



Bride of His Choice

Emma Darcy

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Five sisters...and Richard Seymour has to marry one to gain control of the Durant financial empire. Made to feel the ugly duckling by her glamorous family, and totally rejected by her father, Leigh Durant is stunned when Richard makes his choice-to marry her! Can he possibly give her the sense of belonging and love she's always craved? His proposition is very tempting. And they do share an intense physical attraction. But is she truly the bride he wants...or just the easiest path to power!

Bride of His Choice Details

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From Reader Review *Bride of His Choice* for online ebook

Helen Moulden says

Wonderful story BUT the 1st class bitches for mothers and sisters. WOW. Very clever ending. No spoilers but I think I knew that (how things turned out) was the case in this story.

StMargarets says

The Blurb: *A marriage of convenience*

Five sisters ...and Richard Seymour has to marry one to gain control of the Durant financial empire.

Made to feel the ugly duckling by her glamorous family, and totally rejected by her father, Leigh Durant is stunned when Richard makes his choice--to marry her! Can he possibly give her the sense of belonging and love she's always craved? His proposition is very tempting. And they do share an intense physical attraction. But is she truly the bride he wants ...or just the easiest path to power?

Some angsty stories focus on the hurt and offer healing. This story is all about the healing and it's beautiful.

The blurb explains the premise - the h has no expectations of being chosen to fulfill the will. She only returns after six years to see if she can finally connect with her mother and half sisters. She left at 18 when she overheard why he father hated her - she was the result of an affair her mother had with the Italian gardener. (Why the mother had an affair is revealed later on, and it's desperate and heart-wrenching).

The heroine is treated with hostility by everyone but the hero. He takes her out to the rose garden and proposes. She realizes that she doesn't hate him - she had lumped him in with all of her bad memories of Sunday dinners. Thinking back, she realizes he always stood up for her and was her defender in an unobtrusive way.

She also realizes she is attracted to him and one thing leads to another in the gazebo.

So that's it. She will marry him if he promises to treat a daughter as well as a son and if he will make all the wedding preparations.

Normally, I don't like insta-lust and first-time sex in outrageous places. But wow. ED wrote this scene so that it flowed out of the characters. The heroine had been described as passionate and warm by the hero and she was. And the hero *happy sigh* . . . the feelings he had for the heroine were there in his words and past deeds.

Normally, I don't like when a hero takes over and plans for the heroine. I don't like wedding talk. But again . . . everything flowed from the hero's character and how he saw the heroine. The gown, the flowers . . gah. So lovely, so right.

So our poor love-starved heroine and our besotted hero are embarking on this marriage. When is the shoe going to drop?

When is the shoe going to drop???

That's what keeps you reading. Because you want them to be happy, these two damaged souls who need to be together. Those are the stakes.

And the shoe does drop. (view spoiler)

And you think. Oh, no! The hero really loves her! Doesn't he?

(view spoiler)

The heroine's faith and trust in the hero, her forgiveness of her family now that she is finally happy . . . So lovely and healing.

There is a scene where the two grandmother's are looking down on the baby. It's not ham-fisted or even overt - but the message is there. The patriarch who has done so much damage to *all* the women in his family and beyond is gone and this new life is going to bring them together in ways they never imagined.

I loved this story! Read when you're up for something sweet and sincere.

KC 2.0 says

4.5 stars

A romantic, modern fairytale that is absolutely one of my favorite books by Emma Darcy.

Richard was a wonderful hero and a devoted champion for Leigh, the "princess" of this tale. The story could have been dragged down to over-the-top melodramatic levels because of all the family dysfunction, but that was avoided because Richard and Leigh, for the most part, acted like sensible people considering they had reasons to do otherwise.

I liked the strength of Richard's love for Leigh. (view spoiler) I liked Leigh as well for her generous heart. She had good reason to feel bitter, but acted with graciousness and never pitied herself, making her one of the author's better heroines.

The ending was filled with passionate emotion as the conflicts were resolved, and happily-ever-afters achieved for all parties involved. Yay!

Leona says

Based on another reviewer's positive comments, I decided to do a re-read.

I remember liking the book, but didn't feel that it was in the same caliber of other Darcy books I had read and enjoyed. I was wrong. Timing, can sometimes make a huge difference in my reaction to a book - especially in category romances.

I thought the hero and heroine were well developed. I enjoyed their complexities. They weren't cardboard or one dimensional, which is often the case in these revenge hp tropes. The evil twisted families were credible (but delicious). The surprise twist towards the end blew me away. (even though I had read it before, I had forgotten it).

I am changing my rating from 3 stars to 4.5.

Original review:

A good read...Richard was a great hero and Leigh was a very strong heroine.

But unlike other Darcy book's, this book was a little bit blah. I kept waiting for something exciting to happen in the story.

Megan says

Found it a little odd and so I can't rate this very high. I'm not entirely sure if that is even legal.

Yeah this is weird this one.

Brenda says

One of the few Emma Darcy books I really liked. Both MCs were extremely likeable. Hero was smitten with the heroine way before she left home and kept a watch on her right through the seven years she'd been away and was nice to her even though he coerced her to marriage.

