



Destino

Sienna Mynx

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Mira Ellison is poised to have it all. In 1989, she is the first prominent African American fashion designer redefining change for both beauty and style among the renowned in Italy. That happens until the evening she meets a tall, mysteriously charming Sicilian businessman who orchestrates a friendship that awakens a wicked sexual heat she has long forgotten. Who is he really? What harm could a little fling in one of the most beautiful countries in the world bring?

Plenty.

Don Giovanni Battaglia is a man who knows how to get his way. He lives his life on the razor edge of control as he balances family and his dark legacy. He is the leader of a ruthless crime family, and those who intercept his purpose are swiftly made to pay. Mira's design house opens in Napoli, and unbeknownst to her, the property she occupies is one for which the Battaglia family has big plans. Giovanni's designs for her business set them on a collision course of heated passion, spine chilling danger, and an unspeakable act of murder.

Destino Details

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From Reader Review Destino for online ebook

Kyoko M. says

Disclaimer: I blame this entire review on TheFountainPenDiva. She marked this book as To Read the other day and I happened past it, saw the cute cover, read the premise, and bought it. I don't read erotica or romance because I need blood, guts, death, and sarcasm in my life. I bought this book because at the very least it promised danger and violence along with sexual tension, and that's something I can dig.

This novel puts me in such a weird position. I'm torn. It's really split straight down the middle, so I'll break it into a list so it's easier to understand.

Pros:

- The language and word choice is exceptional considering the genres it's in. No, really. Many romance writers have limited vocabularies and you see the same set of words used again and again, but Mynx manages to create some fantastic visuals thanks to the setting.
- The chemistry between Gio and Mira is palpable, even if it's a little on the forced side. It's more understandable that he fell for her than she fell for him, though. I'll get into that later, but they do blend together well.
- I really like the Mafia angle. It's what made me stop and read the excerpt, and plop down a buck to read the rest. I've never been a huge fan of paranormal romance (ha ha ha! Irony) so this really wins me over for adding a real threat for our protagonists. It wasn't some frou-frou pseudo-threat. There is death, dismemberment, murder, extortion, and all kinds of sins in these pages and it's a relief. Too many authors are too chicken to do bad things to their precious heroes and Mynx is not one of them.
- Giovanni is actually a decent lead, for once. I find a lot of these types of books lean too heavily on characterizing the female love interest and so the guys just get a cursory glance, but not with Gio. We learn his background, his habits, his desires, and his morals. He's a pretty intimidating guy, but he has a set of rules. I also like that he's not too warm and cuddly. Their relationship is largely based on the sex, and while Mira softens him up, he never becomes her pet or vice versa. I really like that he's still his own man with his own hang ups.
- The steamy bits are good. I will nitpick in the Cons below, but overall, I liked them. No stupid 50 Shades of Grey bullshit. Just vanilla sex. Me likey.
- None of the usual "light skinned girls with pretty hair are better" nonsense, and also not too many "food skin color" comparisons. That I only mention because some readers get irked by it. I personally don't care unless it's Laurell K. Hamilton levels of insultingly egregious, but I figured I'd mention it.

Cons:

- Punctuation errors out the wazoo up in here. I don't know if she's self published, had a small press publication, or didn't have an editor at all, but there are TONS of missing commas in this novel. After a certain point, I forced myself to ignore them. It's so basic an error that it took this novel down an entire star rating for me because I am a grammar Nazi and it's inexcusable to have this many missing commas, and there's one on the first page no less.
- The author uses the "velvet sheathed steel" line to describe Gio's penor and that is a huge no-no. If you don't know why, please do me the favor of visiting <http://www.weepingcock.livejournal.com> and the profile page will explain why that is one of the stupidest purple prose descriptions for the penis ever. I'm sorry. It's a cock. Just...call it one. Don't make up dumb flowery comparisons. Cock or dick, I don't care which one you choose, but for heaven's sake, don't say that phrase or it causes veteran authors to laugh hysterically instead of being turned on like we're supposed to be.

