



The Baby Favor

Andrea Laurence

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For the baby's sake...

Scarlet and Mason Spencer's marriage was once hotter than a summer heat wave. But their failed attempts to start a family chilled their passion. Now on the verge of divorce, Mason's single-parent brother is dying, leaving his baby girl in Mason's care...and pulling Scarlet into a ruse that she's still the billionaire's happy, loving wife...

Pretending to be a family so Mason's brother's final days will be peaceful starts feeling like the real thing—as does the combustible chemistry she finds in her sexy soon-to-be-ex husband's bed. Will Scarlet's baby favor lead to a reunion...and the family they've always wanted?

The Baby Favor Details

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From Reader Review The Baby Favor for online ebook

Belinda says

Scarlet and Mason had been happily married but when they were trying to have a baby and couldn't, than an adopted child was taken away from them. Mason left thinking Scarlet would be better off without him around. He thought she could find a man to give her the kids she wants...But when fate throws them for a loop Mason moves in to take care of his niece because her mother has passed and her dad(Mason's Brother) is fighting a losing battle with cancer...Will this bring Scarlet and Mason together or push them further apart...A really good book..so sad to read what all happens but none the less I could not put it down!

Tina says

Oh. My. Goodness!

I could not put this book down! Be prepared for an emotional roller coaster with this one! I smiled, cried, got frustrated, cried, laughed, cried, got mad, cried, got...well you get the picture.

This story is about a couple who truly love each other but have let their fertility issues and an over-turned adoption tear them apart. Throw in the tragedy of Mason's sister-in-law dying from a freak accident just weeks before his brother loses his battle with cancer and you have a cauldron of emotional upheaval.

And right in the center is sweet, precious little Luna.

At times I wanted to shake both Mason and Scarlet for their lack of communication. And especially for Mason's tendency to run when life gets hard. But when he finally gets it, he really gets it. And the ending was so sweet I teared up at it too!

Lynn Brooks says

Bittersweet! Andrea Laurence had me hooked from the first couple of pages and I sped right through without putting it down because I just had to know how it was all going to end ... and it was even better than I had hoped for! :) Great characters and a fast paced plot with lots of tugs on the old heartstrings are in store with this story!

Scarlet & Mason Spencer thought they'd be together forever, but no matter how strong their love for each other was, it couldn't manage to survive the stress of not being able to have the family they desperately wanted. Now on the verge of divorce, Mason needs a favor ... a huge favor. His dying brother needs him to agree to raise his baby daughter ... only he thinks Scarlet and Mason are still together!

Taking Mason and the baby in and playing make-believe so his brother can have peace in his final days just might be the hardest thing Scarlet has ever had to do. She didn't want their marriage to end in the first place and having the temptation of him in the house ... with a baby no less ... is really getting to her. Will they find that they like being a ready made family and decide to call off the divorce or is it just going to be one more

thing to add to the list of heartbreaks she has to deal with?

Mary Lawson says

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Can a double heartbreak bring happiness and a family to Scarlet and Mason Spencer? Will the heartbreaks, pride, and a failure to communicate destroy their future or can they somehow find a way to make a family with Luna.

An emotional packed story with characters who pull at your heart strings that I couldn't put down until the end.

Judyrudy says

The Baby Favor by Andrea Laurence is a part of Harlequin Desire's Billionaires and Babies series. I absolutely loved this book and couldn't put it down. From the opening pages I was taken in by Scarlet and Mason's dilemma. From tragedy and heartache, to hope and desire, Ms. Laurence takes her readers on a ride that can't be missed.

I immediately felt the pain of each character. Scarlet was dealing with so much between their fertility issues and the loss of a child. Mason was dealing not only with the death of his sister-in-law but also the imminent death of his brother. The Baby Favor is filled with so much emotion. Add in cute little Luna to the mix and this is definitely one unforgettable story!

And the ending...It was just perfect! I think this is my favorite book of Ms. Laurence's! I highly recommend reading The Baby Favor. I'd like to disclose that I received an advance copy. I voluntarily read and reviewed it and this is my true and honest opinion.

Negar Arvanaghi says

It sounds like she loves him a lot. Wonder why he wants a divorce.

