



The Sheikh's Bargain Bride

Diana Fraser

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Being trapped in a marriage of convenience in a desert kingdom, where duty and tradition reign as supreme as the sheikh, is the worst thing that could happen to freedom-loving Anna Whitman. However she has no choice but to agree to Sheikh Zahir Al-Zaman's demands when he kidnaps her son.

Duty, loyalty and tradition are the driving forces in Zahir's life. He's fought for them all his life and now finds himself obsessed with a woman who appears to be the opposite of everything he values. In order to control his obsession with Anna he believes he needs to possess her. And he's prepared to go to any lengths to do so—even using Anna's child to blackmail her into marriage.

But Zahir will not force her into his bed; he has his strategies for seduction. Despite an intense attraction, Anna is not going to make it easy for him. Even when she begins to understand him, and his culture that seemed so restrictive at first, she won't have a relationship with him based on lies. But how can she reveal her secrets when they will shatter the beliefs he holds most dear?

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From Reader Review The Sheikh's Bargain Bride for online ebook

Sometime says

While I enjoyed this short length romance, it relied too much on the Big Misunderstanding trope. If these two just had an HONEST conversation where both parties talked and listened equally, this book would have been over in 50 pages.

I did like both characters and the romance was slowly drawn out and beautifully written. If you can tolerate the lack of communication (or unwillingness to hear the truth) then it's a good book to spend a few hours on.

Judith says

4.25 out of 5. This is a novel I wasn't sure I was going to like. But I had read another of Ms Fraser's books and decided to go for it. I don't like the usual future's that occidental women face in the Middle Eastern scheme of things and the experience of a number of American women with Middle Eastern husbands has turned me off to these relationship possibilities. Just way too many cultural differences sometimes. In this particular novel, however, it would seem that this man has nurtured a deep desire for Anna for many years and that their one night together has not only enslaved her in an obsessive way but has also become a part of his dislike of her, especially his not knowing that his brother, Anna's husband for a while, was gay and a man who feared "coming out" more than anything. Yet as Anna begins her sojourn as Zahir's wife and as their passion escalates, she begins to see him differently and to understand a bit more about him. However, her love of "independence" and her fear of his leaving her when he grows weary of her are the two issues that keep her from giving herself to him fully. How they work this all out is really surprising in some ways, as Zahir makes so many of Anna's dreams come true. But having one's dream may not be all that life is cracked up to be, and what is it compared to having that emotional "home" that comes into one's life when a mutually loving and giving relationship comes into being. When that is lost, where is the joy? Just a really terrific and deeply satisfying read!

Crystal says

Anna was married to the Sheikh Zahir's brother. He just didn't know it and they spent one passionate night together. He never knew that he left her pregnant and that there were things about his brother that he didn't know about.

Years later he kidnaps his nephew to get the woman that he wants. When he finds out the secrets that she has kept he just doesn't know what to do.

This book was well written and I enjoyed it. Love to read about Sheikh's.

MsRomanticReads says

This review can also be found on my blog.

My first read by Diana Fraser, and I definitely want more. This story easily swept me off my feet and tumbled me around a little before setting me down gently. Exotic locations, exotic characters, love, revenge, secrets, and heartache all come together perfectly to create an emotional yet romantic tale.

When we first meet Anna, we see her as a frantic mother trying to get her son back from her brother-in-law, Zahir. When they come face to face, their chemistry is sizzling, with an underlying current of anger and hatred. The story moves swiftly to divulge a few secrets as the plot unfolds little by little, and with each new revelation, I began to see the characters differently. They were constantly changing. Anna could have easily come across as selfish or deceitful, but it turns out she was trying to keep the peace and save her dead husband's family, particularly his brother, from a shameful truth. Even when she was faced with Zahir's proposition to agree to a marriage just so that she could continue to see her son, she put her son first. Her feelings and her yearning to be free were put on the back burner.

