



The Counterfeit Bride

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Lillian Picken discovers the perfect solution for the problem of being a female entrepreneur in the 1870s. She invents a husband, Donovan West, and convinces the townsfolk that he will return as soon as his army commission is up. The ruse works, until the day a man comes to town claiming to be Donovan West.

Secret Service agent Patrick Donovan must ferret out a counterfeit ring in the Silverton area. Donovan's search for the perfect cover ends at the discovery of Lillian's secret. He takes the place of her pretend husband.

But the deep attraction he feels for her begins to complicate things. Not only has Donovan's mission put Lillian in danger, but he has vowed never to marry again and when the job is over, he will return to Washington D.C. for his next assignment. Lillian claims not to care where he goes, but will cracking the case leave them both with a broken heart?

The Counterfeit Bride Details

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Author : Nancy J. Parra

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From Reader Review The Counterfeit Bride for online ebook

Michelle says

I like this book; the story is cute, but on a whole it just didn't blow my mind the way some historical romances can. But I would recommend the book to anyone who likes reading historical romance novels.

Nicole says

unsatisfying and unbelievable.

Anna says

Interesting premise and setting. I thought the heroine went along with the hero just a little too easily - didn't ask questions until the end of the book. Cute fun read though.

Cici says

Loved this. The story had substance. It did not get bogged down in the what ifs. The chemistry was good and clean!

Cheryl McNeil says

The trope of this romance -- being stuck with a strange man and having to make the best of it, e.g. fall in love -- is fun. Who doesn't like fantasizing about getting stranded alone on a tropical island with the most gorgeous man alive? The setting isn't a tropical island, it's a small mining town out West in the late 1800s (for all of us that kind of like cowboys). And the getting stuck together part, while believable in its premise, strains credulity in its execution. There were a few other problems: the main character at times behaved like a pouty schoolgirl instead of savvy businesswoman; and a couple times I had to turn back a page and reread because it was as though the storyline suddenly jumped and I was like, Whoa Nelly, did a couple of pages just not get printed? And the ending . . . I don't buy it. But let's let all of that go. We don't read these romances for the perfect plotting and writing. We read them to escape. It succeeded on that level. It's fewer than 200 pages, and I flew through it.

Emma says

The author sent a note with the book, which I really appreciated. It is classified as a historical romance and it didn't disappoint in that regard and managed to do so without being vulgar or trashy. I also liked that the

story picks up interest very rapidly with "Donovan West" entering Lillian's life within the first few pages.

I would have liked an explanation for how Donovan is able to track the counterfeiters to their "hide out." It seemed intentionally glossed over. I also had a hard time buying the ending (I don't want to say too much and spoil it for other readers). So you'll have to read it to see how you feel about that!

Overall, a quick page-turner. This would be a great day at the beach read.

Kathy says

Set in Colorado during the silver boom

heidi says

Lillian is a pretty smart cookie, and I like that about her. She has invented a husband who is conveniently away, which allows her to run a mercantile by herself.

Of course, this being a romance novel, a mysterious sexy stranger inserts himself into her life. He is a Secret Service agent with a tragic dead wife. And he realizes that Lillian's cover story leaves room for him to be a part of the town. But instead of, like, ASKING, he just blackmails her into compliance from the get-go, and his methods are pretty unscrupulous.

""When a woman looks at a man like you looked at me..

"Yes?"

"There isn't a door or a chair or even a dresser that's going to keep him from her. Not if he's a real man.""

""Rule number one, you will do what I tell you." He took a step toward her. She took a step back and glared at him. "Rule number two, no doors" He took another step, trapping her against the dresser, his arms on either side of her as he gripped the top and leaned in. "Rule number three, no guns." Her agitation showed."

I'd be agitated, too! And if she asks for help, then she loses her store and her home and everything that she has worked for in the town.

Eventually, he takes her into his confidence a bit and they can pull together instead of working at cross-purposes. Then, of course, there is a kidnapping and a shootout and many forms of excitement, and in the end, everyone lives happily ever after.

I wished fervently that he had sought her out as an ally instead of blackmailing her into help. I think the premise of this story was super-interesting, and the implementation disappointing.

Read if: You like the false-widow, grass-wife trope. You would like an Old West story to leaven your Regency readings.

Skip if: You will be skeeved out by violent/controlling behavior by the hero.

Also read: Flash Gold for a woman alone in the mytheopic West.

sandy cook says

Good read

This book kept my attention with good storyline and characters. First time I have read this author but I would like to read more. If you like a western themed, love story with a mystery built in you will enjoy this light hearted book.

Patricia says

Rating 2.5. I really loved the premise of the book--lawman pretending to be the fictional husband of the store keeper. However, I did not entirely like the execution of the premise. I felt that the two of them went so far from the morals of the time. What I think the author intended to be steam seemed more slutty.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

3.5

Lillian is an orphan and has had to fight for everything she has. She wants independence and the only way she can do that is by making up a husband so she can open her own general store. It was the only way she could think of to have the towns people accept her and shop at her store. Then one day a man shows up claiming to be her military husband home from his time in service. Lillian has to go along with his claims or admit that she never had a husband in the first place.

I liked Lillian and Donovan. They had some fun interactions and if not for a few things, I would have really enjoyed their courtship. I thought the plot was fun, I even thought Donovan's investigation was kind of interesting. I wasn't sure why he thought he had to blackmail her, I guess he wasn't sure where her loyalties were, but he was a little rough about how he went about it. While the book is clean, there was a bit more innuendo and talk of seduction than I like. I guess when there is so much focus on physical attraction I have a hard time believing in a long lasting connection. I prefer a sweet courting with some kissing and actually getting to know one another. They never actually do anything, but... (view spoiler)

There was one other reason why I gave it a lower rating, (view spoiler) Overall, I did really enjoy the story and setting. I've enjoyed the Parra books I've read and hope she write more westerns!

Content: Clean, PG. Mild innuendo and kissing. Mild violence.

Danica Page (One Page at a Time) says

I read this book awhile ago, but I remember really liking it.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

This was a cute story with a fun premise in one of my favorite genres- historical fiction. You just can't try to delve too deep into this book or you might come up questioning. :) I enjoyed the tension and build up between the two MC's and the toe curling kisses. Overall, a good, quick read.

There were many instances of mild swearing (hell, damn) and a few instances of the B word.

Lauren says

I thought that this book was a very quick read. I had never really read any books based in the west in the 1800s and I had my doubts thinking that it was going to be something like all the rest. But once I finished the book, I loved it!

Beth says

I got three chapters into this before I realized I couldn't handle this book any more. It was a cute idea, but poorly executed. I HATED Donovan. In one scene (within the first three chapters), Lillian barricades herself in her bedroom. He breaks down the door - just because he could - and then proceeds to tell her that she has to obey every order he gives her. Um, isn't that how rapes start? Lillian's character also didn't ring true for me. In the very first chapter, she's accosted by a guy on the street and she takes him down with a parasol (good for you, girl!). It seemed like she was a very independent woman. However, when this domineering guy came along and told her she had to obey him, her only response is to kiss him? It seems like she lost her spine during chapter 2, and it's probably because this guy had such dreamy blue eyes (I'm being facetious, of course).

My other big dislike of the book was the use of "darn" and "heck." I get that Parra is trying to make a clean book that any old lady would enjoy, but using "darn" and "heck" just point out the swearing more, in my opinion. Parra didn't need to use the baby words - I've seen other books where there was no swearing, and I never missed it, because the author never used replacement words (Hester Browne's *The Finishing Touches* comes to mind).

Just a ridiculous book. I want my hour back.