It's sad that the law makes it hard to adopt, but any crackpot can have and keep a child.

Poor Jay. He's obviously in shock.

Men never talk.

He sounds anal. Or at least like he went to military school. He is going to give himself a heart attack if he doesn't learn to chill out.

I love dolphins, too.

Divorce doesn't mean she won't still be Luna's aunt.

Smart baby.

He's being a martyr.

Poor Jay, to have to consciously give your baby to someone else to raise because you are dying and will miss everything in your daughter's life.

Take your painting and go already, April.

They are both idiots. Talk about this!

From la petite mort to just plain mort.

If you feel guilty for being happy, tell your wife!

Why didn't he think to have her adopt Luna earlier? Hello!

I received a free copy from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Andrea Lovette says

I cried. I laughed. And was so frustrated with the Mason, I wanted to smack him! This story was beautifully written to where I felt the heartache, happiness and passion between Scarlet & Mason. I even screamed for joy at the ending!!

Maura says

2.5

Mason Spencer left his wife two months before, not because he didn't love her, but because he couldn't make her happy...he couldn't give her the family she so desperately wanted. After the loss of their adopted son, Scarlet swore she'd never do it again and now having loss Mason, she's even more heart sore and wary than before. But Mason's brother is dying and leaving his daughter Luna in Mason's care. Mason wants Scarlet to pretend they're still a happy couple and raise Luna together during his brother's last weeks on earth. Scarlet reluctantly agrees knowing for certain that this whole charade will break her beyond her limits.

This is a very well written book with a pretty emotionally engaging plot. It's a bit of a tear-jerker, but not really to my taste. It's good, but not my kind of story...not the book's fault really. So part of my problem here is that I'm not captivated by the "I want a baby" stories. My biological clock is broken (or perhaps nonexistent), so of course I can't identify and truly understand the desperation to have a baby when I've never felt even an inkling of the desire myself. So I was kind of at a loss as to how they'd made such a mess of things. This is most especially true when I realized that Mason is the reason they can't have a baby...but then

no one ever mentioned other options beyond adoption. Is there a reason they didn't consider artificial insemination? Seems that would have been a whole lot easier and without any of the legal mumbo jumbo. But that's never really mentioned, so I don't know. I can get beyond all this as just a matter of taste.

What I couldn't really get past was how Mason was such an insensitive clod when it came to his wife. He watched her break down when they took the adopted son away and then he thought "I know! I'll put her in close proximity with a baby, hope she bonds with it and then take the baby away. That should heal her." Who needs enemies with a friend like that? Scarlet was by no means perfect, but her biggest weakness was forgiving Mason. That man runs, and then runs, and then runs again but she takes him back in and gives him her trust. And the way that he hurt her with his actions required a lot more grovel...and if not that a lot more remorse for his actions. He felt sort of emotionally disconnected from his own actions and more focused on how to get her back after he'd left her than he was on really showing how sorry he was (or even feeling sorry). So yeah. I didn't like him much. Luna was pretty adorable, which I can't always say about babies in these stories. I wish I knew why Luna wasn't getting to visit her dad every single day when he's on death's doorstep though.

Fiona Marsden says

This wasn't perfect. Sometimes the heroine really annoyed me. Sometimes the hero was really dumb. But it made me cry and that qualifies it as a 5 star read under my system.

This is a reunion story about a husband and wife who broke up because of infertility problems. The straw that broke it finally was having to return their adopted baby when the birth mother changed her mind. So it's kind of sad to start with.

Then we have Jay and baby Luna. Jay is dying of cancer and it's only a matter of time. So as if everyone doesn't have enough sorrow, his wife, Luna's mother, is killed in a car accident.

Jay is relying on his brother Mason and his wife Scarlet to look after Luna, only he doesn't know that the pair of them are a signed document away from divorce. All Mason wants is for Jay to die in peace, knowing Luna will be safe and happy with parents who love her.

To do that, he needs successful nature artist Scarlet on side. Not an easy task. She is still grieving the loss of their adopted baby and was blindsided when Mason initiated divorce proceedings. Now he wants her back in a game of pretend that involves a baby? No way in the world is she prepared to open her heart up to another baby.

