



Ruthless Husband, Convenient Wife

Madeleine Ker

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Powerful Ryan Wolfe swept Penny off her feet and into his satin sheets. When she fell pregnant, Ryan decided they'd marry at once. But Penny was out of her depth in Ryan's ultra-glamorous world. Knowing she'd never be good enough for him, she fled....

A year on, Ryan has finally tracked Penny down. He wants his child, and he wants Penny. Whatever it takes, he'll make her his willing wife!

Ruthless Husband, Convenient Wife Details

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willaful says

I'll never understand why Harlequin goes out of its way to make its books sound as generic as possible. I would have guessed from the blurb that I'd read this exact same story a hundred times, and it was just luck that I picked it up.

Penny and Ryan fell in love at first sight, but Penny never felt truly comfortable in their relationship. After a bad experience with her older first lover -- also her college professor -- she's extremely sensitive about being bulldozed by a more dominant personality. Becoming pregnant made her feel even more pressured and culminated in her running away, while confused by being in the first stages of encephalitis. She miscarried while sick.

A year later, Ryan has finally found her and is as much in love as ever. And he's willing to do whatever it takes to make the relationship work again.

This was a passionate story, yet not completely ungrounded in reality. There were lots of little things I liked about it: Ryan's wealth comes from actual work, and is not limitless, Penny's creativity with flowers and interior decorating is charmingly described, there are some pleasant secondary characters, and there's a playfulness to the love scenes that made me smile. Best of all was Ryan's steadfast adoration of Penny, and his willingness to learn from his past mistakes. It was easy to believe they would be happy together.

The prose is a touch purple at times and the flashbacks are a little annoying -- really, there's no need to describe an incident in the past and then also have a flashback about it! And Penny is sometimes a confused character; she's constantly ascribing negative motivations to Ryan for no reason, and she's furious at him for believing she might have done something she *threatened* to do. (Admittedly, while not in her right mind.) The positives far outweighed the negatives, however, and I'd definitely recommend this.

MissKitty says

Ok it was a good enough book, but what a deceptive title! The couple weren't even married!

The hero finds the heroine a year after she ran away from him. They had been living together, so we find out in the course of the story the reason for their break-up. It turns out the Hero is very controlling and doesn't listen to the concerns of the heroine. He wants everything his own way. Sounds familiar?

What I found different is that as soon as the Hero finds the heroine, he immediately declares his love for her. He seems relieved to have finally found her, he had been worried and concerned for her. The heroine is a bit of a bitch, but in the end I realised how really controlling the hero had been towards her. Although he loved her very much, he took her for granted in that he brushed aside her dreams and ambitions, and wanted her devote herself solely to him.

I also liked that this was not a revenge plot. When the hero finds her, he immediately wants to talk about what went wrong in their relationship and wanted to compromise this time.

Widala says

The Harlequin book title generator really miss the mark with this one, in my opinion. There's nothing ruthless or convenient, they're not even married yet.

They're both in love with each other from the beginning, just not wise or mature enough and too selfish so the first time around the relationship didn't work.

A very light reading.

Rexanne says

Compared to other Harlequin novels that I've read in the past, the excerpt, blurb and the first few chapters didn't intrigue me that much.

The first few chapters was lined with mystery but it wasn't cleverly packaged. To me, this is because the author made the mistake of making the first few chapters vague in the notion that it would keep the reader more interested. In my case, she didn't succeed. I wasn't all that thrilled to continue reading, in fact I almost gave up on it.

Approximately in the middle part, things started to pick up and make sense. It was then that I decided maybe I should stick with it. The characters were explained better and the vague cloud that hang over the book slowly lifted off.

Fortunately, in the end I give this book three stars which means I enjoyed reading it despite its flaws.

Shatarupa (Shaina) Dhar says

This is Book 3 of The Marriage Bargain Series. I read Book 1, skipped Book 2, Book 4 has a huge age difference, and a little less than a huge time gap. So I'll skip again, and I declare my series as finished, here.

Penelope (Penny) Watkins runs her own Flowers and Decor shop. She is an artist, a sculptor, a painter; there is beauty in her work.

"She was twenty-three, but it sometimes seemed as though she were still trembling on the brink of full womanhood, like a flower that had half opened, and was waiting for the clouds to part so that the sun could bring her to full glory."

