



Indecent Proposal

Jack Engelhard

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A billionaire offers a man \$1 million for one night with his wife.

This is the original novel that spawned the **blockbuster Hollywood motion picture** starring Robert Redford, Demi Moore and Woody Harrelson! And it was the first to ask ***"What would you do for a million dollars?"***

Indecent Proposal has been translated into 22 languages and is a bestseller around the world.

Indecent Proposal Details

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Author : Jack Engelhard

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From Reader Review Indecent Proposal for online ebook

Brian Bonilla says

Para mí este libro es un grato 4.4 y debo admitir que supo envolverme bastante. Tuve la oportunidad de ver el filme basado en esta novela pero, afortunadamente, las palabras del señor Engelhard distan bastante de ese drama romántico hecho por Hollywood. Podría pensarse que el argumento del libro gira en torno a esa propuesta indecorosa de entregar a Joan por un millón de dólares, pero creo que lo que hace de esta novela algo excepcional es precisamente lo que sucede después, la incertidumbre de si se puede seguir viviendo después de semejante decisión. ¿Se puede olvidar y comenzar de nuevo? Pues bien, sin duda aquí hay algo en que pensar.

Camille-Sherry says

Indecent Proposal by Jack Engelhard, focuses on main character Joshua Cantor, who is experiencing monumental financial difficulties (eviction, repossession, bill collectors, etc) with an intensive desire to provide better for him and wife. The topic is about money. The fears and insecurities of having very little. The security, glamour and confidence of having a lot. Its power, control, freedom and compromises; as well as, the old adage: the nature of man is never satisfied because there is always a desire for even better. I like how the author wrote in-depth, through Joshua's character, the view of a worker who is ambitious, educated, medaled veteran and struggling financially to maintain a below to modest living. This is very real. I like how the author included the Holocaust and its history into the story. This fitted in very well. The story does start off slow, but quickly picks up. Joshua whining and weaknesses were very nerve racking. The overwhelming emphasis on Jane's beauty, congeniality, charm and alluring appeal made her too perfect; therefore, fake. I loved how her character became a real person toward the end. The ending was not how I predicted it to be, but much nicer and very real. I rate this read a five star. Kudos, author Jack Engelhard!!

Roseann says

Most of us know the premise of the story from the movie, but the book is so much more. It is a moral dilemma, a love story and a bit of history dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict. It's worth reading.

Sharon says

It is quite difficult to judge a book fairly once you have watched the movie. It was a long time ago that I saw the Hollywood Blockbuster and it has faded in my mind a bit so I thought it was time to give the book a go. Engelhard's novel goes so much deeper than the movie and throws up many intriguing questions on life and people's morals and actions, as well as how fate can throw us into situations both good and bad. Yes the suspense of the 'will she, won't she' will obviously be exciting to anybody who was lucky enough to read the book before knowing the movie plot, but the main aspect I thought was so cleverly written was the breakdown of the relationship and later the breakdown of Joan altogether. I wasn't all that keen on Joan as a character for the most part of the book, she seemed very shallow - somewhat purposely I suppose - but I also

didn't feel like there was enough substance to really get to know her well and therefore care about her. But this shallow person then became more real as the effects of what she had done began to haunt her.

I felt much more connected to Joshua and his life as a whole - his past, flashbacks, his unhappy life and his mental turmoil over this ordeal. At times I felt like he acted a bit of a 'wet lettuce' and I would have imagined he would be stronger in the relationship but then I suppose that leads onto the question of what the promise of escaping the mundane is really worth? How far will people go in their struggle to find something better? I really liked the deeper thoughts that this book threw up. You can read it just as you watch the film, purely for entertainment value, or it can really get you thinking about the human mind, values, morals, what we are capable of.

Nina Draganova says

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Carol Ryles says

If you've seen the movie and want a more thought-provoking exploration of the idea of what money can buy, this is definitely worth a read. Englehard's characters are much more well-developed alongside complexities that are both discomforting and insightful.

Caedy Eries says

Title: Indecent Proposal

Author: Jack Englehard

Rating: 4/5

Summary: In Atlantic City, after watching a major player lose and win back millions at the blackjack table, Joshua Kane and his wife Joan are presented with a devil's deal when they meet a rich Arab sultan who offers Joshua one million dollars in exchange for a night with Joan. But that night isn't the end of their entanglement. Jew and Arab, the men are brothers even when murderously jealous. The Gentile woman is between them, but neither can wholly have her. The outcome will be a rupture of the fragile tolerance that unites the three-a descent into a bloody triangle. This controversial novel spawned the Hollywood blockbuster movie starring Robert Redford and Demi Moore-a movie in which Hollywood tried to hush the Arab/Jewish themes of the story. In his foretelling and gripping tale, Engelhard captivates the reader with his controversial theme of "What would you do for a million dollars?" (Taken from Goodreads.com)

Review: Most of the reviews I've seen say that is much different than the movie, and it is. The movie did not incorporate much of the details that were shared in the book. The tensions and passions in the Middle East are much more prominent within the pages of this story, and it becomes the biblical struggle between "Isaac" and "Ishmael" and the prize this time is the American dream – financial security in a time of recession as the Sultan is offering the sum of one million dollars for a singular night with his wife.

What would you do for a million dollars? That is the question that this story boils down to even amid all the other tensions between Joshua, his wife Joan, and the rich Arab Sultan. A very rich man likes to gamble with his money, Joshua got to see it first hand at one of the blackjack tables, when he got pulled into the anchor position at the roped off table that the Sultan sat at one night in one of the casinos in Vegas. There is so much more between the three of them, the Jew, the Arab and the Gentile woman between them that none of them can actually possess wholly.

