



## The Sicilian's Marriage Arrangement

*Lucy Monroe*

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Hope Bishop is stunned when darkly sexy Sicilian tycoon Luciano di Valerio proposes marriage. Brought up by her wealthy but distant grandfather, she is used to fading into the background and being ignored.

But Luciano's sensual lovemaking makes her feel vibrantly alive. Hope falls in love with her husband and is blissfully happy--until she discovers that Luciano ruthlessly married her...for *convenience!*

## **The Sicilian's Marriage Arrangement Details**

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Author : Lucy Monroe

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### **Jacqueline says**

Pretty decent read. The hero jumps to conclusions and causes unnecessary problems but hey it's harlequinland. Still the conflict was different from what I expected. I expected the heroine to throw a fit when she finds out about the reason the hero married her but instead it was him throwing a hissy so at least it was different.

Overall an enjoyable read for HP fans.

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### **RomanceLover99 says**

Great book! I would have loved if it had an epilogue to see how the h's relationship with her grandfather improved.

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### **Fiona Marsden says**

There is nothing quite like an alpha hero blackmailed into marriage with a young innocent heroine to get things exciting. Especially as this hero doesn't use it as an excuse to abandon his bride and go off shagging a whole lot of women for five years before coming back to claim his bride. No of course I'm not bitter. Well maybe a little.

Hope has had a thing for Luciano for about five years, since she was eighteen and he started showing up at functions with her grandfather's business colleagues. When they share a hot New Years kiss, Grandpa finally thinks he's found something he can give his granddaughter after she gave away the mink coat and ignored the Porsche.

Luciano was not impressed when he is told the only way he can win back his families small but with sentimental value shipping company is by marrying Hope. So he kind of likes her and the kiss was memorable, but nobody blackmails him into doing anything.

All the same, he woos and wins Hope, believing she is in ignorance of the plot. And that's where the fun starts. Because maybe he was wrong about her innocence so it looks like she might have to reap his vengeance along with her grandfather. Sometimes men are so stoopid.

I enjoyed this story and the way the relationship between Hope and Luciano grew despite the bad start.

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### **Brenda says**

Heroine's grandfather seeing that h is crazy about H and having neglected her all through childhood, now

wants to make amends so blackmails hero into marrying. H overhears conversation between h and her grandfather and starts believing h knew about the blackmail and is angry which leads to more misunderstanding and angst between couple. Short, nice read.

Should have had an epilogue in the end.

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### Vintage says

I really hate how much I like this book, okay, love it as I gave it 4 stars. Why do I like it so much? Got me. It has all the hallmarks of a Harlequin except the hero is more arrogant alpha than cruel jackass.

Spoiler, kind of Nice little marriage of convenience set up by the Hope's grandfather with alpha Romero, I mean Luciano. The twist is Hope doesn't know about it. That's where the twist comes in when she finds out. Luciano does veer into mean gene territory due to some miscommunication, but gets a nice confrontation from Hope. Groveling ensues. I would have given it 5 stars if Hope had wrung him through the wringer a little more.

If any of you Harlequin authors are reading reviews, it's a theme. We want our Harlequin H's to GROVEL MORE!

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### Kaycee ❤? says

Well, I'm not surprised that I enjoyed this one. Lucy Monroe has always been a favorite of mine. And once again, she gave us another powerful and intense love story in her book *The Sicilian's Marriage Arrangement*.

**Hope Bishop** is a shy, young woman who grew up craving for only one thing that money can't buy - her grandfather's love. She's used to being ignore, so when Luciano de Valerio, the man she had secretly dreamed about for years, suddenly paid her attention, she was thrilled. For the first time in her life, she felt important and loved. So she agreed to marry him. She was too happy to realize that Luciano was being blackmailed by her grandfather.

**Luciano De Valerio** a sexy and equally gorgeous tycoon and sicilian to boot. And loyal to the bone. So when Hope's grandfather approached him with a deal "Marry Hope or say goodbye to the shipping business" of course, he's furious! But what choice does he have? He agreed to marry Hope but he will have his revenge.