-Mira is kind of a thin heroine. I really don't think she falls in love with Gio so much as she enjoys the lifestyle and he's a fantastic lover. That's it. His life is such a huge danger for her and she shouldn't mess around with him if she has any sense in her head. She has a story to her, but it's not much, unfortunately. I think more effort was put into Gio instead. Mira waffles back and forth over Gio so many times that I wrote her off after a certain point. I really wanted her to be a stronger character and not fall prey to the alpha male theme that a lot of these romances dish out.

-Cliffhanger ending. That might tick some people off so I included it, but it's at the readers' discretion.

-Super predictable ending. You'll see it from miles away.

Do you see what I mean? There are points for and against trying this book. I liked it enough to recommend it to someone who wants a nice beach-holiday kind of book, but I'm not interested enough to continue the series. It's a quick, entertaining read with a nice saucy flavor, but it's like an appetizer. Not filling enough, but still tasty.

Connie says

Destino was a hard read for me until about 75% into the book because I didn't feel any particular connection to either of the main characters. If this was a one book read, I would have been able to let it go gently into the good night. I read the book in its entirety for a book of the month, so I didn't want to abandon it. I'm so glad I didn't because towards the end that's when things really got interesting and a smile was put on my face. Mirabella and Giovanni are two characters that didn't make sense to me. Mira (or Bella as she was called by Giovanni) was an up and coming fashion designer that fell for the standard confident "business man." Their brief affair was intense, but it didn't translate well to me as the reader. I didn't feel anything for them as a couple. There was a lot of repetition in their dialog and Mira didn't make sense half of the time when it came to their interactions and how she would respond to Giovanni. The only feelings that seemed true was her love for Flaviana until the argument happened between the two women. The secondary character Lorenzo, Giovanni's cousin and top left hand man had more emotion and passion that kept the story interesting. His strong connection and vulnerability to Mira's best friend Flaviana kept the story worth reading until we got to the true meat of things and Giovanni showed his true colors and his weakness for his Bella.

Dominique says

Amazing!

So I kept going back and forth with this book because I really really didn't like Giovanni. Like my prickly feminist rose up and was like 'hold da \$@#! up' Mr. Man! I also kept getting irritated with the girls because they kept going back and forth over something that was very obvious.

With all that aside though this book has me up at 2AM eager to write a review because it was just that good. It was like an epic movie that just kept going and even though there's another book in the series you feel full. Each person was well thought out and everything made sense. You understood the turmoil and joy from everyone. This was a great novel jam packed with action love sexy times and intrigue. It's worth the buy and if you give Giovanni a pass in the beginning you'll come to understand the type of man he is. Happy reading

A??ela W. says

This was a really good book. Mira Ellison is a fashion designer who along with her best friend Fabiana moves from New York to Italy to open up and fashion house. While there she meets Don Giovanni Battaglia is a man who knows how to get his way and he wants Mira. He lives his life on the razor edge of control as he balances family and his dark legacy. He is the leader of a ruthless crime family, and those who intercept his purpose are swiftly made to pay. Fabiana also falls for his cousin Lorenzo and although both of them see red flags regarding the cousins they both looked the other way. This was a really good book Giovanni was a tall rich good looking man that used his charm on Mira and me. In the beginning of this book I thought that Mira was going to get on my nerves but she grew on me and I really liked her friend Fabiana. Gio wasn't as ruthless has some Don's that I read about he was fair until you crossed him. I was also glad that either one of them let race stop them until it was too late. This was my first time reading this author and this is the first book in a nes series too me. This book was well written with no errors in spelling or grammar although the chapters skipped from fifteen to seventeen I wasn't sure if it was a typo or missing a chapter but other than that this was a really good book and I am looking forward to reading the next book in this series.

