



The Italian's Inexperienced Mistress

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When Angelo Riccardi sought revenge Gwenna Hamilton added another, delicious dimension. Innocent and pretty, she had no chance when the Italian tycoon offered her the devil's bargain: pay for her father's freedom with her body.

In her naiveté, Gwenna thought that Angelo would tire of her and her innocence very quickly. But he had more in mind than just one night...

The Italian's Inexperienced Mistress Details

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Bekah says

This was a surprisingly good book! I really liked it. I loved how irresistible Gwenna was to Angelo. I also loved how Gwenna was able to realistically separate herself from him time and time again even though she was drawn to him. I loved the way love transformed Angelo from a cold robot to a big gooey mess of love for his woman. It was also very steamy. Liked that too!!! Would probably read again.

Blodeuedd Finland says

I am gonna try some sort some short review thing for this one...but first, harlequin presents titles crack me up, lol.

Characters:

Angelo Ricardo: Italian playboy tycoon out after revenge, coldhearted.

Gwenna Hamilton: Totally naive, and a sweetheart.

Her dad: An idiot who swindles money.

Plot:

Seek revenge on Hamilton and make him pay, and in comes Gwenna, new plan, destroy her in search of revenge by making her his mistress.

Good parts:

It was really short, and took now time at all to read, which I needed since it has been hectic.

And she did tell him like it was now and again, she wasn't meek, just silly.

Bad parts:

Really?! A virgin and she decides to become a mistress to save her dad?! Not to mention that she is more or less his slave then, but of course he falls for her cos she is so sweet, and naive. And of course she falls for him. And how can she be so clueless in this day and age. She is just too sweet.

Final thoughts:

But then Harlequin is silly, and the plots do not have to make sense. I am just saying, half way through it I said that it would totally end with a pregnancy and..well find out.

So, if you want something short then this is it.

Penny Watson says

Dog named Piglet, heroine who loves gardening and could give 2 shits about fancy clothes/jewelry...and is

totally unimpressed with her fancy-pants Italian blackmailer/lover. Sexy hero who saves her dog's life and says the most romantic things ever--in ITALIAN.

It's like she wrote this book JUST FOR ME.

Grade: A

Lindsey says

The Harlequin Presents line is like fried food for my brain: I know it's really bad for me, and I should be appalled that I'm indulging in it, but I do it occasionally anyway. If you don't get a sneaky thrill out of uber-rich alpha male, stay away from this line, and definitely stay away from this book.

As an act of revenge, Angelo, the hero, sets Gwenna, the heroine, up as a mistress in a house in London. It's an old school arrangement: she has no life other than looking pretty and hanging out with him (though to be fair, she didn't really seem to have much of a life beforehand). It's pretty offensive if you think about it at all.

However, this book was not as bad as some in this line. Gwenna does demonstrate that she has a backbone, occasionally. There is some decent sexual tension. You see Angelo slowly evolve into a better boyfriend, so his character arc is somewhat believable. Oh, and it's free from Harlequin.com. Overall, you know what you're getting - this is not fine dining, but as far as fast food goes, it's quite edible.

Natalie says

If I could give this book negative stars, I would.

This book is being offered for free electronically as part of Harlequin's 60th anniversary celebration. I decided to snag it for a couple of reasons. First, my dad used to have a subscription to the Presents line when I was a teenager (they were giving away free Norman Rockwell glasses and he wanted them, I don't get it either) and second, I read a handful of romance blogs and occasionally titles from this line would get positive reviews. And I figured that if Harlequin were offering it for free as part of a celebration of 60 years of romance novel publishing, it would be one of their stronger titles.

Ha. How wrong I was.

Angelo is a self-made billionaire. He grew up in abject poverty after his mother left his father and she was disowned from her Mafia family. She ended up being swindled out of all her money by the father of our heroine, Gwenna. Gwenna is, basically, Cinderella. She has an evil stepmother, evil stepsisters, and a foolishly weak father. She was also born out of wedlock and apparently this was still a big scandal in England in the mid-80's--who knew?

So Angelo is bent on revenge and buys the company Gwenna's father works for--and discovers he's an embezzler and has him arrested at a big charity event (for maximum humiliation!). Gwenna is distraught and

goes to Angelo to find out what she can do to get him to back off. She tells Angelo that her father will sign over all the rights to his property. Angelo agrees, but with one condition: that Gwenna also become his mistress. Because she is stupid, she agrees. (Honestly, she is too stupid to live--why has she not kicked her family to the curb? They're all uniformly pretty awful.)

So then Angelo pretty much takes over her life--after slagging her off for liking to garden because apparently he has issues around people working with their hands--and installs her in a huge fancypants house and makes her put her beloved dog (who has separation anxiety issues) in a pet hotel.

So then he tells her he wants to have dinner with her and after some confusion, dinner happens. And then he takes her back to the house and rapes her.

I mean, there's really no other way to put it. He wants to have sex. She doesn't. Because of the power inequity between them, he is able to force her to comply with his wishes. She does not consent.

