



The Sherbrooke Bride

Catherine Coulter

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The first book in Catherine Coulter's beloved Bride series. Douglas Sherbrooke, Earl of Northcliffe, marries the wrong woman-only to find himself haunted by a bride of an entirely different kind.

The Sherbrooke Bride Details

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Author : Catherine Coulter

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From Reader Review *The Sherbrooke Bride* for online ebook

Sonia De la rosa says

Hay libros que es mejor no volver a leer, guarda en tu memoria lo bien que te lo pasaste al leerlo hace tantos años. La novia de Sherbrooke no lleva bien el paso de los años, en su momento lo encontré muy divertido, y refrescante, en esta relectura ha perdido toda su frescura. A parte que ha habido momentos que me ha rechinado por lo machista que es, aunque hay que tener en cuenta que es histórico y se supone que se comportaban así los hombres, pero aún así me ha desagradado al leer frases tipo: "Yo soy tu marido y vas a hacer lo que yo te diga", o "Me disgusta ese nombre profundamente. Mellie. Sin embargo, es importante que se me someta por completo. Si deseo llamarla así, tendrá que aceptarlo, ya que viene de mí, su marido, su dueño y señor."

Una cosa que salva la historia es que la protagonista, Alex, hace lo que le da la gana. El protagonista le da una orden y le exige que le diga "que lo ha entendido", la otra le dice "Si, lo he entendido", pero acaba haciendo lo que a ella le parece mejor

Además hay demasiadas escenas de cama, últimamente me aburren mucho.

He estado dudando entre darle dos o tres estrellas, al final le he puntuado con tres pq la primera vez si que me gustó mucho.

Nichole says

READ THIS BOOK AT YOUR OWN RISK!

Well, hell! If it isn't the worst book I've read! Okay, I don't know where it started to be so painfully horrible because I really liked the story line and at first it was really wonderful, it has an emotional appeal and the cruelty of Douglas towards Alexandra could have brought tears in my eyes when he found out that his cousin, Tony, have married her instead of her sister, Melissande, who he really intended to marry. You see, Douglas' family is forcing him to get married and produce an heir, given that he's an earl and his offspring shall follow his footsteps. Anyway, as I've said, it could have been really good but it really just got of that road then became unbelievably stupid, like for instance, when Douglas' brother arrived and met Melissande, who by the way is the as the most beautiful girl, didn't react to her beauty as Melissande thought he would, she couldn't believe it and kept on interrupting Ryder while he was talking to Tony and introduced herself over and over, I don't believe that one is conceited enough to do that. Plus, I really hated the idea that Douglas was described as hairy, I mean seriously, the word was stretched that he his legs are full of dark hairs, I mean c'mon I know men are supposed to be hairy but when you describe it like that, it kind of ruins the moment you know.

I'm so relieved that I didn't buy this book, my money have gone to waste if I did. Phew!

Mancho283 says

[illegible]

Regan Walker says

This is the first in the Sherbrooke Brides series and a must read if you want to read any of the others. In it, we are introduced to the family and most prominently, the elder brother, Douglas Sherbrooke, Earl of Northcliffe.

Douglas, a cold man who takes seriously his duty as head of the household, has no real interest in marrying except to fulfill his duty to produce an heir. In considering the woman he will take as a bride, he decides on the one woman he recalls, the stunningly beautiful Melissande, who he once courted only to leave her for the army. And so, when called to France for a special assignment, he sends his best friend, Tony, to wed her by proxy.

Alexandra Chambers, Melissande's younger sister, has loved Lord Sherbrooke since she was fifteen, but she will give him up for her sister if it must be. In a bizarre twist, Melissande ends up wed to Tony, who marries Alexandra to Douglas by proxy. And to make matters worse, there is a troubling appearance of the family ghost, the Virgin Bride.

What began with a less than honorable meeting of Douglas and his brother Ryder to discuss their many bastards, turned out to be a delightful story, most notably due to the heroine, her interactions with Douglas and some very funny dialog involving her sister, who is being “handled” by Tony. Douglas’ sister, Sinjin is also a fascinating character. The ghostly bride didn’t figure large in the story, at least until the end when she directs Douglas at a time of crisis.

Coulter writes well and tells a good tale. I am a fan of hers and always find her books a good read, hence I want to read more in the series.