Vintage says

Well. This book has one of the worst families ever. Even with the serious competition of manipulative fathers, selfish mothers, self-centered sisters, brothers that gamble, cheat or steal, and domineering grandfathers this family has some winners.

It's been seven years since Leigh, the h, has been home. She left at 18 due to some serious family drama and hate rained down by daddy dearest. Turns out she was not his daughter, but a last ditch effort on the part of Mumsy to get a son. Ding dong the warlock is dead; she is home to ~~celebrate~~ mourn the death of her horrible father. Her evil sisters and mother have nothing nice to say.

As she wanders outside the mansion, Richard, her father's hired gun and heir-apparent to the company, finds her and puts the moves on her. Turns out he has to marry one of the sisters to gain control of the company, and he picks her, the cuckoo in the nest. He was the result of an affair as well so he knows how hard it's been for her. The evil sisters are ... evil and mommy is pretty dismissive. It reminded me of the scene in Cinderella where the evil stepsisters attack poor C.

Anyhoo, they get married in a dream wedding, honeymoon, and she gets pregnant. Out to dinner to celebrate

the baby, they encounter the H's mom who has as much motherly love as Medea. A revelation (view spoiler) Yep, double ick. To say Leigh is not pleased is an understatement as she sits there in dumbfounded silence.

The hero manages to convince of true love and has quite the evidence to back him up. So, HEA.

IamGamz says

I was really surprised by how good this book was. I wasn't expecting much, but it turned out to be quite wonderful.

It tells the tale of Leigh, who grew up in a household where she was the cuckoo in the nest. The man who raised her was not her biological father. He was her mother's husband.

Her mom had a affair to try to give her husband the son that he wanted after having four daughters. Instead, she got pregnant with another girl and Leigh was the living, breathing proof of that infidelity. Because of this, her "father" was verbally and emotionally abusive to her throughout her life. When she was 18 she learned the truth. Devastated, she packed up and left home.

During Leigh's teen years her father began mentoring a bright young man, Richard. Richard was often at their house and tried his best to protect Leigh from her father's abuse. Tall, dark and handsome, Leigh wanted Richard to be her knight in shining amour. Sadly, all he could do was divert her father's attention away from Leigh.

Six years after leaving and having no contact with her family, Leigh returns for her father's funeral. Richard see's her and proposes. He needs to marry one of her father's daughters to meet the teams of the will and he has chosen Leigh. It appears that he is doing this out of love and for altruistic reasons. But there is sooo much more at play here.

Ok, where to start? Leigh's family are horrid. Ditto for Richard's mother. The secrets that these mothers kept and at the cost of their children's happiness and mental health will not win them any Mother of the Year awards. They were awful!

Leigh's four sisters are absolute bitches to her. They learned to mistreat her from their father, but now, as adults, they continue to do it. They are sad excuses of human beings.

Leigh and Richard's decision to marry is the only right one. They have loved each other for years. In spite of the insecurities that Leigh has over her marriage with Richard, she was able to work through it all in a mature, sensible way. She and Richard are probably the most mature h and H I have seen in a Harlequin. The faces their problems head on and communicated with each other. It was a rare treat.

I adored this book and will reread it in the future.

April Brookshire says

I liked that the hero and heroine of this book could relate to each other because of their pasts. They both fulfilled a need they'd been denied their entire lives.

The hero's secret motives here predictable for the reader, but not for the heroine, so the shock of her finding out was dramatic.

The HEA was an HEA for everyone, not just the H and h but the side characters.

Lynsey A says

I always like the books with the female underdog. You know the one who is the "ugly" sister and is made to feel small by her family. This is one of those books and there is the "prince charming" to take her away and shows her that she is actually the beautiful one. Well, this is one of those books. It was the reason I picked up the book.

It's been a bit since I read this but Richard wasn't your typical HP jerk. He did have his charming moments. This is a good read and nice for anyone who likes the underdog and of course, the baby theme! :-)

RomLibrary says

She is illegitimate child of her mother and he is the illegitimate child of her father. She is the only one he could have married so she mistrusts his motives but he really did love her. Five sisters...and Richard Seymour has to marry one to gain control of the Durant financial empire.

Made to feel the ugly duckling by her glamorous family, and totally rejected by her father, Leigh Durant is stunned when Richard makes his choice-to marry her! Can he possibly give her the sense of belonging and love she's always craved? His proposition is very tempting. And they do share an intense physical attraction. But is she truly the bride he wants...or just the easiest path to power!

Pam says

A favorite of mine have read it a couple times. Great story good hero

Melanie♥ says

Re-read December 2016

This was the first Emma Darcy book I read. After rereading I'm moving it from four stars to five.

Jenny says

Another HP about Cinderella and her "Prince charming" and this one is really charming indeed. Richard is a

kind, loving and very caring hero. I liked that he was ruthless when it comes to business but a softie when it comes to his wife. Leigh was a very strong heroine as well as vulnerable. They had chemistry and passion and I believed in their love. Plus the author actually bothered to write a sweet and nice detailed epilogue!

Nikki says

I like the heroine she as striving to stick it out in a terrible situation. I wish we got to know the hero more. I liked the big reveal near the end but it was all talked over in a few minutes. Not one of the better arranged marriage stories out there.
