



The Reluctant Bridegroom

Shannon Farrington

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Marriage for any reason but love was once unthinkable to Maryland councilman Henry Nash. But when an innocent encounter with a criminal puts Henry's reputation in jeopardy, he'll make any sacrifice to maintain custody of his orphaned nieces. And an alliance with a powerful politician's daughter could secure the little girls' futures. As long as gentle Rebekah Van der Geld never hears the rumors surrounding her new groom.

Refusing her father's choice of husband wasn't an option for dutiful Rebekah. But Henry's kindness is a happy revelation, and she's quickly falling for his adorable nieces. so she allows herself to hope this unconventional arrangement could become much more. But can it survive a shattering revelation that puts their new family in danger?

The Reluctant Bridegroom Details

Date : Published May 10th 2016 by Love Inspired (first published May 3rd 2016)

ISBN : 9780373283606

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Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Romance, Christian Fiction, Love Inspired, Love Inspired Historical, Category Romance, Fiction, Inspirational, Historical, Historical Romance

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From Reader Review The Reluctant Bridegroom for online ebook

Denise Hershberger says

This was an interesting read. I felt Farrington did a good job of tying real life historical figures into her book to add authenticity.

I also really liked the main characters in this story. Rebekah broke my heart numerous times because of the way she was raised. And Henry made me swoon about a million times as he wooed Rebekah. And the two girls...I could just picture their adorable selves.

My favorite part about this book was the spiritually woven throughout as Rebekah learned from Henry's example about reading the Word and growing in Christ. I love that he taught her how her Heavenly Father loved her different than any love she'd ever known.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

Bethany Swafford says

Rebekah hopes her marriage will be the exact opposite of the one she knew firsthand with her parents: a loveless union with politics coming first above all other things. But how will she make her marriage work when all she can expect is the worst?

I found the narrative fascinating as it followed the days after the civil war ended. It brings in the panic after Lincoln was assassinated and the need to punish any and all who could have had a connection to Booth. Even the slightest association would have resulted in questioning and being ostracized by society.

The writing was enjoyable, and the characters true to the era. The Inspirational part of this book came towards the end and weighed down the story a bit.

Kathy Filardo says

This book really touched me, since it was about two people who had been abused emotionally and in Rebekah's case physically too, by their parents, yet who manage to come together and learn how to be true partners and love each other despite the scars of the past.

It also brings up a period in history where things were uncertain and chaotic in America and Lincoln had been shot and people were under suspicion for his death by association with Booth. The history as well as the characters and story were excellently portrayed and so was the tenderness between Henry and Rebekah and the children.

Must go read the others in this series!

Jenn Green says

I feel like this is a poor title for the book, because the bride seemed more reluctant than the bridegroom! The cover is also misleading, seeing as the whole thing takes place in Baltimore during Lincoln's presidency, and Baltimore was definitely not a prairie.

This whole story FASCINATED me. The attention to the historic details kept me on the edge of my seat, sure that everything was going to go wrong for our poor hero at any moment. The level of mistrust from the heroine and the desperation of the hero were conveyed in a believable way that made the slow development of their love all the more satisfying at the end.

While not a formally linked series, *An Unlikely Union*, *Her Rebel Heart*, and *Second Chance Love* are all connected. With these books, Ms. Farrington has created a wonderful look into the post-Civil War world of Baltimore, and I hope she's not done.

Veronica says

The last few chapters were too sappy for my tastes.

Books and Spoons says

Can an arranged, political marriage turn out to be a blessing from God?

In war-torn Baltimore, the emotions are high, everyone still in the survival mode, even though the war had declared ended, the battles are ongoing on the emotional and political level. Rebekah has grown up in a loveless home, with no affection, but harsh punishments. She is struggling not to see her husband the same as her father. It seems that the events make it impossible for her to trust Henry, fear and resentment uppermost in her mind.

Henry admires his new wife, even finds her attractive. But it does take drastic measures, before Henry and Rebekah learn to communicate, to hear each other, instead of fear the possible consequences of their actions. The story has a heavy focus on the political turmoil the country, and Baltimore is in, and how it could reflect on Henry and Rebekah. I personally enjoy more the side of the development of the characters and the relationship, and found the beginning of the story little on the heavy side.

But as the events unfold, and the focus at the last quarter of the book turns into the personal and spiritual growth, as well as the development of the relationship and the feelings Henry and Rebekah have for each other, and the little family unit they have formed, the tale is moving, triumphant, and adoringly tender.

From the hands of an abusing father, to an arranged marriage, Rebekah has to learn to trust, to have faith, and find her own voice, and place, to be able to learn to have hope, and to love, to build the kind of life, and future, she always dreamed of.

~ Three Spoons

Rachel says

Love it!

Holly says

I knew I wouldn't be able to put this book down after only the first few pages. A beautiful and intriguing story about learning to find love and trust and putting your past behind you. I will be reading it again!

Sonya Heaney says

Also posted **HERE**

Not sure what is going on with this cover. The book is set in the middle of the political world of Baltimore, not on a ranch!!

This is the most original book I've read in the Love Inspired Historical line. One of the few to not be set in a colonial town out in the US west, I was really, happily surprised.

Set in Baltimore, with the conflict revolving around the aftermath of the Civil War and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, I really liked this take on divided loyalties and the upheaval of the war. We have a heroine forced into marriage and a hero who comes from a family with conflicting allegiances.