Zahir was a hero one would love to hate, but he was dark, seductive, charming – he was intoxicating. He didn't have all the facts, not about Anna or her marriage, so his actions were fueled by anger and revenge. I loved them as a couple because as time went on, they discovered things about themselves as well as each other. Despite not knowing the whole truth, Zahir made huge strides in becoming a different person, to the point of loving Anna and wanting her for the right reasons instead of the wrong ones. Once they ceased to pass judgement on each other, their feelings really blossomed.

The emotional turmoil came when Zahir tried to make her dreams come true and give her what she wanted the most – to be free. Not necessarily to be free of him, but to do the things she always wanted to do before getting married and pregnant. But then the truth eventually surfaced and threatened to tear them apart for good. Misunderstandings on both sides and the failure to communicate with each other had me in tears until one of them was brave enough to lay everything on the line for a HEA.

This author's writing is lush, sensual, and flowing. There was never a moment of boredom with this story. I couldn't stop flipping the pages, wanting, no, desperate to know more. There were some memorable moments that stood out to me, for instance when Anna watches Zahir with his falcon and has an epiphany, or when Zahir realized that he loved her enough to let her spread her wings and fly.

He felt his light dim. Perhaps he would never be enough for her to wipe out her past, to believe that they had everything together, that she didn't need to keep on looking for that elusive something that led her on and on to the goal of freedom.

Their conversation at the end was one of the loveliest I've read in a long time. Speaking in metaphors, they finally came to an understanding.

If you're a hopeless romantic like myself, you will want to pick up this book.

MaryD says

[I thought this would be a very intense, revenge-filled, angst-y story, but I loved the way Zahir came to care for Anna, seeing her for hers

Linda says

This is a fantastic read and I found myself crying at the end as Diana sure knows how to write a powerful book with a lot of depth. The chemistry between Zahir and Anna is electrifying making it a definite must read!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Victoria says

I was surprised to see so many good reviews for this book. It reminded me of a bad story line from a soap opera. Woman's son is kidnapped by her brother in law who is Royalty in far away land. He will only let her be with her son if she stays and marries him. She decides she must do that because she realizes her son is happier where he is instead of at home with her. She also realizes she must tell her brother in law that he is not the uncle of her son but the father instead. Her husband is dead but had been gay and they never actually had sex. The story line just doesn't work for me. No matter who you were, if you kidnapped my son and tried to manipulate me, I wouldn't fall in love with you, have sex with you, and get pregnant again. Sorry. I'm giving this two stars simply because the writing was okay. Even as a free book, this was just awful.

willaful says

A decent Harlequin Presents style Arab sheikh/secret baby/forced marriage story. I disliked that Zafir basically gets away with telling Anna that he'll dump her as soon as he's tired of her, and their child sounds more like a 10 year old than a 3 year old. On the plus side there was some unusual reality about the difficulty of using condoms in water. ;-)

Skye Hegyes says

This is a romance, but the romance between the main characters always felt forced to me and lacked appeal because of it. I realized who the child's father was before it was ever mentioned, all because it was never mentioned that the boy's father was who it was supposed to be, and the revelation made me just want to slap the sheikh, because it was blaringly obvious otherwise. There were little things about their time together that bothered me as well and how he tricked her into staying with him, but the moment she did something he didn't like, he'd punish her using her son, which essentially punished the child as well. It wasn't right, and I hated Zahir for it.

Firstpella says

Good...pretty obvious at the start the kid was the H's...the H/h had chemistry and the location and touch of another culture made it different from the standard FSoG / Crossfire. I think if this story was reworked...made a bit darker...started before, when the H and h first met...could have something potentially unique and more fulfilling. Found myself skimming the last chapters since the temporary breakup wasn't strong enough as a plot point. All in all this story is like a piece of a better larger story that needs to be told.

Paula Legate says

I really enjoyed this book. It was a sweet romance. There wasn't anything big, like an accident, or illness that happened in the story that made me hold my breath. On the other hand the twist and turn caught me by surprise. This is one of those books that you just have to read. If I give you too many details of the book, it will spoil the whole book. I wouldn't want to do that.