Bee'sBooks says

Okay, I am starting this review/rant with a semi-disclaimer if you will. I could not stand any of the women in this book (except Zia, she was fine, plus she was nice and way older and you can't hate on the elderly, that's not cool), **ESPECIALLY** Mira. Now, although I feel this way about the main female characters, (I will explain why) they did not stop me from loving this storyline, (which I was so into) and the men of the Battaglia family. I refuse to penalize this book and the plot because of the women. Sienna Mynx, in my opinion, has done a fantastic job telling this story and setting up the scenarios between characters. Plus, if I am to be honest, I am never really into the female leads/characters in these type of stories (romance books in general actually) anyway. It is all about the **ALPHA MEN!!!** So, let's begin, shall we?

Alright, so I am just chilling out reading books and checking my messages on the GR and I was sent a message and recommendation for Destino from my girl Genelle (she knows who she is ;-)), telling me I need to read this book and the series as a whole like ASAP. So, I take her recommendation and I get the series after reading the summaries. Whooooo baaaaby, let me just say this series has officially ruined my emotional and mental health, **BUT** in a very good way. I looooved this story! Also, mafia/mob crime stories and romance have really become my thing lately, so Destino fulfilled my need for this kind of tale and then some.

Destino centers around Mira Ellison (ugh, boo, nay!) and Giovanni Battaglia(mmmhmm, uh huh, yay!), one a prominent top fashion designer from New York, looking to take over Europe and expand her fashion empire and the other a dark, brooding, sexy, blue-eyed mob boss, that is about his business, expanding his control over Italy and cleaning up some of the bloody legacy associated with his family's mob reign in the Camorra. You see what I am saying? This story had me sold!

During a night out for dinner with her business partner Fabiana, Mira meets up with Giovanni's cousin Lorenzo to try and remove some "red tape," regarding the opening of one of Mira's new stores. At this point, Mira doesn't know he is in the mob. During the progression of the evening, Mira is being hit on by the hot mess and hot breathed, super gross (in more ways than one and Giovanni gets him together!) restaurant owner and she is "rescued" by none other than the Don himself, Giovanni Battaglia. Giovanni and Mira were

smitten with each other from first sight and this is exactly where the story really kicks off and Mira and Giovanni's life together begins to unfold.

Now, let's talk about these women. Ugh, my Lord where to begin? Let's start with the least important to me in this story, Catalina. I could not stand Catalina, who is Giovanni's sister. She was super bratty, spoiled, petulant, snooty, snide, a YOUNG adult yes, but a grown up nonetheless and she would throw these tantrums that rivaled a two year old. She was also sneaky and manipulative, which I don't deal well with folks like that in books or real life, so she is a dud for me.

Fabiana Girelli, she was a good friend to Mira and business partner, prior to getting to Italy, where I felt she lost herself (heart and mind) and her business savvy a bit, to none other than Lorenzo Battaglia; Giovanni's prideful, envious, jealous, scheming, screw-up, sheisty cousin. Now, we as women and intelligent readers know that a dude like Lorenzo is a bad idea and should not be liked, let alone trusted, but he has a certain "Je ne sais quoi" that makes you still like him, despite his antics. Mind you, I said, like him, NOT TRUST HIM or FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM! This is precisely where Fabiana messed up and lost her mind and heart. She fell hard for Lorenzo and he fell for her as well. The difference between them though, is Lorenzo always has AND had his eye on the prize, which is whatever scheme of the day he was plotting or planning or trying to cover up, (at least his part in it). Lorenzo really started loving Fabiana in his way and he really does love his family and Giovanni. However, his ego, pride, envy and jealousy makes him a dangerous man to love; because ultimately Lorenzo was about Lorenzo. Fabiana began to see later on and realize some of the mistakes she made to help him or keep information from her friend and business partner, Mira. I really just wanted Fabiana to get it together and be smart because her repercussions were so severe, like SOOOO SEVERE. I just kept thinking she was a fool, but the heart wants, what the heart wants, I guess.