She then retreats to the bathroom and locks the door. He wants to rape her again or something, so kicks the door in and corners her in the bath tub. And then tells her that he doesn't want to hurt her.

And that's the point at which I had to stop reading. Because I don't want to read rape apologia, which this, in my opinion, is.

I need a unicorn chaser after reading half of this book.

Ivy H says

Review of book read years ago.

This heroine, Gwenna, was the beautiful, angel faced martyr type complete with a love for nature and an adorable little dog. She's also that rare breed of woman who (gasp !) is unaware of her spectacular beauty. I am getting so skeptical of authors who are sketching heroines with this level of humility. This is so weird in this day and age. Does Gwenna not have a mirror ? She's also pining after her gay best friend. Duh? Yes, you read it correctly. The idiot is pining after a gay man. That immediately annoyed the shit out of me. Why pine for a guy who will never want you? It's the same reason I don't bother sighing and mooning over gay hottie actors like Wentworth Miller (Prison Break) and the SUPER SEXY Matt Bomer (White Collar). One can appreciate their good looks from an aesthetic perspective but that's all that really remains for me. Just my opinion.

Angelo, the hero, was definitely a hottie but somehow he didn't exactly inspire my book boyfriend imagination the way other Lynne Graham heroes have done (I'm talking about SERGEI, Nikolai, ALL her sheikhs ! , Rauf and that hottie guy Blaze from Indecent Deception and many others).

I think Lynne could have made this novel hotter and sexier. After all it was a novel with the words "inexperienced mistress" in its title. A little too much time was spent on the heroine's introspection about her vile stepmother and horrible stepsisters, her disgusting father and her gay best friend. These people were so mercenary and horrendous that they did not deserve to have Gwenna sacrifice herself to save them. If Lynne G had to focus so much time on other characters I would have preferred to read about what Gwenna's little dog was eating for supper.

Vintage says

I am so ashamed, but I really like this book. I really do. I'm not sure why.

Okay, I know why. Angelo is such a delicious fantasy hero. He's in so over his head he doesn't know what hit him. Gwenna is pretty cute as well, and has somewhat of a spine. Yeah, she becomes Angelo's mistress to save her worthless father, but, what the heck, apparently A has a way with women.

There are some very funny parts, and she leads him on a merry chase. I would have liked the father and Gwenna's evil half sisters to get a real comeuppance, but apparently that is simply not done in Harley-land.

Yes, it is old school and quite silly, but it is fun and romantic.

Lisa says

Hah, I actually just saw the "Ruthless" part in the title of this and... it makes sense.

I have a little weakness for these types of stories, people.

Don't Judge Me.

However, whilst reading this novel a thought popped into my head.

So I picked up my phone and whatsapp'd my coblogger, Autumn.

I was all: you-know-who read this shit before THAT book was written. This is THAT book, but a watered down version. And this chick is HER, but a slightly tougher version. Slightly.

Her reply: Meh, I don't really care.

My reply: I'm telling you. She HAD to have read this before!

I mean, this dude was filthy ass rich and was burned with cigarettes as a child! Also, he was a douche. A douche who was demanding and RUTHLESS, but he never spanked his lover. And there was no s&m mentioned.

Thank you, SWEET BABY JESUS for that!

All in all, the basic characteristics were the same. The writing was waaay better, though and there was an actual plot - even though it was cheesy.

Not bad for a freebie I grabbed from Amazon.

KC 2.0 says

4.5 stars

God, I love this book. And even more than the hero or heroine, I love Piglet! Heroine's super-cute pet dog stole the show at times with his antics. I want a Piglet of my own. *sigh*

So on to the romance. . . . I wore a big grin on my face after finishing this romantic, Cinderella fairytale. The equal doses of drama, humor, and passion kept me entertained while both Angelo and Gwenna appealed as lead characters.

I loved how Angelo was so smitten with Gwenna. I also loved how she placed him on emotional eggshells without trying. In spite of his power and many charms, Angelo never felt certain where he stood with the spunky Gwenna. Her "spell" over him definitely evened the playing field.

Gwenna's sweet nature blinded her to her nasty family's faults, but she learned the error of her ways in due time so I couldn't hold it against her.

One of my favorite romances by Lynne Graham.

Kiki says

To be honest, I'd prefer little more grovelling.

However,

- 1) hero gets hit by a car while trying to save a dog that doesn't particularly like him
- 2) heroine dumps him TWICE without any indication of possible romantic feelings involved

And

- 3) heroine tells him her heart forever belongs to her gay best friend.

I think this guy deserved co-custody of the dog along with the heroine! He can definitely be forgiven!

Jacqueline says

Working my way through some Lynne Graham titles which I've put on the back burner as not sounding so interesting. So the hero comes from a mafia family but has totally rejected them and prides himself on making his billions legally. But unfortunately for the heroine he still has that revenge gene.