This is my first Madeleine Ker book. And oooh... What a description!

Ryan Wolfe, a thirty-one year old self-made millionaire, comes knocking at her shop's door, saying that he finally found her. They have been apart for eleven months now. They have a history, which involves a pregnancy that ended in miscarriage when Penny contracted encephalitis when she was three months along. She almost died, but Ryan couldn't believe that and blames her for aborting the child. She wrote a letter too which never reached him.

Now that Ryan has found her, he is not going to leave her alone. The first night he's back, they sleep together. He's a financier in the movie business. Quite different professions for our main characters in this book. She thinks he's too domineering, while he doesn't know what to think. They are like a drug to each other. But, his time around, they reach a compromise and learn to give each other time (with the most unusual of conditions), and space, before jumping into a relationship. Penny thinks about her life back to what it was, a long flashback there. He never knew how unhappy she was in their relationship. He stonewalled her for fear that he would otherwise lose her. Her previous relationship with an older guy has left her disillusioned. She starts comparing both her ex and Ryan's high-handed attitude and fears for her individuality. The flashback was enough to convince me how controlling Ryan is, ooof...even reading it I felt suffocated.

The writing seemed old school, compared to the first book of the series, though these were released in 2009.

Woah! At certain places, this book just made me cringe, kissing sweaty feet...yuck. Their role playing scene was interesting though, in the old fashioned way.

How they both finally achieve a closure on their past is good. Though I am amazed, what was so casually discussed, about the things that happened in her past, was sexual harassment and rape!?! And for that criminal to have gone scot-free after that was sad and disgusting.

P.S. I can't know about two things; Hans Christian Andersen, a 1952 musical movie about the famous Danish children's author, and Ayala's Angel, a classic novel by Anthony Trollope, which have now been added to my respective lists.

rm2h says

DNF - got tired of the heroine

Vintage says

Perhaps one of the worst, as in most misleading, titles ever. They don't get married until the very end; he's not ruthless, and she is certainly NOT convenient.

The heroine ran from the pretty obsessed, head over his heels SO IN LOVE hero when she found out she was pregnant. She was very young, and fairly emotional (I was going to say damaged but not that bad) from a bad relationship with a domineering college professor, and had issues with boundaries. The hero did as well as in he had absolutely none regarding the heroine. He wanted her with him 24/7 to the point he didn't want her to go back to university, take art classes, etc... I love a besotted and obsessed hero when they're sweet, but he was a little clingy.

She runs and is fairly cruel to the H. It's a year later, and he's tracked her down. (view spoiler) Sorry to say he doesn't even punish her with kisses, grab her arm possessively or really even yell at her. He's beta clothed as alpha. The rest of the story is the push-pull of her trying to maintain her independence and him trying to be okay with it. HP editors must have all been on vacation except for the idiot that titled this one.

I enjoyed it. It was nice to have a hero so in love with the heroine he wanted her and everyone else to know it. What I didn't care for was the initial suggestion that he couldn't let her out of his sight or allow her any independence.

P.S.

Here is something interesting. Did a search for Madeleine Ker and more books and this popped up.

Marius Gabriel is an international thriller and mystery writer.

Under the pseudonym Madeleine Ker, he wrote over 30 romance novels in the 1980s.

As Marius Gabriel he has written several mystery best-sellers, some of them historical novels.

Putri Septiana says

Stupid. That's the word I describe this story. The heroine blame the hero because he never give space for her. Well, she should fight for her own freedom. I didn't say the hero is clear of all the fault. But don't blame other people because of your weakness.

The sex. I like the sex part, when the amount is reasonable. But I count 5 detailed sex in this book. That's too much and bored me. Overall, I don't like this book.

Lu Bielefeld *read.laugh.love* says

ok

Leona says

ok read....Hero was typical HP land hero...dashing, debonair, good looking, wealthy millionaire. Heroine was typical, young, beautiful, a little scatterbrained and trying to find herself through a rewarding career. They have a passionate affair that ends badly. She runs away and the hero searches to find her for over a year. They meet up, work out their differences and have the happy ending.

Nice read, but lacked the tension that makes HP's worth reading.

Prarthana Patel says

The storyline is WOW. The chemistry between the two main characters is hot. The supporting characters are all so sweet and caring. The character of the actress who is going to play the main role in the upcoming movie is so loving.....<3 <3 <3...