Mira, Mira, Mira! SHE GETS ON MY NERVES!!! I can't stand Mira at all. She was supposed to be this strong woman, about her business and all that jazz, but I don't see her that way. She just annoyed the heck out of me at every turn. Mira was the main reason I was losing my mind reading this book. I would yell at the story and talk to myself about how stupid she is, it was bad and my family thinks I need help at this point and they may be right. I found Mira to be contradictory, full of false bravado only to easily acquiesce later, always jumping to conclusions and accusing people of things that weren't true or without knowing the full story, willfully/blissfully ignorant and in denial and ALWAYS laying blame for her bad decisions on other people. She barely owned her choices or her part in her problems. Mira was also bad with setting boundaries and letting certain people cross them with her and she crossing them with other people. My whole thing with Mira the entire book is that she constantly would blame Fabiana or Giovanni for everything going wrong with her business and life in Italy. (view spoiler) Now, I am not saying some things that were set in motion could've not been set in motion or handled differently, but I am like Mira come on, you are a boss and have a say in your life, as she would constantly remind Giovanni and Fabiana, but when it came down to it she never would SAY ANYTHING! Mira would let Fabiana and Giovanni handle everything or tell her not to worry and she would just let things slide. THEN, when ISH hits the fan, Mira would then lash out and blame everyone for why she is in a predicament, um really?! Mira, I am going to need for you to get it together girl. YOU knew WHAT and WHO Giovanni was, YOU knew something dodgy was going on with Fabiana and the choices she was making for YOU and the biz (they had a convo about it after that first dinner in the restaurant), YOU knew YOU had a bad feeling about smarmy, slick behind Lorenzo and when SHE should've addressed it and everything from the start, what does Mira do, move into their home during her vacation!!! Oh, I'm sorry ladies, is that what we're doing now? Folks give you crazy vibes and you barely know them, but that is the go ahead to stay at their house and get deeper into their world, that YOU knew was suspect from the jump and when things get tough or go wrong it is everyone else's fault you were there? Uh, no Mira it was YOUR fault because YOU knew better, BUT refused to do better. So, I feel no love or sympathy or like for Mira at all this whole story because she is just a fool and I can't! I really don't even

know why Giovanni or Kei or any other guy liked her; she is a pain and just irked my soul.

Now, as for the men in this story, I loved them; even sheisty Lorenzo. Giovanni was pushing it a couple of times with his alpha male, somewhat traditional self, but you begin to learn more about his upbringing and how he was treated and his mother, sister etc, and I could see why he was the way he was at times. Plus, with Giovanni and the other men in his family/crew I felt they were up front in how they were personality and character wise from the start. So, if Giovanni did something I thought was too traditional or controlling somewhat, I wasn't super shocked because of his role in the Camorra, as head of the family he is expected to do things his way to protect everyone and he was honest like look, 'I want my woman to be like a, b and c and I am like a, b, and c'; so you didn't have to guess with him too much or his intentions. He really was a sweetheart, especially with Mira and she did him wrong in the end in my opinion. (view spoiler) Ahhh, I really just liked him overall.

As I said Lorenzo is a sheisty, hot mess and is going to be a problem as this series progresses I am sure of it and I am here for it!

Now, as I stated above, I looooved this story! It may not sound like it with all my disdain for the main female character(s), but I do. Sienna Mynx has done so well with setting the stage for the drama and giving you insight into the Don's life, as well as the other characters. The drama is good because it is coupled with action and some violence that is believable for this mob lifestyle. I like that there is some romance because *IT IS* a romance novel, but Mynx didn't make the romance too sappy in my eyes. I can't stand sappy touch me, hold me, love me all of the time stories. I like my romance novels with an actual storyline and some action/adventure, where if there was no romance the book would still hold up as a good story and I feel that the author definitely delivered on that. Mynx also did well with describing Italy. I felt like Italy was an unspoken or unnamed character in this story and the description of how beautiful she was, really came through and I enjoyed it.