The Sherbrooke Brides series

The Sherbrooke Bride (1992)

The Hellion Bride (1992)

The Heiress Bride (1993)

Mad Jack (1999)

The Courtship (2000)

The Scottish Bride (2001)

Pendragon (2002)

The Sherbrooke Twins (2004)

Lyon's Gate (2005)

Wizards Daughter (2007)

The Prince of Ravenscar (2011)

Eleanor says

Why do I read these? These men are also described as being really hairy. I don't understand the whole wanting to grip heaps of chest hair. They also never describe that he probably has a lot of ass hair as well. Grabbing a fistful of chest hair? Evidently that is sexy, but just once I want a romance novel to talk about her stroking his furred behind. Maybe she could grip the tufts of virile butt hair and tug him closer and closer to her furry mound...something like that.

Pamela(AllHoney) says

Not a good read for me. I disliked both the hero and heroine. Hero was a jerk of the first degree and the heroine was a doormat. That said I will say the writing style was good. It had a good flow and moved at a good pace and not a lot of filler to bore you.

Aayesha Khatri says

I'd read Catherine Coulter as a very young girl of 14, and I didn't like her at all back then. This book certainly did change my opinion, but I don't think I'll be reading any more of her books - they're too heavy and don't have enough candies-rainbows-and-unicorns-kind-of-sweet romance to suit me.

I loved the book in the beginning. It made me laugh out loud, snort and chuckle and just basically - I loved it. Coulter writes very well, there's a depth to her characters that you don't normally see, and they have many sides to them. Her plot was deep too, just like her characters.

I normally love the MOC with h in love with H and H in love with OW theme, but this novel fell flat for me. I didn't like the romance development between the two, and I hated the sex scenes - they put me off. It was actually the hero's attitude towards sex with his wife that disgusted me. Maybe others might like this stuff, but deep, heavy romance without sweetness is certainly not my cup of tea.

I'm giving the book 3 stars because I did enjoy some parts, and I loved it in the beginning - I loved (dammit, I finished reading it 6 hours ago and I've already forgotten his name, HOW am I so bad with names?) Douglas's (had to go and look up his name) character. He was so delightful and swoon-worthy in the beginning, with his prized control and the way he carried himself. What I didn't like was how immature and stupid he acted when he didn't get whom he wanted to marry - he literally threw a hissy fit for days. He acted like a child, and while I loved my heroes being assholes and taking their anger out on the heroines, I don't appreciate them being like children and as - as - *I can't describe it* but something about the hero's behaviour with the heroine really, *really* put me off. It was probably the sex scenes. I like my sex scenes where the hero actually cares about the heroine's pleasure and doesn't just rape her twice in a row without giving a thought to her or what she feels. (No I'm not kidding, there were two consecutive rape scenes.)

So that's what irked me, the romance part of this romance. I also didn't appreciate how hung up he was on OW's beauty even after he'd had sex with the heroine. What I *also* didn't like was the physical abuse in the story - inflicted mainly by the heroine on the hero.

Okay admitted, I love this MOC with h in love with H and H in love with OW trope, but I'm coming to realise how dangerous it is reading this trope - very few books get it just the way I want it.

THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO WRITE THESE TYPES OF BOOKS MYSELF. Now if only I can stick to writing one story long enough to finish it rather than leaving it after the first 10, 20 chapters or so.

Vintage says

I almost DNF'd, but ended up re-reading due to GR friends reviews and dived back in.

I'm glad I did because after a truly disastrous start, the book, hero and heroine hit their stride and improved.

The reviewers weren't kidding when they said the two brothers compared how many bastards they had. I think I'm going to be sick. CC never pulls punches on the ick factor, does she?

Okay, I did finish it, and applaud CC for redeeming the hero. Kind of. He certainly does become besotted with the heroine's bust if nothing else. I will warn you that if you have a problem with cruel heroes, then stay away as this one crosses some boundaries. (view spoiler)

It helps that the heroine is about a billion times smarter than him and deserves a besotted H even if it is just with her bodice.

Bubu says

i read this one for the love triangle with sisters.. lol...usually i dont like this trope bc its yacky...but here its fun.. its angst fun...

Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says

This book has a tragi-comic undertone, hugely angsty but making light of it. And this very treatment keeps you jumpy, antsy and hooked!

It's not for readers who don't like triangles with sisters – because this one has it in a big way and the sister is present almost throughout and the author seems to be in love with the very spoiled, very self-centered and extraordinarily beautiful sister and seemed set on not only giving her a great guy, a hea but also a character development. And the H hankers after her till almost the end! I hated her but couldn't carry on the hate for too long as she has a child like quality which is kinda appealing. Sorry! *grimaces*

With Spoilers

The H and the sister almost married a few years ago but he had go off to war – leaving her hopping mad at

the insult. Now he's back and sends across a marriage proposal to her father. The father agrees as he's in dire financial straits. A date is set but history repeats itself/fate intervenes again in way of a call from the War office/ F.O. for a small secret mission to France. The H cannot refuse and sends his cousin to marry the girl in his stead (some accepted olden practice) and bring his bride back to him. The om takes one look at the sister and promptly takes her off to Gretna...comes back, puts his head together with the girls' father and marries the plain younger sister for the H!

