



India Grey
POWERFUL ITALIAN,
PENNILESS HOUSEKEEPER



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Though Sarah Halliday is very ordinary, her dangerously attractive new boss is not content with her scrubbing the marble floors of his Tuscan palazzo....

Instead she finds herself catapulted into Lorenzo Cavalleri's star-studded life--with a wardrobe to match! Makeup masks her blushes, silk evening gowns flatter her fuller figure, but underneath Sarah's still the shy, frumpy housekeeper Lorenzo hired...and not the sophisticated bedroom siren he seems to be expecting....

Powerful Italian, Penniless Housekeeper Details

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Ana says

why everyone love public declarations, proposals, ect.? i hate it, it's lame and meaningless.

Donna Alward says

I've read some of India's work before and loved it. I love her voice and the way she mixes down to earthness with a sense of glamour and elegance.

The evil stepsister was great (who reminded me a little of the self-absorbed sister in *The Wedding Date*. I only wish Fenella could have been the raunchy cousin from that movie, she was priceless). The fact that Sarah faded into the woodwork and worked herself to the bone fit the Cinderella premise perfectly. She was so taken for granted by everyone because she simply handled things. Sarah is hugely capable - but her self-image took a real hit thanks to her ex, aided by her guilt about her father.

That guilt, by the way, was a stunning revelation that I thought was lovely.

I loved the hero, too. This is something I really want to stress because so often these days Presents/Modern books get a bad rap for those "brutish alpha heroes" who stomp around and order people about and exact revenge in horrific ways. That would be a generalization that is grossly unfair, and India's book is a prime example. If you read this book, you'd say, "What?" Because Lorenzo is not that type at all. Lorenzo has been hurt. He's rich and yes, powerful, and even used to getting his way. But he is also kind, and gentle, and generous. He sees in Sarah what needs to be seen and makes her feel beautiful. He becomes her champion. He is the first person to see not Sarah the Cinderella but Seraphina, the Princess.

Whisking her off to Venice for the movie premiere (the ball), having her choose a gown (hello Fairy Godmother) and take a water taxi (coach, anyone?) all falls into the Cinderella story brilliantly. And so does Sarah fleeing back to England when the fairy tale is supposedly over.

The ending though -oh, the ending. I had a little snuffle at the end.

willaful says

4.5 stars; Make that *Stupid Title, Surprisingly Good Book*. Isn't it wonderful how Harlequin can make a fresh story sound like the same old crap? This "powerful Italian" is actually a film director rather than a tycoon -- OMG, he *rents* a private plane instead of owning one -- and how lovely to see a hero with creative interests. And the heroine, though an overly self-sacrificing single mom, is hardly penniless.

This is Harlequin Presents like I rarely see it these days: with surprises; with attention paid to the writing; with some actual substance to go with the drama, exotic locales and nookie. Lorenzo is suffering from burn-

out in his career and private life; he finds inspiration in an obscure novel about the English countryside. While scouting out the location for filming, he meets and is attracted to Sarah, who unbeknownst to him is the daughter of the late author and the person refusing to release the film rights. But when Sarah turns up near his Tuscany home for a wedding (yes, the implausibilities/coincidences are a bit thick on the ground for the first part of the story) he discovers who she is and sets out to win her gratitude, in hopes she'll relent about the film rights.

None of this is done in a mean-spirited way, mind you; Lorenzo is perhaps a bit more devious than he really should be or needs to be, but he's also a sensitive, caring person. And as he and Sarah get to know each other, they find comfort for deep emotional wounds that they've both suffered. But Sarah has very low self-esteem, so you can guess what happens.

This is a light, quick romance that nonetheless gave the characters time to really fall in love, with drama that wasn't based on stupid misunderstandings or people being jerks, and with backstory for the characters that felt real, not just plastered on to give excuses for bad behavior. Best of all, (view spoiler) And bonus point for including Italian phrases that I didn't recognize from a million other romances.

Asteropê says

5-star for a HQN Presents books **

It was a refreshing change. The heroine is a divorced, single mom. The hero is a divorced movie producer. He's rich, he's Italian, but he's not an overbearing, overly alpha a-hole. There's minimal drama in the book, no OW or secret babies or blackmail plots. The romance is nice and I believed the hero loved the heroine. Unlike some Presents books where I sort of question it (you know, with last minute I-Love-You's on the final page). I also like the Cinderella-type feel, I think it covered that trope without going overboard. And it was done in a realistic way (again, not going overboard with it). All in all, I liked it!

