



Midnight Sun's Magic

Betty Neels

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Finding romance didn't seem likely in a place like Spitsbergen, so close to the North Pole. Yet when Annis went there for a short time to work, she found herself falling in love with a handsome Norwegian. But the romance was brief and disappointing, so when Dutchman Jake van Germent asked her to marry him, Annis was more than pleased to accept. He wasn't handsome, but he was everything else she could possibly want! Jake knew about her recent affair, though, and Annis found she couldn't make Jake believe that she had married him for love....

Midnight Sun's Magic Details

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From Reader Review Midnight Sun's Magic for online ebook

Patricia schmit says

Not Quite Magical Enough

Interesting bit about Norway, but otherwise a bit boring. Guess every story can't be magical, but it is a quietly readable book.

Michelle says

Midnight Sun's Magic
Betty Neels
Contemporary Romance
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HOW TO CONVINCE JAKE-ANNIS NEEDED IDEAS!

Finding romance didn't seem likely in a place like Spitzenbergen, so close to the North Pole. But when Annis went there for a short time to work, she found herself falling in love with a handsome Norwegian, though the affair was brief and disappointing.

So when Dutchman Jake van Germent asked her to marry him, Annis was more than pleased to accept. He wasn't handsome, but he had everything else she could possibly want! He knew about her Norwegian, too, and Annis found that she couldn't make Jake believe that she had married him for love...

Amy says

Even though I'm not into the whole Dr-nurse romance thing, I like Neels's prose and have enjoyed several of her books. This one fell kind of flat because it involved WEDDING PLANNING and an entirely unlikable until the very end hero. The only thing that puts me to sleep faster than reading about wedding planning is drinking champagne. This book is not as good as champagne.

Marilyn says

I found the hero of this one a little darker than usual. It was a nice change.

Kay says

This is one of Betty's marriage of convenience stories with the hero having fallen in love with the heroine at first sight and having to wait patiently for her to catch up. In this one our hero, Jake, has competition in the charmer Ola. I found the setting of remote Norway to be quite interesting and refreshing from Betty's usual England to Holland stories. Of course, when they marry, Jake and Annis live in Holland in all the splendour that Betty loves to bequest to her heroes. Unknown to Jake, Annis actually is marrying him for love, but thinks he's only marrying her for convenience. I was thoroughly charmed with Annis at the end, when she is thwarted the final time from making her declaration of love, and must do so in an angry letter. Their HEA is rather romantic, with everything finally coming to rights, as only Betty can make happen.

For my rather long winded review including many spoilers (view spoiler)

Mudpie says

1979 book set in England, with a stint in Norway and then Holland. The part in Spitzbergen was the most interesting! A research/radio station almost in the arctics, it was fun reading how Annis adapted to life there though she was probably there just a couple of months. But so much could happen in such a short time!

Annis meeting Rich Dutch Doctor Jake, thinking she did not really like him because for some reason he seemed not to like her and was either aloof or avoiding her mostly, the rescue and joining of a new Norwegian staff Ola, Annis being swept off her feet by the romantic Ola, Ola's dishonourable behaviour when Harald got injured and Jake's heroic rescue, Jake breaking his leg, Ola revealing his departure and that he's married, poor Annis feeling cheated but definitely not broken hearted, more work, and surprise proposal from Jake!

Now I have never believed for a second it's to be a MOC because being an RDD there's really no need to marry Annis to cook and care for him simply because his sister got married and moved out. The most obvious clue was no way would a hero be so insistent on a big white wedding with all the nearest and dearest attending, and gosh he even discuss wedding dress materials and veil lengths with Annis!

Oh Annis was a beautiful Amazon at 5 ft 10! Is she the tallest BN heroine?

I wish the conflict was not so contrived; many times Annis wanted to clear the air about Ola because Jake thought she was still hung up on Ola...then the evil cousin had to keep mentioning Jake's ex Nina to Annis and HE always dismissed Nina as a non issue but refused to talk about it. Towards the end even he said they needed to talk but he'd always find something more important to do...

SPOILERS SPOILERS

These RDD heroes of Betty were so dedicated to their patients. ..even a found runaway wife could wait. He was frantic when he thought Annis gone from his life, yet when he was told where she was, instead of going straight to his beloved wife, he went to visit his patient first. Granted it was a medical emergency but dammit for once I wish a hero would put his wife first!

Bravo Annis, your love letter was epic!

Oh and Jake was no shy hero...he had hinted the situation (their routine/marriage arrangements) would change once his plaster on the leg came off...dare I hope he meant they'd consummate the marriage? For sure at the hotel where he found Annis, he ordered champagne because it's to be their wedding night! *blushes* Heh...

Overall Jake was a pretty good hero, but I really disliked him for telling Annis he brought his various girlfriends to Schudderbeurs before. Was he trying to make her jealous dammit? i really felt bad for Annis...which female would not be upset to be told in her face by her beloved husband that yes he's brought many women here before. She could draw the conclusion herself, knowing is one thing but to almost be rubbed in her face by the facts from him...gosh. how stupid can he get? ! And he still had to ask what did he do now to upset her...it could have been a perfectly romantic dinner but he's ruined it!