But *love gets in the way*. Will it too late now for Luciano to save his marriage when the truth came out?

Hope's character was a total surprise for me. At first she was introduced as a shy and vulnerable woman. But as the story progressed, she showed us that beneath her fragile exterior lies a strong, independent woman who does stood up for herself and didn't take crap from Luciano. She stood her ground and faced her problem. She'd rather be hurt than ran away. And I admired that trait.

Luciano was your typical alpha hero. When he was hit, his first instinct was to hit back. I just wished that he beg and grovel some more to make up for his unwarranted misjudgments and condemnation of the heroine.

**The Sicilian's Marriage Arrangement** was a good read and well written. The pace of the story was perfect and it flowed smoothly. The characters had the right amount of chemistry and guarded emotion. And it was fun and amusing to see how they were going to handle those.

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### **Jenny says**

It goes straight to my favorites. This was a fast and entertaining read. The relationship between Hope and Luciano was sweet and the chemistry was great. Hope is naive and innocent but strong and giving. I loved Luciano's transformation towards the end he changes from a cold business man to a very romantic sexy family man totally smitten with his wife. I loved this man! I'm a sucker for arranged marriages/babies so this was just the perfect story for me. And I appreciated the fact that there was no cheating! Safe!

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### **boogenhagen says**

I have mixed feelings about the book, the H treats the h pretty badly. He marries the extremely shy and introverted h because her grandfather blackmails him into it.

In the process he manages to ignore, humiliate and berate the h about a hundred times worse than her family ever did. The h has some spark and she does try to stand up for herself but the H was really tacky in trying to make the h think he was smexxing his former GF so she would file for divorce and let him off the hook.

I hate tackiness and this H should have had to suffer more for it. He does apologize nicely and the h is pretty good for a shy introvert. I liked her and the H does manage to kinda redeem himself which is why the kitty's don't have more litter right now. All in all not the best but okay if your bored.

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### **Desi says**

Leído el 04/08/2010

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### **StMargarets says**

So many good reviews, so I won't go over the plot again. In a nutshell, this is a story with a virgin heroine, who is shy and starved for love getting the man of her dreams - only to find out that he was blackmailed into marrying her by her guilty grandfather. That the hero is also in love with the heroine is painfully apparent to the reader, but he is very slow to acknowledge it because his Sicilian pride demands that he have revenge against the grandfather for blackmailing him. Of course the heroine gets caught in the middle of all this and feels more unloved and betrayed than ever.

\*happy sigh for the angst we know is only going to be short-lived\*

I do wish that LM had shortened the scenes leading to the marriage (like the wanna be OM on the European trip had too much page time) and had milked the angst when they were in the middle of their misunderstandings. The walk without answering her phone and the hero's frantic worry, were a good start - but I wanted more of this.

The love scenes were lovely and effective in showing just how good they were together and the language felt specific to these characters. (So many love scenes feel generic - their wedding night felt like \*their\* wedding night - not any other billionaire/virgin combo).

I wish there had been more of a grovel at the end - it did feel a bit abrupt. But this is an excellent HP and one to be re-read with pleasure.

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### **Virginia says**

Very enjoyable with a sheltered heroine who receives no love, or so she thinks, from her staid grandfather. She is happy that Luciano is paying attention to her because she has loved him for some time. There are hot, sexy scenes enjoyed by the heroine and the hero until blackmail, the other woman, and a manipulative grandfather cause trouble and makes the heroine feel that again she is loved by no one and that the love of her life does not want her. How does she know this? After seeing pictures of the hero and his former mistress out on the town in New York city while he is there on business and giving him a call when he is on another trip and the mistress answers the early morning call, she knows that she is not wanted by him.

It is a keeper.

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### **Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says**

\*\*3.5 STARS \*\*

It has almost all the ingredients that a HP reader hopes for.

A sweet virginal and quietly pining h. One who is shy and unassuming and has been neglected by her rich and busy grandfather all her life. People invited to her own party are cruel and demeaning to her - behind her back and to her face as well. Unbelievably crude of them but happily adds to the angst.