I am in love with this series, like legitimately into it and I can't wait to read the next installment. I want to know more about Giovanni, Lorenzo, Domi, Carlo and the boys. I am so here for this series, so thank you to Sienna Mynx for writing a really good book and series and thank you to Genelle for the recommendation. ;)

?Meme?Reads love? says

Well this was pretty darn good. I love mafia romances with a bad boy loosing his mind over a woman. I loved it! This was like watching a good movie I loved all the characters the good that bad the ugly this was a well rounded book I was given so many emotions love, anger curiosity, Hate, frightened worried, sadness deep deep sadness oh the end wow! so this is a series and I'm going on to the next book to find out what's going to happen because OH! MY! G! did so much happen in the first! four stars are because Mira got on my nerves sometimes her character contradicted herself a lot she had me confused hell she was confused! Now Giovanni.. gurl! he was spicy I mean yum yum yum. but anyway if you love Dmitry's Closet and I truly loved that one. I truly believe you will love this one! Great romance scenes and the secondary couples are just as explosive too! pun intended. ;(

Well here is my couple, my song <http://youtu.be/u4xhep1k1-w> and check out pics and quotes on <http://pinterest.com/memereadslove/de...>

Happy Reading

Dee's Books says

Sienna Mynx's "Destino" was by far the most exciting and engaging IR mafia stories I've read thus far in 2018!

Although it started off slow, I loved reading Giovanni and Mirabella's mafia love story. The setting was memorable (1989, Napoli) along with the secondary characters who you truly loved or just I loved to hate. The women in this story were too much drama for me and that means unlikeable -- indecisive fashion designer, Mirabella, spoil-rotten sister to Don Giovanni, Catalina and motherly Manager but sometimes evasive Fabiana when it came to Lorenzo, her love interest and cousin to Don Giovanni. Now, I was enameled to hero, Don Giovanni Battaglia and his men, Dom and Carlo but his cousin Lorenzo well not much AT ALL!

Sienna Mynx is a master at detailed and descriptive conversations and honestly that is why the book gets a mighty 5+++ stars.

I can tell from "Destino" alone, this is going to be one of my favorite series in 2018!
Yell, Yell, I know I'm behind some years reading the series but I'm all in now!

LOVE TEAM GIOVANNI BATTAGLIA!!!!!!!!!

Memorable moment in "Destino" for Mira after she fell in the pond:

"From the corner of her eye, she glimpsed something. The closer she stepped to the bed, the deeper the realization. It was her purse, the one stolen in Napoli with the cut strap. Mira marched over and opened it. To her surprise everything, including her passport was accounted for. With shaky fingers she drew aside the inside zipper. A three-inch square shaped velvet pouch was tucked right where she found it. Hard and fast relief filled her and her mind stilled long enough for a deeper realization. She'd misjudged his arrogance. The man obviously had skills and power that reached further than her imagination. For him to do this, he couldn't be all hardness and brawn. What lie in her hand was more valuable than the hope diamond. Did he know what this meant to her? Maybe he didn't. She removed her grandparents' picture and the tiny bracelet. She pressed it to her heart and exhaled deeply."

Giovanni :

"Destino. Mine. You're my fate, Bella."

"I say what I mean, without a filter, Bella."

5++++***

Beth Evant says

I liked this book okay. I am a big fan of Mafia love stories. I thought I would especially enjoy this book because the heroine is black as I am. I didn't like Mira so much. I am not sure why. Maybe she came across as stuck up or dumb - not sure. Something was just off about her. There was a lot of descriptive details in this book. I wasn't so interested in it because I am not at all familiar with Italy, so I was more interested in the love story not the scenery - sorry. I was impressed that the author was so educated about the place though. I would skim over the parts where she went into painful details of a place.

