationship before she broke his heart when they left for college. He went on to play professional baseball and have a full life without her ... but she was always the one that got away!

Drawn together again for a mutual friend and family wedding, Logan learns they have unfinished business resulting from their a tryst they had a few months ago ... there's a little one on the way!

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## **Maria Rose says**

High school sweethearts Julia Keys, now a successful actress, and former baseball star Logan Brandt have seen their share of ups and downs. Though they broke up long ago when they were headed off to different colleges, the connection between them never really went away, and with every successive high school reunion they'd ended up playing on their attraction to each other but always holding something back. The last time they saw each other, three months ago, they tipped over the edge into a two night fling. Brought abruptly back to reality by a tabloid article linking Julia with her current co-star, Logan ended things and vowed not to get involved with Julia again, knowing there would be no future for them.

Back in town for her sister Tracy's wedding, Julia harbors a secret. She's pregnant. And the crux of it is that she doesn't know if the baby is her ex-boyfriend's, whom she broke up with just before her last high school reunion, or Logan's from their passionate weekend together. With both of them involved in the wedding party, Julia and Logan will be spending plenty of time together. When Julia tells him about the baby, Logan makes some quick decisions. With the paparazzi hounding Julia and threatening to ruin Tracy's wedding, Logan steps up and proclaims them a couple. Can a fake relationship and a pregnancy give them a start at a brand new future together?

This couple sure has gone through their ups and downs! They really were in love in high school, but Julia's insecurities made her believe that Logan wouldn't be faithful in a long distance romance, and so she ended things with him, breaking his heart and her own in the process. While they have seen each other many times since then, they've both been wary to commit to each other again in a meaningful way. The baby changes all that, though not necessarily for the better at first. While Logan is happy to say he'll marry Julia if the baby is his, she worries about what will happen if she commits her heart to him again and the baby doesn't end up being his after all. Will that be the end of their relationship? She wants someone who will stick with her for the duration, no matter who the real father of the baby is. To his credit, Logan eventually realizes that he wants to be with Julia no matter what which goes a long way towards cementing their relationship. In the meantime they share several sexy scenes together – their attraction to each other is just as strong as ever.

Julia's sister Tracy though, she's a piece of work! A bridezilla of the first order, she's not a very likable character. It's not Julia's fault that the paparazzi followed her home, but Tracy takes it as a personal affront . Julia's pregnancy is unintentional, but when the family finds out, Tracy uses it as another thing against Julia, as if she planned it to ruin her wedding. I felt sorry for Julia having to deal with her, while going through the unpleasant side effects of early pregnancy. (And I felt bad for the guy marrying Tracy too!). In the end everything gets sorted and the wedding goes off without any major disasters but she sure made for an annoying character.

Julia's parents aren't very supportive of Julia either, and it's no wonder she feels insecure about where her life is going. Luckily Logan pulls through as a man Julia can lean on despite their baggage. In fact, overcoming everything that has come between them in the past, and the chance to be parents together makes

for an emotional connection that gets stronger over the course of the story. We get a happy ending for this couple, complete with the birth of the baby (you'll have to read it yourself to find out if Logan is the father!). The Best Man's Baby is an enjoyable second chance romance.

This review appears at Harlequin Junkie: <http://harlequinjunkie.com/review-the...>

A copy of this story was provided by the publisher for review.

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## Brandee (un)Conventional Bookworms says

\*sigh\* Finished in one day! Booth, as usual, delivered a story that pulled me in from page 1 with wonderfully fleshed out characters, and a romance to root for!

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Alright, as I've said before about Harlequin, this isn't a title I'd necessarily pick up myself. Cheesy title aside, it's by Karen Booth and y'all, the woman knows how to write a romance! *The Best Man's Baby* has a lot going for it...second chances, small town setting, close-knit families... Oh! And it happens to feature an interracial couple. For all that, I can overlook the title.