Of course, the H is hopping mad now. A fisticuff ensues with both the girls jumping in as well making it a free for all - like a cartoon movie scene. It left me very amused, very confused *and* very troubled. And thus the tone of the book is set!

So my review might seem to be all about the sister till now....but I liked the h a lot. She's a canny little person, tries to woo her husband who proves very un-woo-able and angry and fixated on the sister. She has a real bad time of it - rejected, abused, blamed and used as well. She went in open eyed but still she didn't deserve so much ill treatment and humiliation.

Unlike other reviewers, I couldn't completely blame the H - he had a right to feel short charged and the sister is described as a veritable Helen of Troy and she's right there under his roof with her husband, who flirts and more with her right under the H's nose - rubbing the said appendage nicely in it!

The H is obsessed with the sister perhaps (or the image/idea thereof) but the marriage is consummated. And in the tradition of HPs and Romances, the sex is spectacular and unlike any he's ever experienced before and so on...

So while the cousin tames the shrew, the h thaws the boor. Throw in some more sex, some asshat scenes, some suspense, kidnap/rescue, some more sex and we have a story.

Oh btw, the opening scene where the H and his brother meet yearly (or was it quarterly) to do a head count of their 'bastard children' and provide for them, says it all for the book. Complete Twilight Zone!

Sonia says

Usually I don't read a book without reading reviews of what other people thought of the book, but I just happened to see this book and decided to try it. Now the whole idea sounded nice, where Douglas gets an unexpected bride, Alexandra, so I understood his temper at the beginning at being deceived, but I kept on getting frustrated as the novel went on because he kept comparing her to her beautiful sister Melissande and just humiliating her sometimes. And the love scenes were awful in my opinion, I just felt no connection between them, and it sounded rather cold as if he was just using her. Now there were some sweet scenes where he takes care of her during her fever and bits of humor where she attacks him with a table. While he does redeem himself somewhat by saying he loves her and all, it still wasn't enough to make this a truly enjoyable novel. While I was really looking forward to reading the series, I am now somewhat hesitant, especially since the next brother for Hellion Bride, Ryder does not sound at all likable or responsible, especially with the nonchalance that he keeps on having children out of wedlock. Once again the plot sounds interesting but I don't know if the story will be that great.

Leea says

Historical Romance is one of my favorite genres. I know it's not flashy or hip but there is just something about going back in time, feeling like you're apart of history or even that innocent first kiss. *The Sherbrooke Bride* is one of the best written Historical Romance books that I've read in a very long time. It's smart, witty, crass, sharp, bold and very sexy.

Alexandra is the sister that no one noticed, she's plain, smart, funny and wears out of date dresses because her sister is the beautiful one. In a mix up that Douglas would not have imagined in his wildest nightmares he finds himself married to Alex. This is where you fall head over roses for Alexandra's spirit and her long love for Douglas. I loved the ending of this book. It's not perfect, but to me it was realistic.

Coulter wrote such a rich book, filled with characters that you would love to sit around the fire and banter back and fourth with. I can't wait to read the next Bride book and find out what happens to Ryder.

Melanie says

I reviewed this book for my blog www.bookworm2bookworm.wordpress.com

A couple of months ago I've read "The Valcourt Heiress" by CC, and my disappointment was so profound, that I gave that book a very scathing review, which brought forth a very lively discussion on Amazon, as well as with some of my personal friends. Some people agreed with me [...], and others not so much. In rereading my review of that book, I admit to being a bit harsh; however I still stand behind my words.

This being a New Year and taking in account a promise I gave, I went back and reread "Sherbrooke Bride" which was my favorite CC ever. I read this book years, years AND years ago.

This was her first novel in the Bride Trilogy. "Hellion Bride" (Ryder's story) followed and "The Heiress Bride" (Sinjin's story, the VERY controversial book with a spousal rape scene) was originally supposed to finish up the trilogy of the Sherbrooke's brood, but we still had Tysen, so I guess a few years ago CC decided we should catch up with him also, ergo a "Scottish Bride". I understand that there are a few more stories of their children, but I have not read any.

