



Family of Convenience

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Mail-Order Mother

Recently widowed and pregnant, Millie Steele needs a husband to help provide for her unborn child, and becoming a mail-order bride is her only option. Thankfully, her new husband, Kansas farmer Adam Beale, only wants a mother for his two young children—not romance. Everything is going according to plan...until Millie begins to fall for Adam.

Adam had reservations about wedding another city dweller—his late wife never took to life on the prairie. But now he can't imagine his family being complete without Millie and her unborn baby. Though they agreed to a strictly platonic partnership, can real love be blooming in Adam and Millie's marriage of convenience?

Family of Convenience Details

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From Reader Review Family of Convenience for online ebook

Hannah says

3.5

An enjoyable read! Would have been five stars, except for a couple things: choppy writing style, with sentences of several words each in a row; many sentences begun with a word and followed by an extraneous comma, such as: And, But, Then, So, etc—distracting, to say the least, and those commas wouldn't fare well if read aloud. Also, in the scenes where the farmers attempt to fight a wildfire, I kept wondering why they didn't burn a firebreak in order to save their homes.

Millie's lists were an interesting quirk to give a character. I know plenty of people who use lists for daily tasks, but Millie uses them as emotional therapy! Adam, on the other hand, is all about the business of farming, and he's extra-slow to trust again after his first wife's betrayal.

Thanks to the author and the LIH group for a copy. A review wasn't required and is my honest opinion.

Harlequin Books says

"Austin's debut is not to be missed! Millie's need for control, despite the fact it causes overwhelming fear, is relatable. Her strength and determination to look to God for peace is inspiring. An overall sweet tale, it demonstrates the trials encountered for the time period" (4 stars @ RT Book Reviews).

Karin says

3.5 stars rounded up

When pregnant, widowed, broke and virtually homeless Millie married the widowed father, Adam, for a platonic marriage so that Adam's children can have a mother and Millie a home, things start off as planned, and overall well. But naturally, sparks begin to fly, along with misunderstandings and the stress of ranch life during a drought. I was surprised at how well this book was written; normally I find this sort of writing a bit lackluster but since I enjoy the occasional marriage-of-convenience novel, decided to try this imprint and this new author. I was also happy to see that the Christian element wasn't sappy or tepid, but it wasn't down-your-throat, but rather realistic and honest.

Kathy Jenkins says

For a first novel, this is a charming, simple story of life in Kansas in the late 1800's. a widower with two small children marries a pregnant widow, sight unseen, and brings her to live on his farm. I give the book points for spunkiness and for the climax fire scenes. Not sure a woman of that era would have kept a daily "to do" list in writing but that was my biggest beef with the book and it played into the storyline.

Look forward to more from this author with her own personality coming through

Michelle says

Adam was so focused on his farm that he neglected his family. On one hand I guess I could understand that their survival depended on him, but on the other hand it was frustrating to read. He was so oblivious I actually wondered how he ended up falling in love with Millie.

Holly says

Really beautiful story--I was captivated from the beginning! Even with the busyness of first week of school and full time job, I still finished it in 2 days. I didn't want to put it down! I can't wait to see more from this author. Great job!!

I think part of why I enjoyed this story so much is due to how I related to Millie. The worrying about everything that can go wrong, the need to plan so you can prepare yourself for whatever may happen, the daily lists and checking things off to feel that sense of accomplishment...I totally get that! And the fact is, no matter how much you plan, life is unpredictable! But by putting your faith in God, and trusting Him, everything will be okay, no matter what happens. Thank you for this reminder Victoria, I needed it. :)

Leanne says

short Christian Romance story

Julie (Manga Maniac Cafe) says

4.75 stars

May Contain Spoilers

I really, really enjoyed this book. Millie, homeless and pregnant, agrees to a marriage of convenience with Adam, a widower with two young children. Both Adam and Millie had unpleasant first marriages, so Adam stresses that theirs will be only a marriage for the sake of the children, both his and Millie's unborn baby. Adam had already had his heart ripped to shreds, and he doesn't want to go through that again. Millie has never had an easy life, and she is terrified of being penniless and homeless, and so for her baby's sake, she agrees to Adam's proposal.