Here is a sample taken from chapter one:

He dipped his head to hers, as if to inhale her and her breath caught. In that one instant she absorbed the details of his face as if she could actually feel the dark stubble of his jaw roughly abrading her own jaw, could feel his silky hair fall gently against her own cheek. She closed her eyes in order to break the connection, willing herself to dispel the confusion of hate and need; the clash between mind and body.

Tonileg says

Contemporary Arab sheikh romance with a smart rags-to-riches young lady and a secret baby plot. Anna Whitman married her first husband because of lies, once she found out that he was gay (well the not consummating the marriage was probably the big hint) she divorced him, but since they were best friends she still tried to play the part of the good wife to his family to protect his in the closet status. Except she made one mistake by falling in love with the older brother, the ruler, the Sheikh Zahir Al-Zaman and having a passionate one night stand which produced her son, Matta. No one asked questions about his parentage because Zahir was brothers with her husband. But the secrets come out one by one in this story.

Zahir blackmails Anna into marriage by kidnapping and keeping her young son, Matta because he lusts after Anna. You'll find lots of hot and cold in this frustrating story and seriously people need to speak up with big secrets like when they've fallen in love and surprise pregnancies which would avoid all these angst ridden stories.

Still it was a fun read.

167 pages and kindle freebie

2 stars

Tanya Mayes says

I really enjoyed this story about Zahir and Anna. It has a little bit of everything my emotions were up and down. Zahir meets Anna one night in Paris. They are both highly attracted to one another. They have sex but Zahir finds out that Anna is his brother's wife. Now the guilt and anger comes in. Fast forward four years and David's brother is dead and Zahir has taken his son back home. Zahir still burns Anna and he uses her son to convince her to marry him but what he doesn't know is she still wants him too. But Anna holds some secrets that could turn David's world upside down. The two of them truly love it each other but are to afraid to show it. Anna to afraid to lose her independence will find out some hard truths and so will Zahir. Can they find there HAD. I will read this one again. It's full of surprises. Introduced me to the art of training the falcons and the Sheikh go hand in hand. My first Diana Fraser book but won't be the last. I've reread the ending a couple of times.

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Free today for Kindle! <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B006GWZWB8>

A Devil's Bargain...

All Anna Whitman wants is to live a free and independent life, but she's forced to accept a marriage of convenience so she can live with her son.

Sheikh Zahir Al-Zaman is a ruthless desert warrior who believes the only way he can control his obsession with Anna is to possess her. And he'll do almost anything--even kidnap her son--to have her.

But Zahir will not force her into his bed. He has his strategies for seduction--strategies Anna finds increasingly hard to resist. But she won't have a relationship based on lies. And how can she reveal her secrets when they will shatter the beliefs he holds most dear?

Janna says

The Sheikh's Bargain Bride (Desert Kings Series: Book 1)

This is the first book that I have read of Ms. Fraser and I have to say that I believe that I have a new author to add to my "go to authors".

To say that this story of Sheikh Zahir Al-Zaman and Anna Whitman has twists, turns, surprises and hot sex, would be an understatement. Ms. Fraser's writing style draws you in from the first page and you keep turning until you are finished.

As we start the book, the path start takes a different path that has several mysteries and lots of secrets. The journey keeps your interest peaked until the last paragraph.

Zahir visits his brother and meets a woman in the elevator of the hotel. They end up spending one hot night together. The next day, Zahir finds out it was his brother's wife, or at least he thinks she is. After Zahir's brother passes away, he spends four years to find Anna. She had gone into hiding after his death because she had a son, Matta and she knew that Zahir would try and take him away from her.

As we begin the story, Anna has just arrived in Zahir's country of Qarawn to get her son. The courts ordered Matta could visit Qarawn for a holiday. Zahir had refused to allow his nephew to return to Anna.

Their first meeting, Anna felt the same intensity to connect just like four years ago. Just like four years ago. Zahir gave Anna a choice. Marry him and she can be with her son, or walk away.

To find out what happens when an alpha male Sheikh and a determined, stubborn female bent on keeping that freedom, you will need to purchase this wonderful love story.