An alpha hot Sicilian billionaire H, the grandfather's business partner who has occasionally noticed the inconspicuous h for past some years – maturing from a quiet schoolgirl to a quiet wallflower.

The wily grandfather sets a snare to force the H to marry the gd. The proud Sicilian writhes and fumes but can't get out of it, so sets out to woo the (not really) plain jane h.

The h is skeptical but gives in to his persistence.

Post Wedding bells and honeymoon ecstasy, the H has reason to believe that the h was complicit in the trapping (of him)!

So, lo and behold, the Sicilian vendetta! (Which was more of a damp squib and more in the way of cutting his own nose and all.)

### **What I liked –**

All that went on till here, even the angry H's revenge and ways to get there.

Ow's contributions are always welcome too!

### **Where it failed –**

The h has apparently *always loved* him, but when he does start wooing her, she wonders if she really wants to marry an Italian guy and lose her independence. That was a bit contrary for the unassuming and adoring h.

Getting the story to a climactic precipice, the author took the way of a gentle settlement instead of going headlong into drama filled confrontations (where the h flees in pain and disillusionment, and the jerk has to work for it). So, an almost non- grovel as she dint seem to want one. She was already in pink-ponies-and-babies-land!

I mean he was cruel and cold to her, and blamed her constantly but she never thinks of leaving him even once. Not even when she had a valid reason to believe that he was cheating on her (which he was not, of course).

Lastly, the H accused the h of machinations and took the offended moral high, but the h (or the author) never call him out on his own cold blooded reasons for marrying her!

### **But, an all around thumbs up.**

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### **Kay says**

4 ½ Stars! ~ Since she was five, the only family Hope Bishop had was a grandfather who cared more for his business than his granddaughter. Growing up without affection, Hope is vulnerable when the man she's had a crush on for the past five years, suddenly kisses her on New Year's Eve. Luciano diVilario has always been curious about Hope, the shy and innocent granddaughter of his business associate. The kiss at midnight had only been meant as a token so that Hope would not be the only woman standing alone but the sweetness of her had made an instant impact and the kiss had turned passionate. Seeing that passion, Hope's grandfather does the unthinkable; he wants to give Luciano to Hope and the only way to do that is to blackmail the younger tycoon into marrying her. The Sicilian is not ready to settle down but cannot risk the threat the old man has made to force the sale of the shipping company Luciano's grandfather had started. Though shy, Hope's determination to make her own choices proves to Luciano that she has no knowledge of the blackmail and he knows with their passion he can make a marriage work. Until he over hears part of a telephone conversation between his wife and her grandfather, and now believes she not only knew about the blackmail but had been a party to it. With his pride hurting, Luciano seeks revenge.

Blackmail is such a tough concept for me in a romance. How does one get over the betrayals and the ruthlessness of it? Well, if you read this book you'll know in a heartbeat. Luciano has no objection to his bride; he's happy in the marriage though he doesn't realize that part of the happiness is that he loves her. His pride is what does him in. Hope is surprising. She's the shy and innocent young woman that has been the object of pity and ridicule by her grandfather's social peers, and yet with Luciano she shows that she's not easily manipulated nor is she a doormat. She brilliantly stands up to him and puts him in his place. And when

she learns all the facts, she sets aside her hurt to understand what the facts mean. That doesn't mean she lets Luciano or her grandfather off the hook. These are great characters and they are so wonderfully matched. I hope these two get revisited in another of Lucy's books

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### **Riz says**

#### **2.5 Stars**

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### **Fanniny Moreno Zavaleta says**

Had its good moments but wasn't amazing.

The h was presented as the shyest girl every socialité makes fun of but at the contact with ~~water she turns into a mermaid~~ the H she's all strong independent woman. Not that it stops her from succumbing too easily into the H's charms.

I felt the H being all about pride and lust for the most part of the book so I really didn't feel much for him. Also, his carelessness hurt the h a lot. Of course at the end he says he always loved her, but still. Problem is, after I discovered traces of grovel do exist in HPs I've become a glutton for it and I needed more in here.

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