Author Shannon Farrington shows that there CAN be a lot more variety in these books.

As it goes on, there're two things that didn't work so well for me. One is to be expected: the religion. I thought the religious aspects were easy enough to skip over earlier on, but the way the characters' faith is presented in the story becomes stronger and stronger as the book nears the end. For many readers, I'm sure this will work. However, it was a little too much Christianity for me.

The other thing that didn't work so well was the heroine being shocked and upset to hear her marriage is a loveless business arrangement. It makes no sense that she would be upset about this halfway through, when she knew from the outset that's what it was. She'd never even really spoken to the hero before they were married, and the match was arranged by their fathers. WHY was she suddenly shocked by this later on, when she knew it from the very start?

On the other and, I was really thrilled with this fresh take on an era. I'm no expert on the US Civil War, but I thought both sides of the conflict were presented as sensitively as they could be. I thought this was an excellent idea for a book, and I was thrilled that for once (despite the cover!) I got a US-set historical romance that didn't take place in the Wild West.

I think this was an interesting – if flawed – read.

Review copy provided by NetGalley.

Rhonda says

4 STARS

This story takes place right after the civil war at a interesting period of history. Lots of drama, historical romance, clean read and Christian story.

Henry Nash is Maryland councilman. He is raising his two nieces who just became orphaned. His father is in politics too. Nash was going on his business and was seen talking to some people who later did some wrong things.

Rebekah Van der Geld is abused. Her father wants her to marry Henry Nash. Rebekah really has no choice. She wants to stretch and have a better marriage than her parents have. She wants to help others.

I like the story it makes sense. It shows how hard it is to go from a home of abuse and not keep expecting all men to hit. How little self worth abuse leaves.

I like Henry's faith sometimes weaker but overall he believes and trusts in the Lord. Henry makes a good hero. I love how he treats his nieces.

I would love to read more books by Shannon Farrington in the future.

I was given this ebook to read for free from NetGalley and Harlequin. In return I agree to give a honest review of The Reluctant Bridegroom.

Jenny says

3.5

Bonnie says

The Reluctant Bridegroom by Shannon Farrington is a Historical romance book. Takes place in 1865 in Maryland. Henry Nash is a councilman raising his sisters two orphaned girls. Ages 4 and 3 months. He gave a man a ride to the train station, not knowing later he would be the man that killed a president. They were arresting anyone who had contact with this man. Henry was afraid they would not believe him. He then asked Rebekah Van der Geld to marry him. Her father was running for Governor and he wanted Henry's backing. Rebekah did not want to marry without love. She did anyway because of Henry's nieces. Trust has to be earned before love can happen. A very good read.

Summer says

I thought it was clever how fictional Henry's small brush with real life history pushed him into an arranged

marriage, it made the standard arranged marriage plot just a little bit different and a little bit suspenseful, too, since you can't be sure if he'll be believed if the truth comes out or if he'll struggle to prove his innocence.

Someone Henry definitely has to prove himself to is his bride, Rebekah. Her self-esteem and her trust are in ruins thanks to her father, she's tremendously hard on herself, her every mistake amplified in her mind, and she's terrified her husband will punish her as her father did. The author did a great job of giving the reader a sense of the abusive and repressed life Rebekah had lived so that you then feel her joy and freedom in things like reading the newspaper, in speaking her mind, and in loving Henry's nieces the way she always longed for her parents to love her.

The romance moves at a gentle pace which is just what Rebekah needs, and is perfectly in character for a suitor as sweet and kind as Henry.

I received this book through a Goodreads giveaway.

Tima says

Rebekah has spent her life trying to please her father, but failing miserably every time. She's learned to not speak, not express her opinions, and obey immediately. Now her father is aligning himself with a opposing politician by forcing her to marry the man's son. Rebekah knows she has no choice, but prays for a good man. Henry has no intention of following his father's orders to marry this unknown woman. But when an innocent act puts him and the nieces in his care into jeopardy, he realizes that by marrying Rebekah he might have a chance of keeping everyone safe. Both realize that this isn't a loving union, but have hopes of a decent marriage.

There were several pros and a couple of cons. I'll get the negatives out of the way first. The background of the cover, while pretty, has nothing to do with the book. Clearly an oversight of the publishing company. The female protagonist is all over the place emotionally. While this didn't detract from the story too much, it didn't ring true in several places and left me confused.

On to the good stuff, this was a unique setting and I loved how the author presented the turmoil and unrest right after the war. She did a great job of setting the scenes and the relationship between the two characters was very romantic. The faith infused into the story was authentic and I thought was nicely presented. The little girl in the story is precious. I could see some spin offs from this story, as several of the other characters were entertaining or hinted at more. Overall, I really enjoyed the story and would definitely read more by this author.

I received this book free of charge from NetGalley in exchange for my honest review.

Melinda M says

The Reluctant Bridegroom by Shannon Farrington takes place in Baltimore, Maryland towards the end of the Civil War. It is story that weaves historical fact into the story and is very accurate in the e portal of Baltimore during this era from all of the historical accounts that I have read and researched. this story touched me

because I was raised in Maryland and understand the problems Maryland had with the Civil War. It is a wonderful story of GOD's plan is better but you have to lean on him and trust.