First book introduces us to all Sherbrooke's, but it's the story of Douglas Sherbrooke, Earl of Northcliffe. This was one arrogant, crude, rude, and utterly loving tyrant of a man. He is one of those heroes that we hate to love and we try very hard to put up with all his rude, autocratic behavior only because deep down in our hearts we know that only love motivates this man to put up with all the weirdness and antics this family dishes up for him. Only love for his brother Ryder would motivate our hero to put up with their quarterly "bastard meetings". Only love would keep him from not murdering his cousin Tony for taking the only woman he EVER considered marrying. Douglas in the end of the book becomes, or grows I should say, into a fully fledged hero we knew him to be from the beginning.

Alexandra Chambers is a sweet, loveable albeit plain, and yet very strong young woman who loved this man since she was fifteen. From the beginning of this story, I was frustrated with her meek behavior and I rooted for her to stand up and fight her man-for her man! And just when I thought she's down for the count, she picks herself up, and boy does she come up swinging! I greatly anticipated Douglas' downfall! Oh, and he did fall! BIG TIME!

In rereading this story, I got reminded about why CC's books appealed to me. The book is very well written

with rich and engaging three-dimensional characters. A good dose of humor and a little intrigue added to it, and viola, we have a first-rate romance novel!

Some might say that the sex scenes were graphic, but to me they were entertaining and tastefully written. I got a kick out of Douglas' loss of control of his passion for Alex. It's nice to see a man lose control once in a while, don't you think? All in all, a very good read.

As I neared the end of this book, I decided to go ahead and reread all four of the Bride series and I was so glad I did. It surprised me also to find out that this time around, I liked Ryder's story most of all, and I understood Sinjin's story and the controversy of spousal rape better than I did the first time I read it. At the end of the series, I felt like visiting long-lost family members, and yet I was glad to go home after a short visit.

If you never read this author, please find her earlier titles. She used to write well. I'm not sure what happened to her writing lately, but as of now my disappointment still stands. I hope to change my mind, but I'm not holding my breath. I would love to hear from all of you about CC and her books. ALL opinions are more than welcome!

Melanie

Christine says

I've read this book twice, once half a lifetime ago when I was a teenager and again this week. It's interesting the perspective that comes with experience. I still enjoyed the book, but in a different way. As a teenager who wasn't entirely sure she was supposed to be reading romance at all, I took it at face value and enjoyed the love story. As an adult, I realized that there is a great deal of satire in here. The author is trying -- and now succeeding -- at being funny.

The setup is completely ridiculous and draws widely upon romantic cliché. A nobleman needs must marry in order to produce an heir. He's getting old, you know, 29, and the pressure is on. But he doesn't want to court a woman, so he decides to marry the daughter of a duke who is having financial trouble and agrees to pay him, instead of receiving the usual dowry. But alas, he is called away on a military mission and cannot go to marry the beautiful woman, so he sends his cousin to marry her by proxy. The cousin marries her for himself instead and marries the beautiful girl's less attractive (by comparison) sister by proxy instead.

Yes, it's far-fetched, but just go with it. The characters are just as over the top as the setup. "I am your husband and master and you will obey me." And within the amusement, it still manages to be a rather compelling love story.

I plan to read the rest of the series, which seems to have grown substantially -- I only read the first 3 as a teen.

I recommend this to romance readers who don't necessarily have to take things too seriously.

kookyquinn says

I'll start with the good:

I was rivited. Seriously I could not put this book down and I read every single word. Never skimmed etc I was hooked!

I also absolutely loved this heroine. She was seriously adorable.

The bad? Head jumping but I quickly got used to/expected it after a few chapters. That wasn't huge what WAS huge was how much I hated the hero. God I hated him. Like seriously he was mean to her until almost the very end. Constantly drooling after her perfect beautiful (but stupid and mean) sister. Even after he decides he cares for/loves the heroine he still thinks about how hot her sister is. UGH.

He also has an illegitimate kid out there somewhere I assume he pays for/supports but never sees/isn't a character as well as another one that died and he's like 'meh'. Yeah, I hated him.

BUT 1. That's how it was in that time period with 'bastards' so I see WHY the author tossed that in I just wish she hadn't. I also get that lots of men really are that shallow IRL but I don't want to read about REAL men lol I want to read about fictional amazing book boyfriend's you know?

ANYWHO: I'm skipping book 2 because that's basically this hero but according to reviews he's rapey (PASS) and heading over to book 3 which has better reviews.

So, despite the deplorable hero Im still giving this book four stars and giving the author another go. Mainly because the heroine in that book was my favorite side character in this one *shrug*