**I rate HQN Presents in their own context, not compared to all fiction or romance books.

Saly says

The book was okay. I didn't like the heroine Sarah much, how she allowed her family to take advantage of her, and the father of her daughter as well. I felt she had zilch confidence.

Lorenzo was also just okay nothing great. He's a famous film director, and his wife just walked out on him and he's infertile. He wants the rights of Sarah's late father's book and it is a coincidence they run into each other twice. He keeps her on at his place for help. Just didn't enjoy the book much.

Sue Child says

Not your typical Mills and Boon Modern / Harlequin Presents

This slow-starting relationship feels like it has two first meets. But pacing issues are compensated for by depth of characterisation and emotion.

The hero and heroine are sad and sadness imbues the writing, which I really felt and loved.

More heroine's story than hero's. Sarah's image problem is overplayed at times, and her feelings of inadequacy as a mother and low self esteem are easy to relate to but start to grate.

Lorenzo is older and bitter and a film director, but not as alpha as I like.

The *un-Modern* cast of characters dilutes relationship intensity, but adds to central conflict, is very entertaining and makes Sarah and Lorenzo more rounded in context.

Lovely interaction between the hero and heroine's daughter and the dog. The scene with (view spoiler) made me cry.

The slow-developing relationship is lovely and deeper than lots of books where it develops faster. Here pace is compensated for by page turning quality as I found myself deeply immersed and couldn't put it down.

The ending is also lovely. Sarah's conflict is dealt with beautifully but probably—if I'm being picky and I know that I am—it was more the heroine's story and Lorenzo's conflict/relationship conflict wasn't really addressed properly, (view spoiler)

Laura says

Not really a "housekeeper" book, if that's why you want to pick it up. They're already friends and attracted to each other when he offers her the job as a favor. There's an almost Betty Neels feel to it, as Sarah is unappreciated and overworked by her well meaning but self centered family. Would have done well expanded rather than as a HP title, but that's more my preference. I like the stories longer. The misunderstandings were reasonable and I loved that single mother Sarah was able to keep her pride AND allow someone else to help her. None of that romance heroine illness where she would rather die than be in anyone's debt.

Kay says

From the opening pages, Ms. Grey swept me away into Sarah and Lorenzo's lovely, heartwarming Cinderella story. Lorenzo's disillusioned and feels that he's sold his integrity to make the glamorous box office hit his actress exwife had persuaded him to make. He wants to find again the passion for the art of making a film that has a soul of it's own. Sarah is a young woman who's very giving nature has robbed her of her dreams and living a life of her own. Lorenzo sees in her a truth and beauty that inspires. These two lonely souls and their journey towards their HEA give us a very beautiful lovestory.

Alex is The Romance Fox says

Another great book by one of my favorite Mills & Boon authors (I wonder what's happened to her? I haven't seen any new books by her...does anyone have some info?)

From the 1st page, you are swept away into the most heartwarming and beautiful love story about two people

who were destined to meet.

Sarah Halliday is such an inspirational character. She's a caring and loving person, who does everything for the people she loves and cares for without expecting anything in return. You may think that this means that's she's a walkover...but she isn't. She has a cute daughter Lottie, whose father has abandoned them both to marry someone else. What a bastard!!! Leaving Sarah to fend for herself and Lottie.

Lorenzo Cavalleri, an Italian film producer disillusioned with what he sees selling his talent and creative for money, recently divorced and some other issues, is in England scouting locations for his next movie that he's determined to make – it means a lot to him to see it happen. I really liked Lorenzo. He's not your typical alpha-male who just takes over a woman and that's that...no, he's kind, caring and damn hot and sexy!!!

The first meeting between Sarah and Lorenzo in England is totally delightful!!! Loved the imagery!! The settings – fabulous. Tuscany & Venice!!! I'm in heaven!!!

I enjoyed how the relationship between Sarah and Lorenzo developed. There were some incredibly touching scenes. These two lonely people who have so many secrets and obstacles in their lives – but, you know what they say.....LOVE CONQUERS ALL!!!!