I enjoyed the book just as much as I enjoyed the movie, despite some typing and grammatical errors in the Kindle version that I received as a free purchase from Amazon.com a few weeks ago.

If you have any questions, comments or recommendations you can contact me at
simplicity.kindreth@gmail.com

My reviews can be found here

Confessions of a Bibliophile

Idle Musings and Random Things

Cae's Smashwords Review

Tucinkata says

3.5/5

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Nina says

the writing style reminded me of *Damage* by Josephine Hart. I wish the movie hadn't deviated from the book's plotline so much, but I can't hate it (because Robert Redford!) There was an underlying fuckeduppedness (lol @ my English) about this book that I loved. I also wish we got Joan's POV on the whole thing, or at the very least her interactions with Ibrahim (who was FASCINATING, the only time I paid attention to Josh's tedious monologue was when it was about him), not just the sex.

Gisela Hausmann says

20 years after I watched the movie by the same title, I finally read the original novel "Indecent Proposal". Then, in 1993, for me the movie's main question reduced itself to: Why would any woman go back to Woody Harrelson when she can have Robert Redford? In fact, I thought that Woody Harrelson portrayed an unattractive person in comparison to Robert Redford, which made the question even more natural. Now having read the book, I think Harrelson's performance may have been the finest of all three.

I read 'Indecent Proposal' because after having read three other novels penned by Jack Engelhard, I realized that the 1993 movie's plot could not have been all. Something was missing. Engelhard writes much deeper content than the movie's story-line. Yes, I had known for a long time that the two men are really an Arab prince and a Jewish man, who escaped Hitler's Germany as child, but there had to be more, which Hollywood just simply cut.

For starters, there is the fact that both, Joan and Joshua, have been married before, that they have divorced their previous spouses to be with each other. While the movie made me believe that maybe Diana/Joan chose David/Joshua in some youthful excitement, and that she could have advanced to love another more mature man, in the novel that event had already happened, and she had chosen Joshua. That opens a whole new dimension, because what Joan had done before, namely leave her first husband, she could do again and leave Joshua; or it could be the other way around: Joan would never leave Joshua because she really knew for sure that Joshua was:

"... the outsider. The underdog. The fighter. The loner. The wanderer. You're everything I've been looking for." ... and that "other men were shallow".

Even more important and not surprising to me, Hollywood cut the book's deciding element about "the movie", the movie Ibrahim took of his sexual encounter with Joan. Obviously, Hollywood understands the power of the visual image better than anybody else, Hollywood creates the images, which sway our feelings toward this or that. A visual document/proof never goes away, which is exactly why Hollywood never wants to point to how powerful the movie industry is in influencing people's minds.

In his novel Engelhard refers occasionally to the Holocaust Joshua escaped as a child with his parents. It is because of the pictures that American soldiers took when entering the concentration camps that we will never forget the Holocaust, whereas other undocumented atrocities in earlier history have become this blob, which we cannot associate any feelings with. Pictures document feelings and create feelings.

Joan does not know that her feelings, while having sex with Ibrahim have been recorded, but Ibrahim tells Joshua, and Joshua even gets to see part of the movie. Joshua mentions the recording of the movie to Joan but claims later that there is no movie and that he just said so. Uncertainty about possible documentation is even worse and Joan has to live through it. Both, Joan and Joshua cannot pretend that this sexual episode was just "something/nothing", because once they know or even only suspect that visual documentation recorded its reality it can't be just forgotten. In life, "documented reality" changes everything for real people (excluding politicians like John Edwards).

In his novel, Engelhard puts his finger on what influences too many of us to do things, which we don't really believe but only hope for:

"People are vulnerable, Josh, and I'll tell you why. They're vulnerable, because everybody wants something better. You hear that? Everybody wants something better out of life. Nobody, nobody is happy with what he's got. That's why we prosper here in this business . We cater to that, to that weakness, to that weakness in everybody--even the Ibrahims of the world."

However, when late in the novel Joshua thinks:

"As I made my way over I remembered this from the Midrash: A man's feet lead him to his destiny." he is giving us hope that with our thinking we can direct our feet to walk to the destiny we choose.

"Indecent Proposal" is a fabulous read to encourage the intelligent and entertaining pondering about where we want to go and which paths to choose. Highly recommend to all over the age of 18. And, yes, the sex scene is very steamy.

Gisela Hausmann, author & blogger

Anita says

This in-depth psychological examination of the old joke that ends with the punchline: "We've already established that. Now we're just deciding on a price." was a disappointment. I haven't seen the movie, but Robert Redford doesn't look like an Arab sheik to me. I probably couldn't get into the book because the Kindle edition (free on my Kindle deal of the day!) was riddled with typos, bad margins, and completely wrong words. What's the matter with you people? Proofread! Just because it's free doesn't mean it can be garbage. I would return it and say hand it in when you've bothered to read it yourself. In fact, I think I will go up and subtract another star for mechanics. Just remember the joke--funnier, makes the same point, and saves time.

Kathleen Baker says

This was one of those books that I could not put down. Therefore I give it a five star.

Félix Villacís says

Es una novela que me atrapó de inicio a fin. Puedo decir que el mensaje que transmite el autor da una cachetada a las parejas modernas que surgen estos últimos años. Una muestra clara de cómo las relaciones se destruyen por aquellas cosas que pensamos que no las destruirían.

Laura Luz says

Al inicio me enganché con la idea. Pero conforme se desarrolla la trama se vuelve cansada la perspectiva del esposo todo el tiempo, donde la mujer le pertenece cual vil objeto.

Booky says

Very entertaining. Granted, the premise that every woman has a price is flawed, but this book was redeemed by the great writing.