Poor Millie. Here is a woman who trusts nothing. She trusts no one, and she only expects the worst out of life. To say that Millie is a glass is half empty kind of girl is to understate her negative frame of mind, and to the reader, her outlook on life is completely understandable. Her husband, a shop keeper, lied about their finances, and when he died, she was left with nothing. Again. Raised in an orphanage, she is used to having nothing, but she doesn't want that for her baby. When she moves to Adam's farm, at first she is dismayed that it is so far from town. She has only ever lived in a large city, and being that far away from civilization is a frightening to her (let's be honest, everything is frightening to this overstressed woman!). When she is shown

her bedroom, the first room that she's ever had that is really her own, she thinks that maybe things won't be so bad.

Adam's children charm her, and soon Millie settles into the new pattern of her life as the wife of a farmer. She enjoys caring for her new family, cooking, baking, and cleaning her new home. But then her doubts and fears for the future start creeping in. Millie keeps a notebook and every day she writes a list of tasks to accomplish, as well as her lists of fears. What will happen if the crops die and there is no harvest? What will happen to her and the baby if things with Adam don't work out? How will she support herself if she is homeless again? What if Adam has problems managing money like her first husband?

Millie's fears keep getting in the way of her happiness, but the past is a hard thing to let go of. Adam is offended when Millie seems obsessed with money and their savings, but he is able to put her fears into perspective. Adam was a wonderful, caring hero who possessed the patience of an angel. Seriously. All he wanted was a woman to care for his children, and he was determined not to develop feelings for Millie, but as they get to know each other, day in and day out, and he sees how kind she is, he starts to hope for something more. But her fears keep derailing any progress they make, leaving him hurt and just as determined to keep their relationship distant.

Millie learns that when the worst does happen, it isn't anything she could have predicted, and that the only thing that matters is the love of family and friends. As long as she has that, she will be able to overcome all obstacles. The relationship between Adam and Millie grew convincingly, and I am convinced that they will enjoy their HEA. Recommended.

Cherise says

While I enjoyed this, I found it a bit slow. The focus of the book is on the main characters, but also about the uncertainty of living during that old time.

I like the background and premise a lot, and I find it fascinating to see these strong men and women braving the unknown and hostile environment and trying to make a go at living out their dreams. This isn't a fairy tale most times, there are obstacles and hardship, and yet we also see how perseverance and faith help these people survive and thrive. I would like to think this is a pretty accurate portrayal of people living in those times and I do enjoy that part of the story.

I like our H. He is steadfast, dependable, gentle and kind. He also is very understanding of our h and while he does react to situations, he also is smart and brave enough to reflect and try to understand our h's pov and apologise for judging her harshly and reacting badly due to his own insecurities. Wonderful H.

My issues is with the h. Her obsession with security and penchant for imagining the worst is the one thing that going on for most of the book. While I also try to understand her pov and even sympathise her situation like our H did, it really is hard to warm up to her. I am mostly annoyed by her freakouts and her insistence to see the worst of her situation. A lot of times, she came across as v self centred and I just cannot warm up to her, especially given what she did and her reaction when H found out her thoughts. Granted these are only thoughts, but honestly it was pretty heinous and I couldn't even understand how she actually even can have thought of it in the first place. In the end, I only slightly understand via H's understanding, as her thoughts are really pretty jumbled to really make me be sympathetic to her plight. She just seems to be settling and it makes it pretty hard to believe she can just be ok with the situation by the end of the book, even though she did finally get a backbone instead of hiding in her own thoughts like for most of the book. While she is

loving and gentle, she seems to just be a frightened child mostly to me, and I honestly also get super annoyed with her way of dealing with potential situation. I would have felt better if she finally had a better way to deal with things, to be honest.

The book is v clean and pretty focused on the idea of having faith. There isn't much sparks here. While I do not need a book to be filled with naked bodies every page, it is a bit hard to believe in the romance when there isn't any desire of any sort mentioned.

All in all, an ok read still though as I do love the premise and background.

Veda says

A widow that is pregnant and very unsure, widower, with two children, needing a mother for his children. He is a farmer/rancher, she is always planning ahead for the just in case situations. Getting married without love, what could possibly go wrong.

Victoria Austin, will draw you into b this world she has created, and leave you wanting more. Great book.

June says

Very enjoyable story. Always love mail-order and marriage of convenience stories. Adam was such a great and loving guy. Loved how he took on the roll of father to Millie's unborn child. Love stories with kids in them and as usual, Adam's kids really added to the story.