I adored the ending of this story, despite a tear or twobut really...when they get their HEA...it was more of a happy tear or two!!!!

Suzanne says

A sweet and well written romance story, despite the dumb title (What was Harlequin thinking?). Lot of things to like in this category; yummy food, charming children, the Italian setting, and a cast of interesting secondary characters.

Kaetrin says

recommended by Susanna Kearsley

Fanny Roswita Ria says

Alur ceritanya ini mengenai Sarah Halliday, ibu tunggal yg merupakan penyedia catering profesional, dikhianati oleh pasangannya dan begitu rendah diri dg bentuk tubuhnya yg digambarkan "montok". Heroine bertemu dg Lorenzo Callvari, hero, merupakan sutradara terkenal&memiliki mantan istri yg luar biasa sensual&cantik, dlm suatu permainan yg diprakarsai oleh tmn adik tiri Heroine sblm Angelica, adik tiri Sarah, menikah.

Pertemuan kedua di Italia, membawa Sarah kembali masuk ke kehidupan Lorenzo Carvalli dan semakin menegaskan "chemistry" yg sdh terjadi dr awal pertemuan mereka. Yg tdk disadari oleh mereka berdua, alasan dibalik pertemuan itu nantinya membawa dampak buruk bagi hubungan mrk.

Ok, gw baca novel ini terhitung lama krn novelny ga tebal2 amat malah gw blg ini mah tipis dibanding

novel2 sbilmnya yg gw baca tp bs sampai beberapa hari gitu kelarnya. Satu sih krn rada sebel dg karakter Sarah Halliday, heroine, yg kelewat rendah diri banget. Hadeuh, ini authornya bikin karakter heroine kok menyeh2 gitu sih. Mandiri dan pekerja kerasnya ga masalah tp sampai mendedikasikan diri utk mengatur catering adik tiriya a.k.a dia memasak sendiri krn merasa ga pny duit utk ngasih kado buat pernikahan adiknya itu lho yg bikin gw gemes. Emangnya ga bs bantu hal2 yg lain apa?ckckckck

Ke-2 ada banyak hal yg buat gw bertanya2, kenapa heroine membenci Ayah tirinya? Awalnya gw pikir ayah tirinya melakukan pelecehan seksual secara implisit tp dari alurnya tdk ada sedikitpun menceritakan hal tsb. Atau hal lainnya spt Hero-nya sdh kesal krn perlakuan dari keluarga heroine thd heroine sendiri bakal ada konfrontasi atau teguran krn memperlakukan heroinenya tdk pantas tapi malah berlalu begitu aja. Klimaksnya ga ada lho yah:-)

Sebenarnya mo ngasih 2 bintang, tapi ada Lottie, putri dari Sarah yg begitu cerdas&buat gw senyum2 lihat percakapan polosnya jdnya gw buat 3 bintang.

babyfishmouth says

First things first. The title of this book is atrocious. He is not powerful. She is not penniless. Italian and housekeeper are accurate but there are dozens of better titles that Harlequin could have chosen.

This was a good, quick read. It doesn't blaze new trails in romance but it does offer a nice slow build to a satisfying HEA. The premise demands acceptance of many coincidences which eventually lead Lorenzo and Sarah to share a home and begin creating a lovely sense of domesticity before the inevitable "reveal" of potential ulterior motives drives a brief wedge into the romance.

The steam level was ver low but it seemed appropriate given the rather low key build to their relationship.

I really enjoyed the book and look forward to reading more by her.

Kaycee ♥? says

I guess it was an okay read for me. Nothing too special about the hero and the heroine. But overall, I enjoyed it!

Klara Toll says

2,5 stars

Okay I read this for school and here's the thing: I'm not big on romance books, it's just not what I naturally gravitate towards at all. However, i didn't find this terrible. The plot is ridiculous and I had some problems with how women were portrayed, mainly that women were always compared with each other and some women put down to lift others up. The main character, Sarah, was also quite annoying with her constant self criticism. But I was at times pleasantly surprised with the representation of masculinity, which I didn't expect!

Overall I think someone who enjoys the genre would enjoy this!