I'm a sucker for second chances and Julia and Logan's story offered up a wonderful one. These two essentially grew up together and were high school sweethearts. But Julia broke things off before they both left for college feeling a break up was inevitable and not wanting her heart broken later. They've kept in contact over the years though and hook up yearly at their high school reunion. However, following the most recent reunion, Logan decided to break things off for good, feeling Julia doesn't have it in her to commit for the long haul. Cut to the present: they're both in town for Julia's sister's wedding (who happens to be marrying Logan's best friend) and Julia has quite a bomb to drop on Logan. It doesn't take long for the flames between them to reignite.

I immediately liked both Julia and Logan. They both fiercely loyal to their families and friends. Logan doesn't want to let anyone down and Julia is out to save everyone. They're both giving but Julia, for some reason, doesn't trust easily. Probably because in her effort to save people, she keeps getting into relationships with the wrong men.

I also liked their families. I could tell they were close and always had each others' backs. However, Julia's sister, Tracy, did get on my nerves at times. She acted rather bratty quite often and her being the bride didn't excuse her behavior in my book.

The interplay between Julia and Logan was fun but also poignant. Their chemistry was combustible but they were truly a match - everyone seemed to be waiting for them to figure it out.

The only issues I had aside from Tracy's behavior is that Julia's career and the repercussions from being pregnant were never resolved. Otherwise, I found the characters realistic and the story engaging. Another winner from Booth!

\*\*I received a complimentary copy from the author. I voluntarily provided a review.\*\*

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### **Rachel says**

Karen Booth truly has a talent for writing, i thought this after reading her Langford Family series, but after reading The Best Man's Baby its even more so. Booth has an amazing gift to make you feel for her characters and be invested in the story in such a short time. She made me ache for Julia after Logan ended things with her after their reunion, amd again everytime her family blamed her for things outside of her control. She made me annoyed with her family, and I truly couldn't stamd her bratty, bitchy sister Tracy!

But also she made me care, creating feelings like the ones of wanting Logan to take Julia in his arms and make everything ok. And to create that much emotion in such a short book creates an amazing book journey. Add in two people who fell in love young and keep falling in love through the years, and some very steamy romance scenes, its a definite must read.

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### **Melissa Vicente says**

I'm excited to make this book my first finished in 2017. I received this book as a prize by the author herself, after winning it from a giveaway on her website.

The book, like the others I've read by Karen, pulled me in by the second page. Karen has a great way of making her characters come alive and making the reader feel as if I've known them all my life. Short but sweet, the number of pages doesn't stop Karen from building a world, sprinkling in dramatics like twists and turns and dangling your heart strings.

It was a great read, one that excites me and pushes me forward to continue reading. I look forward to the other gems I will get my hands on this year by her.

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### **Valerie Skorup says**

Julia Keys is in the midst of a dilemma...she's arrived home for her sister's wedding and she's keeping a secret from her family that she hopes to keep until after the wedding. There's just one snag in that plan, the best man - former love Logan Brandt. Julia and Logan tried rekindling their relationship 3 months prior and it didn't go well. Needing an ally, she confides in Logan that she's pregnant and he may or may not be the father. Logan steps in and helps her to get through last minute wedding preparations while trying to shield her from the onslaught of insensitivity from her family when her secret is mistakenly revealed after a last minute dress fitting. Following Julia and Logan through the process of the stress of helping with the wedding and figuring out if they have another shot at romance was worth the read.

I liked this story from Karen Booth. It has a little family drama that is relatable and makes you feel compassion for Julia and Logan with their struggle to find if they can choose to work things out. I was a little turned off by Julia's sister in this one, but that is probably because I've seen one too many episodes of Bridezillas so she turned into a real witch in my head!

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### **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Slick's review:

I want to call this a second chance love story, but in all honesty it is more than that; The Best Man's Baby is about two people who fell in love at a very young age and never really fell out of love. They went on to grow, to experience, and to discover all that life had to offer, but they never forgot and while they both made some pretty big mistakes over the years the bond between them was unbreakable. I enjoyed this story a lot; this was a couple who connected physically with ease, spiritually, and with their whole hearts, but were unable to let their heads believe what they had was true. I ached for these two because it was so evident they wanted to be together, but neither was willing to voice it and that led them down the path to lots of misunderstanding and heartache over the years. A love story years in the making, with a little push from fate I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

Julia Keys has found fame and fortune working as a Hollywood actress, but she doesn't have the one thing she wants more than anything the love of a good man. She knows she's made mistakes in her man choices over the years and finding out she's pregnant and not sure who the father is makes her cringe with what tabloid fodder that will be, but first she must get through her sister's wedding and seeing Logan Brandt, her high school boyfriend and the man she spent an entire weekend with three months ago at their high school reunion and one of the two men who possibly fathered her child.