The heroine is totally too sweet and here is another example of a heroine getting into trouble with the hero to save her totally undeserving family. Boy I wish more HP writers would write decent families that have to be saved.

It's LG so decent writing, plenty of tiaras and Italian villas. ;-)

StMargarets says

Oh, this is a fun story that should be titled "The one with the diva dog at doggy daycare." Piglet, the heroine's dog, and the hero's nemesis stole the show when he gave an award-winning performance for the doggy hotel's cameras. Even the hero was touched by the dog's sadness at being away from his mistress.

So backing into this review. The hero is a tough guy, descended from not one but two Mafia crime families. Lucky for him, he grew up in England in poverty and obscurity. He's a self-made man in electronics.

The heroine is the illegitimate daughter of a social climbing liar and thief who stole the hero's mother's money (as well as a lot of other people's money). The action begins when the hero decides to take tardy revenge on the heroine's father. His added revenge bonus is to make the heroine his mistress, since he fell in insta-lust for her when they met cute when Piglet tried to bite him.

And so it goes - another LG where the virgin heroine wins the hero's heart. Poor heroine also has to deal with her father's betrayal and the hero's less than stellar quality of needing revenge.(As an aside, more HP stories should have the hero getting hit by a car to save the dog.) It all works out, of course. And Piglet never sees the inside of another doggy hotel. HEA.

Azet says

I really enjoy Lynne Graham's works. The only thing that disturbed me when I first started reading Harlequin was the instalove and the heros OVER THE TOP arrogance and ego. But when I got more into the world of Hplandia I am already used to it, and the arrogance of the Ruthless and Self-centered Tyccons really amuse me now and makes me grin of smugness, cuz I just long for the heroines to wrap them around their finger..MUHAHA!!!

Gwenna Hamilton and Angelo Riccardo had HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE chemistry only Graham can create in her own talented way. Poor Angelo gets stuck in his own revenge-plot and it totally backfires him, as he becomes a smitten hero totally devoted and obsessed with his heroine. Through his cruel-hearted heart and insillence passion and the undeniable love he himself can't make himself to understand he grovels throughout the story and becomes a worthy hero of our heroine. I really liked her stubbornness and how she had a backbone..well even if she melted when he always touched her (as it was the same to him hehe). I love their passionate romantic love-story in its own intensity that always earns a 5-star from me of Graham's stories.

Susan (susayq ~) says

This was pretty good! I read it one sitting last night and only wanted to throw my Kindle twice :) What I liked most was that Angelo fell for her before she fell for him and he realized that he had screwed up in the beginning with the reason he found her and started the relationship. Gwenna should have dumped her family a long time before she ever met Angelo. They were selfish, spoiled, mean people who didn't deserve her love and attention. Too bad it took Angelo to make her see that.

RomanceLover99 says

I first read this book when it was released in 2007 and decided to re-read it yesterday and write a review. I'm a HUGE Lynne Graham fan and will openly admit to the fact that she has standard tropes that she uses in all of her books. However, this book stood out to me because...GASP...there was no surprise pregnancy which is the biggest trope she uses in all her books. It was a welcome change and she wrote a nice little story.

This book is about the romance between Angelo and Gwenna which originally starts off as revenge/blackmail affair, as Angelo wants Gwenna to be his mistress to get revenge on her father. I really liked Gwenna as a heroine. Yes, I thought at times she was TSTL when it came to how awful she was treated by her family however, considering how she was falsely lead to believe that her father raised her for truly altruistic reasons when her mom died when she was a child, I could understand her reasons for only wanting to think the best of her father. I was proud of the fact that she finally realized how her father was and wanted him to suffer the consequences for his actions. I did want Gwenna to have a backbone when it came to her stepmother and step-sisters but of course a heroine with a backbone, when it comes to her family, is a rarity in Lynne Graham books. Angelo has a unique and interesting backstory that plays out nicely in this book. I liked the story and background of his family especially his grandfather. To my knowledge it was unique to any other Lynne Graham book. You could tell that Gwenna and Angelo had fallen for each other and had real feelings for each other once the decision was made that Gwenna would go to Sardinia with Angelo on her own free will.

Every author gets inspiration from someone or something and I couldn't help think that EL James, the author of the 50 Shades of Grey trilogy, got some inspiration from this book. Christian Grey, like Angelo, sleeps by himself and has nightmares of past abuse with cigarette burns. This book by Lynne Graham was published in 2007, years before 50 Shades of Grey hit the market. If you've read the 50 Shades of Grey trilogy you can't help but acknowledge that there are some startling similarities between Angelo's history of abuse and Christian Grey's, along with their nightmares and both men wanting to sleep alone at first. If I hadn't re-read this book I would have never realized the similarities **HOWEVER**, that's where the similarities begin and end. In no way is this book anyway like 50 Shades outside of those plot points.

I give this book 3.5 Stars but rounded it up to 4 Stars because Lynne Graham did not use the surprise pregnancy trope.
