



A Suspicious Proposal

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Essie met millionaire businessman Xavier Grey at a wedding: she was the chief bridesmaid, he was a distant relative of the bridegroom. They were strangers, yet for some reason Xavier clearly disapproved of Essie. Only, that didn't stop him from pursuing her!

Their attraction was electric, but what were Xavier's true intentions? When he proposed, was it an affair or marriage he had in mind?

A Suspicious Proposal Details

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From Reader Review A Suspicious Proposal for online ebook

Pam says

I loved the Hero He was so kind and upfront. He had no hidden agenda he wanted the Heroine. He would wait for her to see what a great guy he was.

Ann Keller says

Essie thought that she could return to the relatively quiet life of being a country veterinarian. She hoped she could forget all about Xavier Grey's arresting eyes and the strange way that he made her feel, but she found it quite impossible. Despite his wealth, Xavier seemed oddly at home in her little cottage. His gentle care was also against all of Essie's preconceived notions of how rich and powerful men might behave.

What secrets lay beneath that attractive exterior of his, she wondered? Did Essie really have the courage to find out and, when she did, might she find it impossible to turn away? This is a lovingly told tale of two very different people who find common ground, surrounded by each other's arms and the special love they share.

Naksed says

[rape, physical abuse, destitution, family dysfunction, death, etc. (hide spoiler)]

Kay says

3 Stars ~ Essie's a young woman on her own and she's happy with that. She has a good position as one of three veterinarians and a small cottage fixer-upper that is hers alone. From Essie's experience men can't be trusted, as soon as they see you vulnerable they swoop in and take control, and once they have that control they abuse you. Xavier's mother had immigrated to Canada before he'd been born, and their life had been one of hardship and bitter lessons. But Xavier had made good, and when his sister died in child birth, and then later his mother too, he'd taken responsibility of his niece, Candy, as if she were his own daughter. He's had first hand experience with the flighty whims of women and he's content with his empire building and his role as guardian, for no woman shall own his heart.

Essie's matron of honor for her best friend who's marrying Charlie, a classmate from veterinary college. It's the day of the wedding, and Essie's tummy is upset from some bad prawns eaten the night before, and she's very much aware of the intense stares from a handsome man sitting behind the groom's parents. Xavier has just learnt that the girl obviously under the weather is the one who'd imbibed too much at the hen do the night before. Apparently she'd been the life of the party, dancing on tables and such. But she's gorgeous and he can't keep his eyes off of her, even if his looks are disapproving. Later when Xavier introduces himself as the Canadian family of the groom, he calls her Janice, the bride's cousin's name, an actress and a flirt and renown for her ability to party all night. Essie's rather put out at his conclusion that the petite blonde must be the actress and the amazonian brunette must be the vet, so she plays up to Xavier, until she gets the right

moment to let him have it.

When he invites her to dinner, she agrees, looking forward to her opportunity to shake a few of his arrogant assumptions. Xavier doesn't hide his sexual interest in Essie, nor his intention to seduce her, but there's something about her, a sadness in her eyes, a wariness that sparks a more emotional connection. When her identity comes out, he's furious but Essie won't take the blame, she points the finger at him, calling him arrogant, ill-mannered, presumptuous, and she flees the restaurant hoping never to see him again. But of course, Xavier's isn't going to have any of that, she's piqued his interest and their sexual chemistry is off the scale, and so he turns up in her quiet little town and shakes up her quiet little life.

Helen Brooks always pens enjoyable love stories. In this one we have two emotionally wounded people who with looks across a crowded church, find each other. Both are on shaky ground, as they fight their undeniable attraction, and let down the barriers they've built around their hearts. This is a nicely told story of taking chances on love and HEA.

Chitra *CJ* says

"A Suspicious Proposal" is the story of Xavier and Essie.

Xavier, the millionaire spots Essie, the veterinary surgeon at the wedding of an estranged relative, and mistakenly thinks of her as Janice, her actress friend. Essie, infuriated about his presumptions, does not correct him until the truth is inadvertently revealed.

Soon, as she runs away to her cottage and peaceful existence, but Xavier relentlessly pursues her and that is the story.

As usual, since its a HB novel, we have
-A beautiful heroine scarred by her past
-The hero instantly falling for the h
-Relentless pursual but with patience and adoration
-Jealousy and mild drama
-HEA

Again, it gets a bit tedious when the h continues to push the H away for no reason..again and again and again. But you have to give it to the heroes for staying focused.
Really liked the reverse chase and grovel in the end.

Another enjoyable read.

Safe

3.5/5
