



Roarke's Wife

Beverly Barton

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Roarke's Wife Details

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Author : Beverly Barton

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From Reader Review Roarke's Wife for online ebook

R*and*R says

There is nothing like a good book that contains characters with CHEMISTRY!

Kathy says

Setting: Dundee agency; McNamara estate in River Bend, Alabama; McNamara fertilizer plant; country home, Laurie Falls (20 miles from River Bend);

Theme: falling in love; figuring out who is out to harm her and the business; old family laundry;

Characters:

Simon Roarke: Dundee employee; ex Green Beret; late 30's; handsome; brush with death last year when shot on duty; mom died when he was young, father took off, raised by aunt/uncle who viewed him as a cheap farm hand, joined army out of high school, fell in love when in Miami on leave a year later, married, wife wanted him to leave the service – which he loved; about to divorce, but she is pregnant; stay married another 2 years, with him gone more than home; finally divorced; loved his daughter, but only a few visits; exwife slipped into depression (which she fought since a teen) and into drinking... she takes child in car when drunk, and kills baby, and severely injures self, now in a mental institute and guilty Simon pays her bills, even though she generally doesn't recognize him if he visits; ready to get out of dangerous assignments;

Hope/Laurie: ex-wife and daughter (who died when she was 3 years old); his heart ache, his guilty; the reason he has cut himself off from his emotions;

Cleo McNamara (Cleopatra Arabelle McNamara Roarke): approaching 30; parents died when young; raised by great uncle and his daughter/her aunt; favored by her uncle; taken into business, where she showed an aptitude and interest and concern for the community; pretty; stubborn; one past lover – but before marrying him, she found him in bed with her jealous cousin; began dating childhood friend and coworker Hugh at uncle's suggestion, uncle wrote will deeding her the company if she marries and produces a child within a year – thinking he'd push her to commit to Hugh and not be like his spinster daughter; but a week before he died, when in hospital, Cleo walks in on Hugh and her jealous cousin Marla (see a pattern?); if she does not fulfill the will requirements, the plant will be sold and proceeds divided among family; someone took a rifle shot at her at her uncle's funeral; she hires Simon to be her body guard/investigator/husband/sperm bank for one million dollars – though he makes it clear that once she is safe, he is out of there, and wants nothing to do with her baby;

Beatrice McNamara:

Cleo's aunt, and mother figure who raised and loved her; she loved Perry when young (and still loves him), they were engaged, no sex before marriage – and her jealous sister seduced Perry in a weak moment... and ended up pregnant – so Beatrice let him go to her sister; and they all live Uncle George's house ?!; she sends him looks over the years, they spend some quiet, friend time when they can; she is in Cleo's corner all the way;

Hugh Winfield: Cleo's childhood friend and coworker; his family and her family go back generations;

romances Cleo, but more as a means to an end; easily falls under jealous Daphne's spell... suspect for the sabotage in the plant, if his future is tied to Daphne's.

Uncle George: his will is the one that set up Cleo's dilemma; apparently really wants her happiness; he loved Cleo

Orlie and Perry Sutton: Beatrice's sister, and her professor husband; Orlie convinced when 5 year old Cleo comes to live with them, that she was actually Perry and Beatrice's child; she pushed her into the pool, hoping she would die and go away – and Perry covered for her; she is high strung, high maintenance, likes her position in society; Perry quiet, tries to appease wife, retired university professor, had been indifferent to Cleo as growing up, a concession to wife; and she is the one who has made 4 attempts on Cleo's life – if she's gone, her family is taken care of... and she crazily thinks she gets rid of her husband's illegitimate daughter... and she jumps from balcony to death rather than get arrested;

Trey and Marla: Orlie & Perry's son, and his quiet wife; he has been spoiled and indulged; works at plant, and truly believes that the plant will fall in the economy, and they should sell now – so that he gets his portion now; he actually ends up to be the one sabotaging the plant – the computer billing/order and some accidents around the plant – he gets 5 years in jail – and comes back to work for Cleo – a changed man.

Daphne: Cleo's older cousin; jealous of Cleo since she came to live with them – because she took Beatrice and George's heart; Orlie and Perry's daughter; gorgeous, sexy, and not afraid to use it; seduced and married Cleo's first fiancé, and seduced and almost married Cleo's almost second fiancé; comes onto Simon a few times, but he puts her down...

Ezra and Pearl Clooney: the household staff since before Cleo came to live with them... and plain speaking support for Cleo

Summary:

Simon does a good job of playing the impassioned groom – and he enjoys the attraction, and admires and respects the person of Cleo, wanting to protect her – but he keeps a small part of himself apart; but she quickly falls in love;

He brings in more Dundee employees to help figure out what's happening – could one fertilizer plant be able to support such expenses?

It takes it a bit longer than seems reasonable to figure out who's doing what... but they figure it out... and Simon leaves... and 6 weeks later, after figuring out he cannot live without Cleo and their child, and fate points him to a farm with his daughter's name, and close to Cleo's plant... he figures fate is telling him it is time to put the past behind... ahhh

Memorable scenes:

Though attracted to each other from the get go, Cleo decides they should wait a couple of weeks before making love – time to get to know one another, though she does ask him to sleep in the same bed with her... after a week both are crazy with desire, but both are being stubborn – he's not touching until she invites – she's sticking to her guns... oops...not...they both make the first move;

After married to Simon for a few weeks, they're having great sex, and putting on a good show of genuine newlywed happiness, in spite of her family's suspicion that this is a marriage of convenience – Hugh gets Cleo alone – and says she should have gone to him to fulfill the requirements of the will; when she asks him about Daphne, he indicates he'd have his cake (her) and ice cream (Daphne) too – after all they weren't

highly sexual with each other... wow...\

Orlie's attempts on Cleo – deadly spiders taken from her husband's university lab, hidden in her bath towels – she sees spiders before they can harm her, and calls Simon in to rescue her from bathroom); adding rat poison from husband's green house into tea mix that only Cleo drinks (Cleo gave her afternoon tea to Aunt Beatrice to calm her down – and aunt is poisoned – Simon recognizes the symptoms, gets her to hospital, and sheriff takes tea to plant for testing – so able to id poison and give aunt appropriate antidote); places 4 party buzzers on bottom side of horse saddle, so that horse throws Cleo when she sits her horse – hits head on rock, and has a concussion, but nothing more (when she finds out she is pregnant); after Cleo gives them a month to move out, she gets her daughter to distract Simon, and she hits Cleo on side of head and pushes her into pool (Roarke pulls her out, gives her mouth to mouth resuscitation);

In the seven years since their hasty marriage of convenience, Roarke had gone from being a lonely, cynical man who lived his life on the edge, to a contented family man (2 sons and a daughter on the way), a gentleman farmer living the good life that had once been only a dream for him.

Ning says

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