I liked Giovanni a lot. Sienna did a great job on his character. He was THE BOSS and it came across that way on paper. I kept wondering what Mira had that made men with such power want her so badly. The people on the cover of the book are not that attractive in my opinion, so I had a hard time finding her physically attractive.

Also, I was disappointed with the time period. I couldn't believe we were in 1989. Hopefully, this is so the remaining books can bring us to 2013. I like i phones, i pads and other modern technology.

To sum up my review, this book was good. Too expensive though.

Deloris says

I just came back from Italy, Sienna Mynx took me there in this wonderful book. This story was written so well I felt like I was right in the middle of it experiencing every moment. Mira and Gio were a wonderful couple to read about there story was sweet, sexy, dangerous , exciting and sad . This book ends on a cliffhanger but I still felt like I got a happy ending. I can't wait for the next in this series I know it will keep on the edge of my seat just like this on did.

Lenlyn01 says

What!!! was the first thing I said when I got to the end of this book. How could this be the end.. the ups and downs I mean I was expecting something totally different in the end. Anywhoo, The book was amazing I thought the connection between Gio and Mira was untouchable. Mira just ercked me at times. She had some kinda way about her really. When I read the description of the story and learned it was set in 1989 I was turned off by that but I gave it a try anyway. I'm glad I did but when is the second book coming out cause now I'm like needing more. That thug in Gio was the ultimate turn on. So many secrets and lies but they loved each other no matter what.

Monica *can't read fast enough*** says**

This is the first book in the Battaglia Mafia series by Sienna Mynx. The story revolves around the whirlwind love affair between Mira Ellison, a designer on the verge of becoming a successful international designer with her own company which she has just moved to Italy and Giovanni Battaglia who is the Don of a very powerful mafia family. Giovanni is one hot Itlaian alpha male and Mira, despite being overwhelmed by him sometimes, manages to stay a strong willed and independent woman. I know some may think that it's just cliche to have the hot Italian bad boy, but sometimes hot is just hot and Giovanni is hot. A sexy man speaking in Italian, well it doesn't get a whole lot hotter than that. There are also strong secondary characters

in this series and Mynx allows good development of their story lines as well. The books in this series are a reasonable length unlike many IR romances out there that seem to be more short story than novel and the editing is decent. I have read all the books in the series and enjoyed seeing how Mynx was able to balance these two strong personalities without making either one look weak or unbelievable. Overall this is a good series that I would definitely recommend to any romance reader not just the IR lovers.

www.monlatablereviews.com

Jooniebug says

With all the hype I really wanted to read this story cos I truly love sienna's books. I found the beginning of the book so confusing cos giovanni had so many henchmen I got mixed up! Also why was kei who was mira's ex part of the plot? I did not want to read about mira's ex and how he kept her in bed etc....I thought it wasnt right as all I wanted to read about was mira and giovanni. I gave this 2.5 stars cos it really sounded so repetitive like most of sienna's books...eg the heist! Nothing special with story for me....all the hype is uncalled for. It took me a week to finish this book. Smh!

Kim says

This has to be one of the best interracial romances I have read. It was a dramatic, passionate, roller coaster of events from beginning to end. Giovanni and Mira don't seem like likely match due to their completely different backgrounds and lives, but somehow they were perfect for eachother. The drama was at an all time high, and the Italian mafia backdrop only heightened it's appeal. This trilogy started out with a bang and seems to be one to be reckoned with. A month is too long a wait for the second chapter but I'm sure it'll be well worth the wait.

Tina says

More plot driven than I usually like. I tend to prefer books that concentrate more on presenting the characters to me. And I found it a little difficult to connect with the heroine. I thought some of her reactions were odd. But not surprising since I think everything she did was to drive plot.

But the story was interesting and I found myself very much involved in the story. Doesn't end in an HEA, and I find myself curious about Mira and Gio so I'll read the next one.

[My full review here](#)

Tracey says

This was an ok read for me. I'm a Godfather fan and this book had toooo many similarities to the Godfather I, II, & III movies.