I really loved Julia and Logan together despite everything in their past. I will admit that Julia's inability to let go of what happened after their reunion got on my nerves quite a bit and I hated that neither she nor Brandt tried to actually have a conversation about it, but I could also understand the extreme pressure she was feeling. The moments they spent together both in and out of bed were truly magical and it was easy to see the friendship and love between them not to mention the sparks, I only wish there had been more of these scenes and less of Julia's family. I'll be honest that I was disappointed in her family, the way they treated her and especially the way her sister acted throughout the majority of this book made me absolutely crazy (at one point I was ready to take scissors to the woman's wedding dress just to make her see what an outright b\*tch she was being). I was so thankful that Brandt's mom was a calming voice of reason and made him look at all sides of their situation.

I always appreciate when a couple has to navigate difficult times to get to their happily ever after because I feel it's good practice for what life throws at you during a marriage and after everything this couple went through to be together, I have no doubts they will be just fine in the long run. A whole lot of crazy, some intense sexiness, and two people finally figuring out how to be together made The Best Man's Baby a wonderful romance.

Review copy provided with no expectations.

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## **Lynette says**

### **Volatile Chemicals at Work**

The Best Man's Baby is another fantastically written story by Karen Booth. We get her humor, amazing romance, witty banter, and moments when I just want to throw the book. Thanks Karen. It's the chemistry between these two lovers that makes me give all the thumbs up!

Logan Brandt is gorgeous and so smitten by his long time love Julia Keyes. Papa didn't raise no fool though. He knows a good thing, but plays her just right to get her back to him. He knows which strings to pull and the words to say to make her realize that there's no better place to be than by his side.

Julia, good grief lol. She's everything we feel and dare not say. She is loving and smart, yes but is totally incapable of realizing where her heart belongs. However she is written with such a grace and giving nature that I can forgive her for passing up Logan at first. I can't blame her though when she has the crazy family that she does. I still want bop Tracy.

This romance is definitely Karen Booth signature steamy. Whew! Goodness! Note to self: Don't read on the metro. You just may miss your stop.

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### **Marsha says**

For a while, the two main romantic protagonists seem to have no real cohesive factor other than they're both good in bed. Well, she may also be carrying his child but that's a separate issue...isn't it?

Reading about Julia and Logan's attempts to hammer out a working relationship, one that would encompass love and the rearing of a child, was difficult. Not because the writing was bad—it is rather good for novels of this sort. It was because they were both beset by anxieties, insecurities and differing notions about what it took to create a stable connection.

Logan thinks that every child deserves two parents and he proposes based on that quixotic but frankly outdated notion. Julia is a famous acting star, one recognizable practically everywhere she goes. You figure that she probably has plenty of money and doesn't need Logan's input. She's yearning for Logan's love, affection and support, no matter what, and is offended and hurt by the idea that he's proposing marriage out of some silly chivalrous idea of "being a man" or "doing the right thing". She thinks that a marriage under such an onus would be headed for disaster. Having a child as a way of keeping people together? Tough burden to place on an infant.

There's also the problem that she doesn't know who the father is and flatly refuses to take a paternity test to find out. Logan's initial assertions that he'll stay if the baby is his raises her hackles and deepens her fears that he'll walk out on her if the baby turns out to be another's. Julia is going to love the baby no matter who the father is and I could only applaud her for her staunch affection.

At this point, I was feeling more than a little teed off at Logan Brandt's attitude. But the novel takes them both to a place where they manage to overcome their separate terrors and suspicions of each other. There was a little too much sex for my liking especially when I thought there should be more conversation *before* they predictably took each other on the sheets. But otherwise this is a refreshingly different slant on the "She's Having My Baby" trope.