At this point, we are all nodding knowingly and maybe even giving a little snigger. Sucks to be you Scarlet, cos you love babies and Luna is one pretty baby who even looks like your ex.

I really loved this story, even though it took a while to warm up to Mason and Scarlet. It was very emotional at times but the ending was very satisfying.

This was an ARC for an independent review.

Emily says

Great summer romance book

Amanda says

They're on the brink of divorce after many failed attempts at getting pregnant. Could there still be a spark left between them after all? Now this is a story that oozes with hot sensuality, raw emotions and deep-rooted family dynamics which hook you from page one. Andrea Laurence delves deep into the psych of her main protagonists in *The Baby Favor*, testing their endurance and self-will beyond the limit. The tumultuous journey between Mason and Scarlet is intense but it is the skyrocketing chemistry level they share that makes their romance all the more dramatic and oh so passionate. They had marriage issues to thrash out, but things twist up when they must keep up a brave front for someone who they both care about. In the end, taut writing, realistic characterization and an engaging plot bring the book to a close with a sighworthy happy ever after.

Recommended

4 Stars

Linda Rimer-Como says

Absolutely loved this book! The story line is filled with tragedy, hope, self-doubt, regret and undying love. The characters have great interactions as they deal with a multitude of obstacles. Second chances are few, can Scarlet and Mason choose wisely? This is a must read.

I voluntarily read and reviewed this book; all opinions expressed are my own.

Susan says

Good second chance story for a couple torn apart by infertility issues and pride. Scarlet and Mason had had a terrific marriage until the stresses of starting a family became too much for them. Just weeks away from divorce, Mason has come to Scarlet for help. His sister-in-law has died in a crash, and his brother is dying, leaving Mason to care for their baby girl. Jay doesn't know about the impending divorce, so Mason wants Scarlet to pretend everything is fine for Jay's final days.

This was an emotional roller coaster of a book. Scarlet has finally begun to adjust to Mason's absence and the end of their marriage. She had been blindsided by Mason's request for a divorce. She hasn't stopped loving him. Scarlet still hurts over the loss of the baby they'd adopted, whose birth mother decided she wanted him back. When Mason asks for her help, she is reluctant because she doesn't want to go through the pain of losing him again after the charade is over. She is also determined not to let herself get attached to baby Luna. I completely understood Scarlet's viewpoint. She had been through a lot and was simply trying to protect herself. I also knew that there was no way she was going to be able to resist Luna. I ached for her as she

confronted her memories in the nursery and smiled as she overcame them.

Mason frustrated me for a good part of the book. Thanks to the unreasonable expectations of his father, Mason grew up expecting perfection of himself. When things aren't going the way he expects them to; he tends to cut his losses and move on. While this may work in his business, in his personal life it has been a disaster. Mason blames himself for their lack of a family, decided that Scarlet would be better off without him, and asked for a divorce, all without actually talking to her to see what she wanted.

From the moment Mason and Luna moved in it was obvious that his and Scarlet's feelings for each other were as strong as ever, but so were their fears. Scarlet tried desperately to keep both Mason and Luna at a distance, but it was a losing battle. It didn't take long before both Scarlet and Mason started feeling hopeful about the future, but a part of each of them was also wary. Scarlet feared that if things got rough again, he would revert to his cut and run ways. I liked the way that she confronted Mason early on and explained her problem with him. Though he promised he wouldn't do it again, Scarlet had trouble trusting him. Mason still has bouts of self-doubt and can't believe that Scarlet will really be happy with him. Things are looking very promising for them until Jay's death. Mason has a hard time dealing with the loss of his brother and the guilty feelings brought on by what he sees as his happiness at his brother's expense and withdraws into himself. With Scarlet's fears of history repeating itself it doesn't take much to push her over the edge to a confrontation with Mason. I ached for the misery that they inflicted on themselves. I loved that it was hearing Jay's voice in a dream that finally pushed Mason into realizing the truth: "Climb down from the cross, Mason. We don't need another martyr in this family." I loved his big moment at the end and the way that he showed Scarlet the depth of his feelings. The epilogue had an unexpected and heartwarming twist to it.