So for this I take away 1*.

PS. Waldo and Olympia from The End of the Rainbow make cameo appearances here as Jake's best friend and wife. Waldo is one of my least fave heroes because he had believed the OW over his own wife...

Michelle says

A treat

If you enjoy your romances clean, light, fluffy and vintage then you will enjoy the wonderful work of Betty Neels

Jeanette says

A sweet romance that was a pleasure to read.

Fiona Marsden says

This is a sweet story with the beginning set in Norway where the heroine Annis Brown goes to work as a nurse cum cook at an isolated station where her brother works. The temporary Doctor is Dutchman Jake van Germert and he and Annis are well on the way to developing something when a flirty, handsome Norwegian turns up. Ola knows all the romantic moves and after her longterm extremely boring boyfriend in London and the slow cautious, almost brotherly friendship with Jake it's not surprising she is swept away with the romance.

It is short lived however and it isn't long before Annis recognises her infatuation for what it is. But somehow kind brotherly Jake doesn't realise and when he asks her to marry him, it is offered as a marriage of convenience on his part. Of course that makes it very hard for Annis to confess that she actually loves Jake and her feeling for Ola died pretty quickly once he was out of sight.

There is a hint about another woman in this story but the conflict centres around the misunderstandings regarding Annis brief romance with Ola. A lovely read with some Norwegian scenery thrown in for good measure.

Diana says

One of the first Harlequin authors I remember reading. I was completely enthralled by the exotic locales in her books when I was 13. Now reading these books are more of a way of remembering the aunt who got me started on them. I'll probably always love them due to the nostalgia factor. her books will always be some of my favorites to re-read.

Monique says

Star Rating: ★★½??

Pamela Shropshire says

3 1/2 stars. Annis Brown is a tall gorgeous redhead with green eyes. She has wasted 3 years with the worthy but boring Arthur Potter. She wears a sexy dress she knows that she will disapprove of, asks him if he is ever going to propose and then turns him down all in one fell swoop. She's not a girl to mince words. At least not until later.

Annis's family consists of a brother and Great-Aunt Mary who lives in the Dorset village of Mere. Her brother, an atomic engineer, asks her to take a job as nurse/secretary/cook (sounds like a normal wife, right) in Spitzbergen, which is on an island off the coast of Norway.

She's looking for romance in Spitzbergen and she finds it. She ignores the handsome RDD and instead gets swept off her feet by a complete rotter (he's married and admits he didn't tell because he didn't think she would be willing to play kissy-face with another woman's husband - no DUH).

Heartbroken, she accepts Jake's proposal for a MOC. Of course she has a DR that she's really in love with Jake, but she has a bugaboo about an OW, Nina. She's never seen Nina with Jake and he's never mentioned her but she gets the idea that Nina is the love of his life. She runs away (surprise!), Jake comes after her, all is explained, and they have champagne because, as Jake says, it is their wedding night. Strongly implied conjugal relations.

I really loved the first half of the book, but thought it fell a bit flat in the second half.

Tonya Warner says

Annis wants the same as every woman, to be swept off her feet. Everyone assumed she would eventually marry Arthur, but she was twenty-seven and wanted to have some romance in her life. Her brother helps her get a job close to the North Pole and she meets the doctor, Jake.

Jake is a large, imposing man. He falls for Annis quickly, but when Ola appears on the scene, he is unsure if he can win her. When Jake jumps to the rescue of an unconscious man, breaking his leg, Annis realizes Ola is not for her, but Jake is the one she loves. Jake asks her to marry him, but does not let her know it is for love.

Annis tries to let Jake know how she feels, but events keep getting in the way. When Ola reappears on the scene, Jake and Annis have a big blowup, and she leaves to try and see if she can rationally get an answer to the situation. Jake realizes he should have spoke up sooner, love sometimes needs words as well as actions.

An excellent story.

Teri-K says

This is my first book by the author. I'll admit I picked it up because of the cover - I love reading about the extreme North, so a book set in Norway was enticing. Later it moves to Holland, and a childhood fondness for Hans Brinker made that appealing, too.

I knew this would be an old-fashioned book. I read a lot of older books and generally enjoy them, so that wasn't a problem. However, as I read this it began to feel creepy. This isn't historical fiction, only an older book, and the relationship between the MC's felt really old-fashioned. Our hero married the heroine without ever telling her he loved her, or even that he liked her much. He did comment frequently on how beautiful she is. After their marriage he cheerfully neglects her, talking about how he doesn't have time for her but evidently expecting her to be fine with that. When she picks a silly fight with him I was actually cheering her on, which I normally wouldn't do. But the best word to describe the hero is bloodless and I couldn't help but want to see if there was any feeling in him at all. The revelation was disappointing.

I will read another by Neels, to see if they're all like this one, and because I like books with unusual settings. If you want to read a "contemporary" romance lacking in any kind of love or romance, (no sex, either), without emotion or any actual relationship between the MC's, I can recommend this. Otherwise, it's just very strange.