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### **Deanna says**

Okay, guys, I have to admit, I bought this book because the cover was eye-catching, the title intriguing, and the author a familiar Twitter name. The fact that it was a second chance romance and had a great summary on the back didn't really register until I got home with it. So, you could say, I bought this on a whim without knowing a whole lot about it. Then I started reading it.

Fast-paced, dynamic, and deeply emotional, *The Best Man's Baby* is a second chance romance I loved and happily devoured. The characters were strong, passionate, and had a lot of emotional depth that made them real, living, breathing people with troubles and doubts and wounds that haven't quite healed no matter how

many times they fall back into each other.

Julia and Logan have loved each other since high school, but because of their chosen career paths and doubts about their relationship and each other, they just couldn't seem to make it work between them. They also couldn't seem to stay away from each other. And thanks to their latest fling, the stakes are higher than ever now.

Because Julia is pregnant and deeply honorable Logan wants to marry her, despite the doubts he has about her and their relationship. Julia can't say yes to that, but she also can't ignore the way Logan makes her feel, or all the ways he tears on her heart.

If you're looking for a quick, well-written, second chance love story to devour, pick up a copy of The Best Man's Baby by Karen Booth. I loved the story and the characters, and the natural, easy flowing writing style made this an absolute delight to read.

4.5 Stars

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### **Diana Tidlund says**

I won a box of books the other day and when they came I was beyond excited to see Karen Booth's upcoming release, The Best Man's Baby on the top, I didn't even bother looking at the other titles, I immediately sat down and cracked that book open.... and boy was I glad I did because it was beyond what I expected it to be based on the blurb , title or author!

if you've ever read Karen Booth's The CEO Daddy Next Door, Pregnant By The Rival CEO, That Night With The CEO or any other book she's written then you don't want to miss The Best Man's Baby. In this one Ms. Booth delivers memorable characters that bring something exciting and new to Desire books as you will quickly discover when you start reading this one.

A delightful second chance romance!

Julia Keys has everything... brains, beauty and a career as one of Hollywood's hottest actresses... everything but love.

Logan Brandt had it all... his high school sweetheart and a promising career as one of pro baseballs best.

Then it was all all over...first the girl left him then his career when he was injured.

When their high school reunion reunited this former couple neither could deny the sparks that flared between them and they gave in to one night of passion.

A few months later they're reunited once again, this time for her little sisters marriage to his best friend...only she has to tell him something first.... she's pregnant.

Julia and Logan have another chance at making their relationship work thanks to this unplanned pregnancy....but the baby that may or may not be his.

Julia has always been in love with him, but her insecurities had her believing that it wouldn't last so she didn't fight for it but luckily for her Logan loves her enough to fight for her and their baby but would his love

be enough?

The only downside to The Best Man's Baby was strong and ambitious Julia's sister. I found myself wanting to smack her sister more than once for the way she treated Julia, a sister who had done everything for her to have the wedding of her dreams. Not sure if she was just a spoiled brat or Bridezilla or what but she frosted my butt on more than one occasion.... then I realized.... that just shows how good a writer Karen Booth is ... that they characters are brought to life so wonderfully that they seem real...

So now I have been left wondering if there was any way to revisit these characters because I was not ready for The Best Man's Baby to be over when I finished the last page. I want more of them thanks to Karen Booths ability to create uniquely charming and real characters who are unpredictable and wonderfully brought to life at her hands as she brings both the characters and the readers on a roller coaster ride of emotions.

With the uniquely charming romance, The Best Man's Baby, Karen Booth outdoes herself and all my expectations!

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### **Jo Ann says**

Love this second chance romance! Julia and Logan come across as real and relatable even though she is a popular Hollywood actress and he is a former baseball superstar. This story has it all - interesting twists, a bridezilla sister, relentless paparazzi, a baby-on-board, funny banter and scorching hot sexy times!! Logan is such a great hero \*sigh\*. Another winner from Ms Booth!!

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